

MINUTES
Stated Meeting
COMMITTEE ON THE
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
February 15-16, 2024
Video Conference

Thursday, February 15, 2024	
<p>WELCOME</p> <p>The Stated Meeting of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) convened in person via video conference on Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 11 a.m. by Moderator Eliana Maxim.</p>	<p>WELCOME</p>
<p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN LAND AND OPENING PRAYER</p> <p>Cheni Khonje led an acknowledgment of the sacred ground of our indigenous ancestors followed by an opening prayer.</p>	<p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN LAND AND OPENING PRAYER</p>
<p>APPROVE AGENDA [1.1]</p> <p>By consensus the Committee approved the meeting agenda.</p>	<p>AGENDA APPROVAL [1.1]</p> <p>ACTION</p>
<p>APPROVE MINUTES</p> <p>By consensus the Committee approved the minutes of the COGA meeting on January 18, 2024.</p>	<p>APPROVE MINUTES</p> <p>ACTION [1.2]</p>
<p>ATTENDANCE</p> <p>The following persons were present for all or part of the meeting.</p> <p><u>COGA Members:</u> Eliana Maxim, Moderator Dave Davis, Vice Moderator Stephanie Anthony Joseph Chu Lynn Hargrove Andy James Chenyangu (Cheni) Khonje</p>	<p>PARTICIPANTS</p>

Blythe Kieffer
Leeanne Masters
Amos Mendez
Robin Pugh
Miguel Rosa Morales
Bronwen Boswell, Acting Stated Clerk, ex officio
Ruth Santana-Grace, Co-Moderator of the 225th GA (2022)

EXCUSED

Marc Hong

OGA Staff:

Tim Cargal
Jayne Culp
Deb Davies
Luci Duckson-Bramble, PHS
Kate Duffert
Tricia Dykers Koenig
Laurie Griffith
Rick Jones
Jihyun Oh
Kerry Rice
Meg Rift
Natalie Shilstut, PHS
David Staniunas, PHS
Nancy Taylor, PHS
Ken Tolley
Flor Velez-Diaz
Dianna Wright

Other Guests:

Kathy Lueckert, President, ASG
Ian Hall, ASG
Ruth Gardiner, ASG
Mike Kirk, General Counsel
April Davenport, Assoc. General Counsel, ASG

REPORT OF THE COGA MODERATOR

Moderator Maxim reported:

- There will be some time overlap with PMAB when we meet in Salt Lake City in May.
- A conversation is scheduled for next week with J. Herbert Nelson and Gail Nelson to discuss the celebration of his ministry at General Assembly.
- GANC is open to exploring different options for filling COGA slots in this time of flux and unification.

COGA MODERATOR REPORT

<p>Deputy Stated Clerk Kerry Rice announced that PMAB has elected Matt Bussell to be its appointed person to COGA. Bussell plans to join us for the March meeting.</p>	
<p>REPORT OF THE ACTING STATED CLERK Stated Clerk Bronwen Boswell’s report included the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the OGA Staff Week • the Special Committee for Standing Rules has been meeting regularly • her participation in the Coordinating Table (CT) budget retreat regarding unification • subcommittees of the CT including one that focused on relationships, working through hurts and harms from the past and discussing how to work through that in the future • she met with synod and mid council leaders • She was in Washington D.C. February 12-14, 2024 with Churches for Middle East Peace 	<p>ACTING STATED CLERK REPORT</p>
<p>REPORT OF THE CO-MODERATOR OF THE 225th GENERAL ASSEMBLY Co-Moderator of the 225th General Assembly (2022) Ruth Santana-Grace reported the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Moderator Shavon Starling-Louis attended the Matthew 25 Summit and the APCE conference • Both co-moderators went to Atlanta to connect with the Greater Atlanta Presbytery as well as the Columbia Seminary • Co-Moderator Ruth Santana-Grace met with the Presbytery of East Tennessee • Starling-Louis visited Providence and Foothills Presbyteries • In March, both co-moderators will be in Louisville to select Moderators and Vice Moderators for GA committees 	<p>CO-MODERATOR REPORT</p>
<p>REPORTS FROM COGA LIAISONS TO/MEMBERS OF OTHER ENTITIES</p>	<p>REPORTS FROM COGA LIAISONS TO/MEMBERS OF OTHER ENTITIES</p>
<p>PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD Robin Pugh attended the PMAB online Board meeting earlier this month. There was a report about the Matthew 25 Summit, reports about other activities and events, Climate and War in the Middle East.</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD REPORT</p>

<p>PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD Lynn Hargrove reported that she attended the recent online PHSB meeting during which time they shared a financial report from Ian Hall, a Unification Commission report, and information about the capital campaign for PHS, Hargrove also mentioned that there are continuing and new good things happening at PHS.</p> <p>Executive Director Nancy Taylor announced that PHS just learned that they've been awarded a planning grant from the Lily Foundation for developing traveling exhibits of the Religion News Service photo collection, etc.</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD REPORT</p>
<p>GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONS Cheni Khonje reported that the GACEIR committee has been working with other organizations and working on the report to GA226. They have also apologized to our Arab siblings for the narrowness of the use of the word 'anti-semitic'.</p>	<p>GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONS REPORT</p>
<p>SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON STANDING RULES Andy James reported that the committee is deep in their work and expects to have their report ready for GA226. Efforts are underway to have the standing rules be more descriptive and helpful.</p>	<p>SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON STANDING RULES REPORT</p>
<p>STATED CLERK NOMINATING COMMITTEE Sallie Watson reports that they have narrowed the candidate pool to three candidates and will be meeting with them early in March in Chicago. Following that step, two candidates will be interviewed in Louisville.</p> <p>It has been made clear to all candidates that this position will be one that is in transition.</p>	<p>STATED CLERK NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT</p>
<p>A CORPORATION Stephanie Anthony reported some of the highlights from the A Corp meeting last week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year-end business plans • PCI Compliance • Integration of Mission Engagement Services 	<p>A CORPORATION REPORT</p>

<p>OGA IN FOCUS FEATURE A video entitled “Judicial Process and Social Witness” (part of a series made by OGA’s communications team) featuring Flor Velez-Diaz, was shared, followed by a chance to ask questions of her.</p>	<p>VIDEO PRESENTATION</p>
<p>BREAK</p>	<p>BREAK</p>
<p>BUDGET UPDATE Ian Hall shared the 2023 November OGA and PHS Financial Statement [1.3]</p>	<p>BUDGET UPDATE</p>
<p>UNIFICATION UPDATE Unification Commission (UC) Vice-Moderator Dave Davis communicated that the group is preparing their report to the General Assembly. Their next in-person meeting will be in Louisville in April. Davis emphasized that unification is a ‘roll out’ rather than having hard deadlines and is likely to take at least two years to come to fruition.</p> <p>Budget Process Deputy Stated Clerk Kerry Rice shared that the Coordinating Table (CT) is proposing a budget process for ‘24 and ‘25 budgets that will ultimately need to be approved by the Unification Commission. The CT met off-site for four days last week to discern and come up with this process.</p> <p>The CT is also focusing on culture and relationships - how to wholistically address the harm and healing, and learning to lean into each other going forward.</p> <p>Unification of Communications Director of OGA Communications Rick Jones shared the process of how the communications teams of ASG, OGA and PMA have been moving toward unification. The goal is to be officially unified by April 2024. It’s important as they move forward that people feel valued.</p> <p>Stated Clerk Bronwen Boswell added by sharing her experiences talking with the staff as individuals. The staff passionately wants to tell the story/ministry of PCUSA.</p>	<p>UNIFICATION UPDATE</p>
<p>BREAK</p>	<p>BREAK</p>

<p>ETHICS TRAINING Associate General Counsel April Davenport shared a presentation on ethics, took questions at the conclusion and reminded everyone that they should return their signed ethics document to Jayne Culp in OGA. [1.4 and 1.5]</p>	<p>ETHICS TRAINING</p>
<p>BREAK</p>	<p>BREAK</p>
<p>RESPONSE TO MC-11 The small group that was working on this will have something to present tomorrow (Friday morning).</p>	<p>RESPONSE TO MC-11</p>
<p>GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLANNING Director of General Assembly Planning Kate Duffert updated the committee on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee volunteers • Coordinators to work with committee leaders • MyGA will launch on March 20, 2024 • GA Planning team continues to be working hard and will meet in Salt Lake City Feb 22-24, 2024 • The status of gender-neutral bathrooms given a recent bill that passed in Utah (which is in opposition to previous GA mandates) <p>Ken Tolley, GA Business Manager, shared the “Proposed Committee Structure – GA226” document [Item 1.6]</p>	<p>GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLANNING</p>
<p>ACTION ITEMS Responses to Referrals [1.7] Everyone was encouraged to read through this action item and be ready to discuss tomorrow.</p> <p>OGA report to GA226 [1.8] Everyone was encouraged to read through this action item and be ready to discuss tomorrow.</p> <p>OGA report to GA226 [1.9] Report is not ready for discussion. It will get written, shared after the meeting and ratified via email before the 120-day deadline.</p>	<p>ACTION ITEMS [1.7] Re-scheduled for Friday, February 16, 2024</p> <p>[1.8] Re-scheduled for Friday, February 16, 2024</p>

<p>MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION Moderator Eliana Maxim entertained a motion to move into privileged, closed session to discuss personnel and property matters. The motion moved was that the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly convene in privileged, closed session to discuss personnel and property matters with only members of the COGA, including ex officio members, and the following individuals who are invited to remain and to attend all or a portion of the closed session: Kerry Rice, Mike Kirk, April Davenport, Jayne Culp, Kate Duffert, and Deb Davies.</p>	<p>MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION</p>
<p>CLOSED SESSION</p> <p>MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND APPROVED To move into executive session to discuss personnel issues.</p>	<p>CLOSED SESSION</p> <p>ACTION</p>
<p>RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION</p> <p>The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly rose from closed session and announced that no action was taken.</p>	<p>RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION</p>
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>We will reconvene at 11am Eastern time, tomorrow February 16, 2024.</p> <p>There being no further business before the Committee today, the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m. with prayer offered by Moderator Eliana Maxim.</p> <p>MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND APPROVED To adjourn for the day.</p>	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>ACTION</p>
<p>RECONVENE</p> <p>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024</p>	<p>RECONVENE</p> <p>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024</p>

<p>WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER The meeting convened at 11:00 am with a welcome from Moderator Eliana Maxim and a prayer offered by Vice Moderator Dave Davis.</p>	<p>WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER</p>
<p>OGA IN FOCUS FEATURE A video entitled “Learning About the Future, by Looking at the Past” (part of a series made by OGA’s communications team) featuring David Staniunas, was shared, followed by a chance to ask questions of him.</p>	<p>VIDEO PRESENTATION</p>
<p>INFORMATION ITEM Educator Certification Committee Report [Item 2.1] Manager for Ministry Education and Support Martha Miller gave a brief introduction to the document and was available for questions.</p>	<p>INFORMATION ITEM</p>
<p>ACTION ITEMS</p> <p>COGA Response to MC-11 [Item 2.2] MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND APPROVED</p> <p>Accept invitation from Milwaukee Presbytery to host GA227 [Item 2.3] MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND APPROVED</p> <p>Approval of National Certifying Bodies [Item 2.4] MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND APPROVED</p> <p>Guidelines for Review of Synod Records [Item 2.5] MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND APPROVED</p>	<p>ACTION ITEMS</p> <p>[Item 2.2] APPROVED</p> <p>[Item 2.3] APPROVED</p> <p>[Item 2.4] APPROVED</p> <p>[Item 2.5] APPROVED</p>
<p>ACTION ITEMS</p> <p>Responses to Referrals [Item 1.7] MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND APPROVED</p> <p>OGA report to GA226 [Item 1.8] Deputy Stated Clerk Kerry Rice indicated that the OGA document will continue to be edited but the content in general is accurate. MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND APPROVED</p> <p>COGA report to GA226 [Item 1.9] A reminder that this report will be emailed to the committee soon and ratified online.</p>	<p>ACTION ITEMS</p> <p>[Item 1.7] APPROVED</p> <p>[Item 1.8] APPROVED</p>

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. with prayer offered by Vice Moderator Dave Davis.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted:

Jayne Culp