

# GA NEWS

## Brief



ISSUE 5 | JULY 3, 2024

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY BACKTRACKS ON COMPLETE DIVESTMENT FROM THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY



In a surprise reversal, the 226th General Assembly made an about-face on Tuesday afternoon by deciding against complete divestment from the fossil fuel industry after having voted in favor of it that morning.

After tough and lengthy discussion, GA commissioners voted to disapprove [ENV-02](#), the overture from the morning, and to instead go with an amended version of [ENV-06](#). Among other things, it directs the Presbyterian Mission Agency's [Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment](#) (MRTI) to immediately identify the top 10 fossil fuel companies that derive most of their profits from the exploration, development and production of fossil fuels and immediately divest from those companies. [Read more](#)

### TODAY'S SCHEDULE

*All times listed in Mountain Daylight Time*

**8:30 a.m.**  
Service of Worship

**9:30 a.m.**  
Plenary 10

**12:00 Noon**  
GA Daily  
w/ Fred Tangeman

**1:30 p.m.**  
Plenary 11

**7:00 p.m.**  
Plenary 12





## THE NEW STATED CLERK TAKES HER TURN AT GA DAILY



Perhaps owing to its location in the Beehive State, the 226th General Assembly has been a beehive of activity for the PC(USA)'s recently elected and installed Stated Clerk, the Rev. Jihyun Oh.

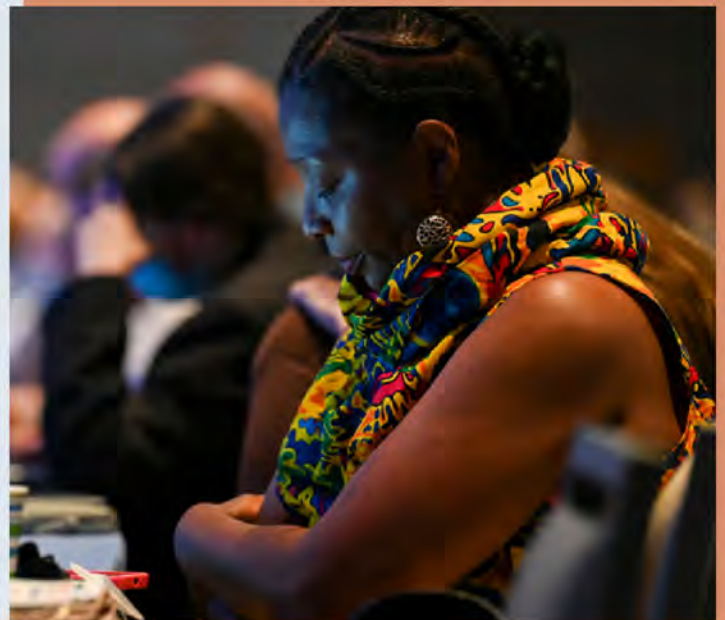
Oh, who was installed in a joyous ceremony on Monday after being elected by GA commissioners by a count of 420-2, was Fred Tangeman's guest Tuesday on GA Daily. Tangeman asked Oh to reflect on the moment of being the first Korean American and the second woman to be installed as the PC(USA)'s top ecclesial officer.

[Read more](#)

## ASSEMBLY CALLS FOR DIVESTMENT FROM THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY NOW

Halfway through the General Assembly's strenuous debate on a recommendation from the Committee on Environmental and Climate Justice, Co-Moderator the Rev. CeCe Armstrong paused to convene the body in prayer, having just received word that Hurricane Beryl, then heading through Jamaica and moving through the Caribbean, had just been classified as a Category 5 storm.

"We're still a praying body called to do the work of the church for the church," Armstrong said before praying, "and the church is not always inside the building." [Read more.](#)



## ASSEMBLY TAKES ACTION ON ITEMS FROM THREE COMMITTEES TUESDAY NIGHT

Pausing during a break for a technology fix during the final plenary Tuesday, commissioners and advisory delegates to the 226th General Assembly pulled out the stops and, led by Co-Moderator the Rev. CeCe Armstrong, performed the Electric Slide while they waited. The event was, well, electric, and entertaining.

The impromptu dance wasn't all that the body accomplished.

[Read more](#)



## HURRICANE BERYL'S IMPACT FELT AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Providentially, the [Rev. Dr. R. Osbert James](#) was attending the 226th General Assembly as an Ecumenical Advisory Delegate rather than being at home in Grenada, where he is pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Grenada. Hurricane Beryl, which was upgraded to a monstrous Category 5 storm on Tuesday, struck [Carriacou](#) the day before. Carriacou, an island of Grenada, saw at least three people killed, according to an [Associated Press](#) report on Tuesday. [Read More](#)





## ECUMENICAL WORSHIP OPENS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON TUESDAY

An ecumenical worship service led Tuesday's General Assembly morning session. Inspired by the Assembly's theme, "Live Into Hope," the Rev. Prof. Dr. Jerry Pillay, general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC), thanked the delegates and congregants for decades of faithful support of the ecumenical movement and the WCC. He brought greetings from WCC member churches in 120 countries around the world.

"My sisters and brothers in Christ, it is my great privilege and joy to be with you today in the bond of ecumenical fellowship in our common worship of the God of life and hope." [Read more](#)



## 'WOMEN LEADING BEYOND THE PARISH'

The Women of Faith Awards were established in 1986 to honor women members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) whose lives exemplify their Christian commitments. Nominations are received from throughout the church, and honorees are selected by a committee of representatives from groups related to Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries and Presbyterian Women. Awards are presented at the Women of Faith Breakfast during the General Assembly. [Read more](#)



## RALLYING BEHIND NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES

Fifty people attended the [1001 New Worshipping Communities](#) (1001 NWC) lunch at the Marriott's Skylight Ballroom on Tuesday afternoon to gather and encourage church and mid council leaders to support new worshipping communities and their partnerships with existing churches and mid councils.

The Rev. Nikki Collins, coordinator of 1001 NWC, welcomed the group and introduced her colleagues at the Presbyterian Mission Agency, who are fostering and resourcing ministries that are innovating and growing.

[Read more](#)



## NATHAN YOUNG BRINGS PASSION AND ENERGY TO BRINGING THE ASSEMBLY TO LIFE

For the first time since 2018, commissioners and advisory delegates of the 226th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are together for in-person plenaries. To make that happen requires a lot of planning, preparation and prayer. Those who have seen the action behind the stage describe it as the PC(USA)'s own version of mission control. Directing such an event requires someone who understands staging as well as the needed technology to make the Assembly a meaningful experience for attendees.



[Click here to open video in Vimeo](#)



## GO AND TEACH: PRESBYTERIAN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN UTAH

The history of denominational mission schools is lengthy and has legs in each U.S. state and in countries across the world — so perhaps it comes as no surprise that before there were Presbyterian churches in Utah, there were Presbyterian classrooms.

In the mid- to late-19th century, a plethora of Presbyterian Mission Schools and other educational institutions began to pop up across the state of Utah. Supported largely through the Presbyterian Church's Women's Board of Home Missions, these learning environments were founded in areas where people could not be reached by churches or where public schools were not likely to sprout in the next few years. These mission schools reached their height in the 1890s, when their success began a slow and steady decline resulting from the establishment of a state system of education in 1904.

To offer a bit more perspective, 11 schools were established between 1875 and 1879 alone. When the Presbytery of Utah met in the town of Logan in 1880, they agreed to commission 15 female teachers; three years later, the 11 schools had blossomed into 33 in Utah and branching into Idaho.

[Read more.](#)

