



The Pathway

Newsletter of the Webster Presbyterian Church
Webster, New York

September 2022

Vol. LII No. 7



September!

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To My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During June and July this year, the 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA met in Louisville, Kentucky. If you are wondering what the General Assembly does, it is described on the denomination's website as follows:

"The General Assembly consists of commissioners elected by presbyteries. Half of the commissioners will be ruling elders, half will be teaching elders. Few will ever have been commissioners to the General Assembly before, but most will have served in one of the other governing bodies of our church: the session, which provides care and oversight of a local congregation; the presbytery, which provides care and oversight of a group of congregations; or the synod which provides care and oversight of several presbyteries. It reviews the work of synods, resolves controversies in the church, is responsible for matters of common concern for the whole church, and serves as a symbol of unity for the church."

Our local Presbytery sent five representatives. I've included a summary from the denomination's website of the actions of the recent General Assembly that can be found on pages 9 & 10. I ask that you prayerfully consider them. What are your first thoughts about these actions? How do your thoughts about these actions align with you individually and with the denomination collectively for building the Kingdom of God?

Prayerfully Submitted. Your Brother in Christ.

Pastor Phil

Join us in the Sanctuary or on Livestream!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

No reservations are needed. Masks are optional.

Our services continue to be livestreamed. *Just click the links below:*

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzM5-thYxua2HQSPF6P71wA>

Facebook:

<http://facebook.com/Websterpres/>

Church Office Hours

After Labor Day, the church office will be open **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 am till 3 pm.** The office is closed Mondays and Fridays.

Contact info:

(585) 265-9700

office@websterpres.org

We are followers of Jesus Christ, living and sharing the love of God through faith and action, welcoming all.



A Note from Session

At a congregational meeting on June 12th, seven church members were elected to serve on our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). We thank Nancy Granger, Rachel Dolan, Gayl Galen, Matthew Clark, Heather Hewlett, Amy Vallone, and Eric Phillips for the service they will be providing to help identify the pastor who will be called to our church. The committee met several times over the summer at an organizational meeting with our Presbytery Committee on Ministry representative and with our Mission Study consultant. Their first task will be to prepare a Ministry Information Form (MIF) which will be used to match candidates seeking new positions with our church using the PCUSA leadership connection data base. Please offer your prayers of support and encouragement to the PNC as they begin their work.

During the summer months, Abbey Mayer, a communications major at SUNY Geneseo, served as a volunteer intern to improve our use of social media. Abbey created and posted weekly news and highlights for the church on Facebook and Twitter. Our Sunday morning service broadcasts on Facebook and You Tube have been receiving about 70 views weekly, either during worship time or later. So thanks to Abbey for helping us keep in tune with the virtual world.

Tony Hubbard, Clerk of Session
tghubbard@frontiernet.net

Trustees' Corner

Your Trustees have been busy with repairs and gardening throughout the summer, however, repairing the church parking lot is our current main focus.

A parking lot repair proposal has been approved by the Trustees and will be presented to the Session for discussion this month. Please pray that we are following God's vision for this stewardship.



Stewardship and Finance

As of the end of July, the finances of the church are positive. Income was over expectations mainly because some donors are paying ahead on their pledge for the year. We so much appreciate people keeping up so well with their pledges! Expenses were slightly lower than budget but will likely come in on budget by year end.

We are so grateful to God for all he has given to us individually and as a church! Pledge Sunday is coming up on October 9th when we will have another opportunity to express this gratitude.

Let's Make Second Chances Work for WPC!

The Presbytery of Genesee Valley has informed Session that there are grant monies to support the work of congregations as they seek to respond faithfully and creatively to today's needs. Please read the following grant opportunities and share your grant ideas with any Elder or a note to the office. It would be wonderful if committees or groups would act quickly and write for a grant to support the work of WPC. Grant applications are easily completed and are due September 20th.

There are two Second Chance Grants:

The **Congregational Vitality Grant** is focused on congregations trying to live into something that is very new to them. For example, last year WPC received a \$500 Grant that was used for new signage to welcome the community to our worship services and support for our streaming effort. What are your new dreams, new ways of

sharing our message, and new initiatives to foster development, redevelopment, and renewal of our congregational life?



The **Collaborative Ministry Grant**

is intended to encourage intentional partnerships that serve the people of our local community in Christ-like ways. God works through community and relationship, especially in challenging times. Thus, Collaborative Ministry Grants aim to promote ministry connecting PGV congregations or neighborhoods with one or more community agencies, faith communities, or other local entities. What collaborations are in your heart to foster new community relationships?

Please consider and share your ideas with any Elder or share with an Elder which grant you or your committee/group would like to pursue!

Spiritual Nurturing

Welcome back from your Spiritual Nurture Committee! How did it go this summer practicing the breath prayer that we described in the June *Pathway*? We would like now to turn our focus to the spiritual discipline of thankfulness. Author Lynne M. Baab in her book, *Joy Together: Spiritual Practices for Your Congregation*, states that, "Prayers of thankfulness enable us to see what God has been doing and where God has been working...enable us to notice the specifics of God's work and the patterns of God's goodness in our lives and the lives of others. Prayers of thankfulness make us stop and look." When your Small Group meets next time, check in with each other and discover where God has answered prayers in ways hoped for or unexpected, and then thank Him in your prayers together. If you come forward during worship to light a candle, try making one of your prayers a prayer of thankfulness for what God has done in your life or someone else's. Wake up in the morning thanking God for a new day in which to rejoice and be glad. Be watchful throughout your day for signs of God moving in your life and give thanks. "God is present in the lives of all people in one way or another, and thankfulness prayers encourage us to notice."

*Let the peace of Christ
rule in your hearts,
since as members of one
body you were called to
peace. And be thankful.*

*Let the message of
Christ dwell among
you richly as you teach
and admonish one
another with all
wisdom through
psalms, hymns and
songs from the Spirit,
singing to God with
gratitude in your
hearts. And whatever
you do, whether in
word or deed, do it all
in the name of Lord
Jesus, giving thanks to
God the Father
through him.*

Colossians 3:15-17 (NIV)

On another note, an indoor labyrinth is on loan to us from Presbytery. It is 24'x24' and will be presented to you in an Adult Ed program on October 23rd in the Social Room. A labyrinth is not a maze; there is a clear path in and out. "The earliest examples of labyrinths go back nearly 5000 years, but the use of labyrinths in Christian prayer emerged in the Middle Ages. Praying with a labyrinth is a form of walking meditation, a physical expression of the interior journey towards Christ that characterizes all Christian meditation." (McGrath Blog) More to come when the time gets closer! In the meantime, the labyrinth is available to walk if anyone wishes to try it. It is best if there are just two or three at a time to allow for space to walk at the same time at your own pace. Please contact one of us on the SNC and we will check the availability of the Social Room. We would lay it out for you before your scheduled time. If Presbytery has need for it before October 23rd, we would have to let it go until then.

Barb Hach (746-0764)
Bob Blakey (317-7523)
Connie Rice (703-0618)
Nancy Duquette (717-742-8058)



Flowers for the Communion Table

We would like to again offer people an opportunity to place fresh flowers on the communion table on Sunday mornings to honor or celebrate special people or events in their lives. The process, however, is changing as reflected in the steps below. We are asking you to:

1. Sign up for a date on the Flower Chart located on the board outside the church office.
2. Call in your own order from your place of choice (Florist shop, Wegmans, etc.).
3. Notify the church office of your desired wording in the Sunday bulletin.
4. Bring your flowers to the church before the service on Sunday morning. If delivery is a problem for you, you can contact Gayl Galen or Georgia Hubbard and they will be glad to help.

On Sundays when there are no fresh flowers, we have several silk arrangements that will be used.



Deacons' Doings

Reusable Coffee Mugs



The reusable travel mugs have arrived! If you signed up to receive one and have not yet picked yours up, it is available in the church office. There are a few extras available in case you missed out on signing up for one. A donation of \$10 is appreciated but not required. Contact Janet Chippero (janetchipper@gmail.com, 233-9514).

Be sure to put your name on your mug and start bringing it to church on Sunday mornings! The Coffee Counter will be serving coffee, tea and cocoa again every Sunday morning beginning September 11th. As always, we proudly serve Fair Trade coffee. While we encourage bringing a reusable mug, we will still provide a paper one if you forget!

Thank you for your Food Barrel donations!

As a result of the increased cost of household expenses, gas, and food, the local food pantries are seeing more and more people that need help with feeding their families. Donations of juice, ramen noodles, soup, tuna and other canned meat, condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo), canned vegetables and fruits, peanut butter, cereals, crackers, and more are very much appreciated.



King Circle will meet on Thursday, September 8th at 10:00 am in Room 9/10. Pastor Phil will be joining them to present a program.

Naomi Circle will meet on Wednesday, September 14th at 1:00 pm in the Memorial Room for their *Annual Auction*.

Rachel Circle will meet on Monday, September 26th for a *Welcome Back Pot-Luck Supper* beginning at 6:30 pm in the Memorial Room. Please bring a dish to pass.

Mission Updates and Opportunities to Give

Summer Mission Projects Update

As you know, this year the Mission Committee selected and Session approved two very deserving projects to share our Summer Mission voluntary donations!

Jennifer House provides housing, counseling, and other services for women who have been incarcerated or abused or have been homeless. Our donations will likely be used to buy a new large freezer for Jennifer House.

Keeping Our Promise provides comprehensive resettlement for refugees from countries of US allies who have served our interests in conflicts and war zones such as Afghanistan. Our donations will go toward buying a used car for an Afghan family, at a cost of at least \$4000.

Our goal was \$8000 and we are so blessed that as of this writing, total donations have been more than \$9600! Thank you so much for your generous contributions!

Clothing for Cameron Community Ministries

During May we delivered 2 van loads (more than 30 bags) of gently new and used men's, women's, and children's summer clothing to Cameron Community Ministries in Rochester. As always, Cameron was very thankful for your donations!

School Supplies Collection

The Mission Committee is very thankful for the overwhelming generosity of this congregation for the many school supplies collected for Williamson Come-Unity Center and Eastern Service Workers. A special thank you to the Deacons who helped collect items through their apple tree display.

It is such a blessing we are able to help equip so many children with the tools to start school.

Kenya High School Students Fund

In 2021 we began the Kenya High School Students Fund to support a couple of deserving 8th grade graduates from Thogoto School near Nairobi, Kenya to continue their education in high school. In 2021, 3 students entered high school with our funding, and 2 more entered in 2022. Our goal is also to be able to sponsor 2 more in 2023 and 2 in 2024. These children are all very poor and without our support would not be able to attend high school in Kenya, as it is not free there.

From early September to early October, we would appreciate voluntary contributions that you would like to make to this ongoing fund. And we thank those of you who contributed in 2021 and to those of you who have made contributions already this year!

Worship and Music

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Psalm 100:1-2

Come Worship the Lord in Person!

September is our coming together month for worship. We hope your summer has been wonderful. Now is the time for us to gather both in person and virtually to worship and praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Choir and Organist are Back September 11th... and looking forward to you joining!

Lee Ann has a wonderful group of returning and new choir members beginning in September. And there is a spot for you! Lee Ann is making her wonderful music selections that will be beautiful, worshipful, and singable. Rehearsals are on Sunday morning before worship starting September 11th! Kat will be sharing her gifts with us as she returns as our organist. Come join the choir and worship the Lord with a new song and in a new way in 2022!



Calling all Children!

Come forward for Children's Time on the 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays! If story telling is one of your gifts and you love our children, please contact Sally Turner at 671-9045 or Bob Blakey at 317-7523 to help with this part of worship.

Welcoming Our Visitors

We hope you have noticed that we are being blessed with more visitors recently. A special quality of our congregation is the warm, personal welcome we provide. The office has prepared updated name tags. Please wear your new name tag.



Join Us on Social Media!



We have been blessed to have an internship this summer to energize WPC's revitalization through evangelistic outreach and social media presence - embracing the virtual reality of our world! Abbey Mayer has taken on this role and has highlighted WPC weekly on Twitter and Facebook. We would love to continue this effort and need to grow this virtual presence to reach new prospective visitors and members. If you or someone you know is interested in continuing to support this role, or have ideas for how this role can grow, please contact Alissa Mayer at 694-4667 or any Elder.

Please be sure to join us on Twitter @WebsterPres and Facebook!



Streamed Service – Better and Better

We hope you will agree that the streamed worship service continues to improve weekly. Not only are the audio and video very high quality, but thanks to the creative talent of the streaming team, the graphics and feeling a part of the service have improved. If you have any problem viewing the streamed service, please contact Alissa Mayer or Todd Fargo.

Liturgists Needed – Including Youth!

Please consider being a Liturgist in September or October. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve the congregation in a very special and personally meaningful way. Our wonderful youth are welcome! Please call Bob Blakey at 317-7523.



What's on Your Mind and Heart?

We also invite you to let your heart speak about the worship and music program. Please share any reflections, questions, and ideas for change to the Worship and Music Committee; Jackie Anderson, Bob Blakey, Lee Ann Daigle, Todd Fargo, Alissa Mayer, Beth Petrino, and Sally Turner.

Bell Choir Update

Alleluia Bells is looking for two new ringers. Contact Jackie Anderson if interested.

jktanderson42@gmail.com

or 585-703-2381



Bell Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Glory Bells rehearse on Thursday mornings from 9:00-10:00.

Alleluia Bells rehearse on Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:15.

Rehearsals start up again on **September 8th**. Both groups will also meet on 9/15, 9/22, & 9/29.

Learning for a Lifetime

Weekly adult education programs will resume on Sunday mornings, beginning September 11th, following the worship service. A variety of classes will be offered, using our church's new identity statement as a stepping off point.

Beginning with discussion of the summer reading book, *Faith Unraveled: How a Girl who Knew All the Answers Learned to Ask Questions*, by Rachel Held Evans, we will follow the evolution of Rachel's faith journey and address our own doubts and questions.

In the weeks following, we will keep in mind that "we are followers of Jesus Christ, living and sharing the love of God through faith and action" as we hear speakers from Mission, Spiritual Nurture, Stewardship, etc., and messages about conservation, ecology, and carbon mitigation.

In addition, we will explore what it means for our congregation to be "welcoming to all" through introduction of LGBTQ+ topics, cultural and faith differences, social, racial, and economic diversity.

Adult Ed September Calendar

Note: All Adult Education sessions are scheduled for **Sunday mornings at 10:45 am.**

Join us for a three-week discussion of the summer reading book, *Faith Unraveled: How a Girl who Knew All the Answers Learned to Ask Questions*, by Rachel Held Evans.

September 11 Room 9/10

Foreword through Part 1—HABITAT

September 18 Room 9/10

Part 2—CHALLENGE

September 25 Room 9/10

Part 3—CHANGE

Memory Verse

...and be kind to one another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as
God in Christ has
forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:32



Women's Bible Study

Hopefully, you have been blessed and refreshed by the summer break. It's soon time to get back to the

Word. Women's Bible Study welcomes *all* women of WPC (friends and neighbors), whether you've studied the Bible for years or are just getting started. You can participate or just listen as we delve into Scripture to know more fully our Triune God.

Join us Tuesday morning, September 13th in Room 9/10 at 9:45, or come at 9:30 to the Chapel to sing praises! We will begin with a single study on "12 Different Ways to Experience the Bible". (What is a metaphor?)

Library News

We finally have been able to add some new and donated books to the library. Thanks to Jay, we have an updated computer to use, which made it possible to process the books. Please check them out. They are on display. We hope you can find some of interest and enjoyment.



There are a few memoirs and biographies. These are very inspirational and timely:

- *An Alter to the World* by Barbara Taylor Brown
- *Leaving Church* by Barbara Taylor Brown
- *River of Fire, My Spiritual Journey* by Sister Helen Prejean

Some dealing with Christian Living and Belief include:

- *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr
- *When God's Way Makes No Sense* by Larry Crabb
- *Enemies of the Heart* by Andy Stanley
- *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter* by Sue Monk Kidd

Prayer and Meditation items:

- *Armchair Mystic* by Mark Thibodeaus
- *We Make the Road by Walking* by Brian McClaren

Literature:

- *The Time Keeper* by Mitch Albom
- *The Timepiece* by Beverly Lewis

Children's Christian Education

Welcome back to a new church school year of bible stories, music, crafts and outreach projects. **Our SHINE class begins again on Sunday, September 11th.**



Sunday mornings begin with children attending worship with their family. At the beginning of worship, kids who are interested will once again be invited to take turns lighting the candles on the communion table. Following the Children's Message and Passing the Peace, the kids are dismissed to their SHINE program. We begin with Praise/Prayer in Room 2. After collecting the offering and putting a sticker on the attendance board, we sing and dance to some VBS music videos. We close each session with a prayer read by one of the kids.

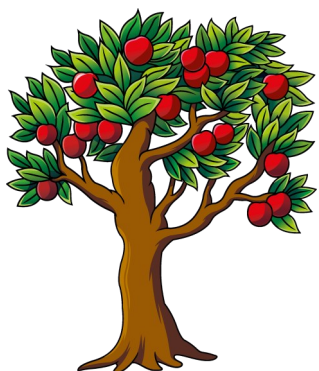


After Praise/Prayer, the kids move to Room 3 for the morning class. This year, there will once again be Bell Choir with Mrs. Anderson, Bible Lessons with Mrs. Bocker or Mrs. Galen, and Crafts/Mission Projects with Mrs. Galen.



Our curriculum for the new church school year is from Group Publishing. It is called **Simply Loved**. The lessons will help children explore a foundational, Jesus-centered journey through God's story. Our journey begins with lessons on Creation, Noah, Isaac, and Zacchaeus.

Faith isn't a subject to be mastered; it's a relationship to grow... through teachings and personal experiences in and out of the classroom.



We are in need of additional adults to help support the teachers on Sunday morning. If you are interested, please speak with Gayl Galen.



Heart and Hand

The Heart and Hand Planning Team invites you to join them in the Memorial Room on September 16th at 10 am. We will be starting the fall season by making pillowcases for women and children's shelters. There are jobs for everyone whether you sew or not. Materials and machines are available. But feel free to bring your own project and still be a part of the fellowship and devotions. We hope to see you there. Call Tina Mc Neary at 671-5232 with any questions.

thank you

Dear Fellow Webster Presbyterians,

Thank you for the humongous bouquet that celebrated my 100th year. It was such a thoughtful gesture! It is an honor to be a part of a group that has a rich history of doing for others. Thanks to the many faithful members who have helped WPC become the congregation that it has been and is today.

The avalanche of cards that I received from the congregation to help celebrate my 100th birthday was truly amazing. I have been reading them to Janie and we both appreciate all of your wonderful wishes.

With Gratitude,
Dave Parker

September Lectionary Readings

September 4

Old Testament	Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
New Testament	Philemon 1:1-21
Gospel	Luke 14:25-33

September 11

Old Testament	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm	Psalm 14
New Testament	I Timothy 1:12-17
Gospel	Luke 15:1-10

September 18

Old Testament	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalm	Psalm 79:1-9
New Testament	I Timothy 2:1-7
Gospel	Luke 16: 1-13

September 25

Old Testament	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm	Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
New Testament	I Timothy 6:6-19
Gospel	Luke 16:19-31

Youth Fellowship

Summer is coming to an end but the fun is starting up at WPC Youth Fellowship. We are calling all youth grades 6th through 12th to come join in the fun and fellowship. We meet Sundays from 4-6 pm, except for when participation in a specific event requires a time change. As you are marking all your school activities and work on the calendar, don't forget to mark down the September Youth Fellowship activities and make them a priority in your weekly schedule!



Youth Fellowship begins on **Sunday, September 18th**, with **"We Will Give You Wings"** presented by **ROC City Circus** in their debut in the Rochester Fringe Festival. The soaring heroine will collect feathers of wisdom while navigating Love, Joy, Sadness, and Reflection, ultimately gaining inner strength. If you ever dreamed of flying, you must become one with your roots and stand tall before you can spread your wings and soar. This high-flying show features aerial circus acts and Upstate New York's only flying trapeze.

The 75 minute show begins at 2:00 pm at **1344 University Ave, Suite 6200**. We will meet there at **1:45 pm**. There are limited tickets available for the show. Please **R.S.V.P. by 9/5** to reserve a ticket with me. I will purchase additional tickets as long as they are available. Let me know when reserving your tickets if you need a ride.

Sunday, September 25th, we will meet for **games and BBQ at WPC from 4-6 pm**. We will play get to know you and team building games and then fellowship over dinner. Families are encouraged to join us. We will have a short meeting, sign-ups for upcoming events and parent volunteering. **Please respond with the number of family members attending by 9/21.**

Saturday, October 15th, from **10:00 AM – 2:00 PM** the Presbytery is gathering for fall fellowship at **Ganondagan State Historic Site**, 7000 County Rd 41 in Victor, NY. The tagline is "Coming together in relationship, broadening our insight into the demands for justice." Families will enjoy on-your-own activities: long house, interactive museum, walking trails, crafts, gift shop. We will then enjoy gathered-together activities: worship on the patio at noon and lunch at 12:30 pm. **R.S.V.P.** is required by **October 6th**, <https://pbygenval.org/presbytery-fellowship>. Please let me know of your plans so I know who and when to look for you and your family.

All youth grades 6th through 12th are welcome and are always encouraged to bring friends to Youth Fellowship. Youth Fellowship permission forms can be found on the WPC website under the Youth tab. Please bring the completed form to the first event.



Emails promoting the events are sent out weekly. Help me to plan for our events by responding with your expected attendance whenever possible. It is necessary to plan games, provide adult support, rides and snacks. Anyone interested in receiving Youth Fellowship emails that is not currently on my distribution list should send their contact information to youth@websterpres.org.

Parents are encouraged to join the youth committee to help plan and run activities. The youth committee meets the 2nd Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Youth Room. Some events require carpooling or more adults to run the event so we will ask for adults to join us.

Together in Fellowship,

Wanda Nungesser,
Director of Youth Ministries
youth@websterpres.org 585-414-1337

Church Family News

We are happy to welcome new members to our congregation!

Scott and Heather Hewlitt

along with their children, Addison and Jack

and Chuck Durand

New Addresses:

Gordon Neal:

Maplewood Nursing Home
100 Daniel Drive
Webster, NY 14580

Dorothy Neal:

100 Village Wood Lane, Apt B14
Penfield, NY 14526

Mary Crockett:

Edna Tina Wilson Living Center
700 Island Cottage Rd.
Victoria, Room 120
Rochester, NY 14612

A Summary of the Actions of the 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA

Church Leadership

Key positions in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) were filled during the assembly. The Rev. Ruth Santana-Grace and Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis were elected co-moderators of the 225th General Assembly. The assembly confirmed Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett's re-election to a second term as president and executive director of Presbyterian Mission Agency. The assembly confirmed the re-election of the Rev. Dr. Tom Taylor as president and CEO of the Presbyterian Foundation, his fourth term. The assembly also confirmed the 2021 election of Rev. Dr. Asa Lee, president of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Israel/Palestine

The General Assembly voted 266-116 to approve INT-02, a "Recognition that Israel's Laws, Policies and Practices Constitute Apartheid Against the Palestinian People." It declares that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) "recognizes that the laws, policies, and practices of the government of Israel regarding the Palestinian people fulfill the international legal definition of apartheid."

Fossil Fuel Divestment

General Assembly approved ENV-10 calling for divestment from five oil and gas companies: Chevron, ExxonMobil, Marathon Petroleum, Phillips 66 and Valero Energy. The assembly said the companies were not doing enough to slow global warming. Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) reports that this is the first time the PC(USA) has voted to divest from companies out of compliance with GA's environmental policies (which was established in 2018.)

Unification and National Structure

On a vote of 321-54, General Assembly approved FIN-10, which calls for the appointment of a commission to oversee and facilitate the unification of the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) and the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA)

into a single agency. The assembly also approved MOV-02, which moves Mission Engagement and Support (MES) from the Mission Agency to the Administrative Services Group, which supports both OGA and PMA.

Unified Budget/Per Capita

The assembly approved FIN-14, which includes unified budgets for the Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Administrative Services Group of the PC(USA), A Corporation. The budget for the three agencies and entities totals \$88.3 million in 2023 and \$89.5 million in 2024. The breakdown of the budget will be 16% for OGA, 79% for PMA, and 5% for ASG. The assembly voted to approve FIN-13 which assesses a per capita rate of \$9.85 per member in 2023 and \$9.80 per member in 2024. The current per capita rate is \$8.98 per member meaning an 87-cent (9.6%) increase next year while the 2024 rate will drop by five cents (0.5%) in 2024. The per capita budget for 2023 was approved at \$15.2 million and \$15.6 million for 2024.

Immigration

By a vote of 340-25, the General Assembly approved IMM-06, allowing the church to declare itself a "Sanctuary and Accompaniment Church." The assembly's Immigration Committee says the decision sends a message that the church is committed to working for justice in U.S. immigration policy.

Gun Violence

General Assembly approved a motion that the church renew its commitment to end gun violence by developing a 10-year campaign, the Decade to End Gun Violence (2022 – 2032). The assembly also voted to direct Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) to engage with Walmart, Dick's Sporting Goods and Kroger, three publicly traded companies held by either the Board of Pensions or Presbyterian Foundation, that sell guns not classified as semi-automatic and assault-based weapons.

Ukraine

The assembly also voted 374-1 to approve INT-19, a commissioners' resolution condemning the Russian military invasion of Ukraine and crimes against humanity, and calling for a cease-fire and the immediate resumption of internationally mediated negotiations.

Race and Gender Justice

Commissioners and advisory delegates approved several items of business from the Race and Gender Justice Committee (RGJ), including RGJ-07: "A Resolution Addressing the Lack of Installed Pastoral Leadership in People of Color Congregations in the PC(USA) – From the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee" and RGJ-08: "On Offering an Apology to African Americans for the Sin of Slavery and Its Legacy." A two-hour plenary ended with votes overwhelmingly approving both items, and with white Presbyterians reading aloud "A Litany of Repentance" found in RGJ-08, which begins with the words: "As white Christians we repent of our complicity in the belief in white supremacy." The assembly also approved RGJ-12 calling for a new special committee to expose white supremacy within the denomination and make recommendations for improvement. In addition, the assembly approved RGJ-13, directing the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation to "create educational resources for congregations to identify and interrupt practices and policies that perpetuate the adultification of Black girls and criminalization of adolescent behavior." Commissioners and advisory delegates passed a resolution, RGJ-14, denouncing violence against Asian women and Pacific Islanders. The Church will form a committee to write a new PC (USA) confession.

Continued on pg 10

Summary of Actions cont.

226th General Assembly

The assembly voted to change the format of the 226th General Assembly, whereby committee meetings will be held online, with in person plenaries being conducted on site in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 2024. The assembly is expected to cost approximately \$2.8 million.

Mid Councils

Commissioners and advisory delegates approved MC-10, which creates a task force to explore the theology and practice of ordination for ruling elders and recommend any changes to the 226th General Assembly (2024). The task force will include representatives who identify as BIPOC, immigrant congregations and New Worshiping Communities. Several amendments and motions were considered, but the overture was approved as amended by the committee.

Other

The General Assembly approved changes to the Standing Rules (STAN22) that alter requirements for those serving as Young Adult Advisory Delegates to the assembly. YAADs must be:

- An active member of a PC(USA) congregation or participant in a new worshipping community or immigrant fellowship that has a relationship with a presbytery.
- Between 18 and 23 years of age on the day the assembly convenes.

**The October Pathway
deadline is
SEPTEMBER 20th.**

email articles to
jchippero@websterpres.org
AND
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Green Tip of the Month

For those times when you can't avoid using a plastic bag, retailers take for recycling most clean plastic bags and wrap, including bags from newspapers, dry cleaning, bread, and produce. Also return plastic wrap from toilet paper, napkins, paper towels, snack and drink cases, and diapers. Take off strings, rigid handles, and closing mechanisms. Do not include soiled bags or bubble wrap.