

General Assembly Report

I was a part of the Polity committee. This was a stressful and interesting process. Much discussion was had on polity concerning LGBTQIA+ . There was one overture with two parts, which were considered separately. First part added verbiage without changing meaning of current polity. This was recommended by committee and passed by GA. The second part would have restricted the voice of those who did not fully embrace and support those in the LGBTQIA+ community. This went too far, in my opinion, and would have excluded those with an alternate voice. This portion of the overture was amended on GA floor to allow all parties to come to the table together, acknowledging the voice of all. This amendment to the original proposal was approved by GA. Much time, prayer, and thought went into the discussions and voting.

We were hosted to dinner one evening at a Japanese church. Several days later, Japanese ceremonial drummers closed a worship services. Another day, worship was introduced with a full bagpipe and drum corp. All worship services were powerful and thought-provoking. Sermons were exceptional, with one from the president of Columbia Seminary and another by the head of the World Council of Churches.

The new co-moderators, the Rev. Tony Larson and the Rev. CeCe Armstrong did a wonderful job of moderating and will continue to represent the PCUSA in a very powerful and positive way.

While stressful and a lot of hard work, this was a very meaningful experience for me. I would highly recommend the experience.

Russ Kline
Elder Commissioner to 226th General Assembly