WHAT IS REQUIRED OF YOU?

You know how conversations go, you ask how was Presbytery? Sandy told me they need a ruling elder commissioner for General Assembly oh when and where? Milwaukee, WI at the end of June22 to July 2, 2026. That sounds interesting, I'll ask Donnie if he would like to go to Milwaukee. This conversation was in August 2025.

What does a Ruling Elder Commissioner do? REC represents the presbytery on committees of the assembly and in the plenary meeting of the Assembly with full voice and vote. Alongside an equal number of Minister Commissioners. The Ruling elder Commissioner determine General Assembly policy for the coming biennium and beyond. Commissioners are expected to relate their Assembly experience to the Presbytery and to groups and churches within the Presbytery schedule permitting.

Application was submitted in September and a promise to attend all meetings.

What does it cost? Cost including travel, housing and meals are covered by General Assembly, any spending money will be the responsibility of the commissioner. All bookings were arranged for us.

What kind of person makes a good Ruling Elder Commissioner? The commissioner should be mature in both faith and character as the demands of the General Assembly require responsible decision making.

The commissioner should be active in their local congregation and presbytery. It is important that they be able to attend the GA meeting plus training and orientation.

GA training before Assembly question and answer, DEI training, Parliamentary Procedure, computer voting.

June 22, 23,24 started zoom meeting My committee on Theological Education and Ordination. We had 12 (69 pages) overtures to discuss. Charlotte and Eugene worked as moderators. Committee had 60 members in total; we discussed all the overtures, some more spirited than others.

The zoom meetings started at 7am lunch at 12noon, back 1:15pm, dinner at 5:00pm back 6:15pm till 8:30pm

June 26th travel to Milwaukee, welcome committee at airport, bus ride to 3 different hotels, check in and to the Baird center to get name tag and tickets for meals and any prepaid events.

June 27th walk to end gun violence, lunch 2pm town square, 7-9pm desserts, drinks

June 28th-July 2 8:30am ecumenical worship, 9:30am Plenary, noon, 1:30pm Plenary 5:30pm meal, 7:00pm back Plenary till 9:30ish

Baird center full of computers, tablets, big screens and 600 commissioners and observers, monitors and computer support makes a lot of heat in one room. To offset the heat the room temperature felt like 32 degrees, they gave us small blankets.

Committees worked reviewing and discussing the recommendations of the other committees, voting to approve or

not. When our decisions affected the budget, the amount was calculated. GA was very concerned about money added to budget.

They reminded us that PCUSA is there to help us with programs, education, and church needs.

Thank you for sending me to 227th General Assembly, I enjoyed the people and the events. My favorite was music, ministers' services and the fellowship with brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

Patti Johnson, Ruling Elder

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Yellowstone Presbytery