

GA225 – A New Experience



GA 225 was a new experience in format, technology, and residual concerns of pandemic. No longer were people in the big halls seeing old friends and acquaintances, gone was the hall of vendors with supporters and PCUSA seminaries. Gone were the mounds of PCUSA swag that I could take home and share with session, deacons, and mission committees.

This new assembly, being covid and pandemic minded, split commissioners into four groups. Each group arrived at different times over a three week period. Each group met for 3-4 days in-person and

then the moderators of the committees return for plenary sessions virtually over 5 days of business. For everyone's protection masks of quality, (KN95 or N95), were required to be worn anytime within PC-(USA) headquarters.

Being able to use a computer, have internet access, and the ability to navigate between two screens was very important. It was important to have the livestream feed available and to have access to pc-biz for voting at the same time. I am grateful there was plenty of band-width in the meeting rooms because at any one time over 100 people were logged into one, two, or three items and that did not include the production crews that were watching the live stream.



I wonder if future Assemblies are held in this hybrid format, if there are people we may leave behind who are not computer savvy or have access to internet and wi-fi. I also wonder if seminaries, supporters, and vendors, may have access to the number of commissioners and be invited to send items to commissioners or have items available for the commissioners in a specific area.

Many thanks to the NBPC Event Committee Elder Lynne Foreman and Elder Judy Murphy. With their help NBPC was able to have its name and logo on the banner for the Juneteenth worship service given by Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson and as the banner for the Moving Forward committee proceedings.

Rev. Doris A. Evans
VP National Black Presbyterian Caucus



The Ohio River in front of PC-USA Witherspoon Street