

Procedures for GA 225: Public Hearings

The Standing Rules of the General Assembly require every assembly committee (except Bills and Overtures) to hold a public hearing in which anyone who wishes to address an item of business can sign up to speak. At a traditional GA, people sign a piece of paper on a bulletin board. Committees try to hear as many testimonies as possible, alternating pro and con; but sometimes when there is major interest, a lottery is necessary to limit the numbers.



This year, with the persistent pandemic limiting how many persons can be in a meeting room at once, public (AKA open) hearings will be conducted online, with speakers recording their witness; no longer do concerned individuals have to be able to afford the time and money to travel to the GA venue for a chance to be heard. Committee members (and anyone else who's interested) will view the testimony before the committee officially convenes, freeing up their time together for other aspects of their discernment.

If you would like to participate, please use the following instructions. Deadlines require action well in advance of the convening of the Assembly in June.

- Read the items of business (IOBs) posted on [PC-Biz](#) to find any about which you may wish to comment.
- If you don't already have one, create an account on the [GA225 Connections website](#).
- Log in and access information about the process by clicking the Advocacy hub and then selecting the Public Hearings Information & Sign-Up resource. All necessary recording software is provided by the website where the testimony will be submitted.
- Complete the online application(s) to request to provide testimony by **May 8**.
- If notified that your request is accepted (it's possible that selection by lottery will be required, depending on how many sign up for a particular IOB), upload both the video and a transcript (for translation purposes) of your testimony during the week of **May 12–19**.
- All the testimonies will be available to be viewed from the Committees hub on GA225 Connections; look for the specific committee to which the IOB has been assigned. Release date will depend on how long it takes to process and translate submissions.

General Assembly 225

Plenary Sessions - June 18, July 5-9

Juneteenth Service - Sunday, June 19

Committee Meetings - June 20-July 2

On the Wind

A publication of the
Presbytery of Southern Kansas
May 2022

www.pbysk.org



Transitional Executive Leader report

Gail Doering
PSK meeting, May 7, 2022

I am writing this on Earth Day and am reminded of one of my favorite arrangements of the hymn, For the Beauty of the Earth, by John Rutter. I am not given to being overly emotional and tearful, but this hymn gets me each time I hear it. Particularly I think of this verse and refrain:

Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild
For all gentle thoughts and mild
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.



Since our last meeting we have experienced loss and gain. Death and new life. Whether welcomed or unwelcomed, it is still hard work to meet the demands of the day as we experience the fragile and fluid nature of life on earth. Some of us are more ably equipped to do this work. The specifics of the changes, losses and gains, are mostly found throughout the agenda of this meeting. I pray that in all things, we shall meet one another with grace and good will. This might be captured in summary by the following:

“I know my life is better when I work from the assumption that everyone is doing the best they can.” – Brené Brown, Dare to Lead

PCT, COMT, Trustees, Governance and Nominating Committee have all worked hard to do just that. Each of them works under the strain of understaffing or a longer than usual stay in leadership positions (in other words, weariness). I pray that our first thoughts in critical thinking about the mission of the Presbytery and the work of these groups, is not to lob complaints but instead to build up the body and consider how one might be an encourager or a laborer in some ministry in the life of PSK.

So let us train our hearts and minds and mouths toward thoughts that are “gentler and milder.” Consider what we do to those that are least but also to the greatest or those in leadership. For it is in all of this that we see Jesus, the Christ, the anointed One.

May Presbytery Meeting

9:00 a.m. | Saturday, May 7, 2022
United Presbyterian Church
307 N. Broadway, Sterling, KS.

In-Person with Zoom option.

Those wishing to join via Zoom can obtain the login information via e-mail from secretary.pbysk@sbcglobal.net.

Freeing Mission - Rev. B. Hunter Farrell to Speak at Presbytery Meeting



The Rev. Dr. B. Hunter Farrell, Director of the World Mission Initiative at Pittsburg Theological Seminary, will be the guest speaker and Q&A leader at the May 7th Called Meeting of Southern Kansas Presbytery.

Dr. Farrell served as Director of World Mission in the Presbyterian Mission Agency for 30 years and has been a professor in DR Congo, coordinator of the PCUSA's mission work in East and West Africa, and a network coordinator addressing issues of poverty and justice in Peru.

The main focus of the presentation will be mission and the new book he co-authored with S. Balajiedlang Khylllep, *Freeing Congregational Mission: A Practical Vision for Companionship,*

Cultural Humility, and Co-Development. If you are inclined, the presentation will be even more meaningful if you read some or all of the book. There is one extra copy at the Presbytery office simply or find it through your favorite bookseller.

Coming Soon - Redesigned PSK Website

Finishing touches are currently being made on the new Presbytery of Southern Kansas website!

The website rebuild is a part of the contract that PSK signed with the Communication Services Plan (CSP) of the Synod of the Sun. The CSP serves mid-councils and events of the PCUSA from all over the country. PSK joins the Presbytery of Northern Kansas, Missouri Union Presbytery, and a dozen other entities from Arizona to the East Coast as partners in the CSP.

When the website launches, we will want your help in getting accurate information about your church and your ministry. This 'crowd sourcing' technique asks users to review the site and submit edits.

Look for the new site in the very near future!



In Memoriam:

On April 4, 2022, many from PSK as well as family and friends, gathered at Westwood Presbyterian Church to remember the life and ministry of the Rev. Dr. Donald Owens, and to celebrate witness to the Resurrection. To Don we say, Rest in Peace, Rise in Glory!

Rev. Dr. Donald Owens, 79, of Wichita, KS, passed away Thursday, March 24, 2022.



Don was born in Pasadena, CA, son of Charlotte (Fain) and Harold Owens. He attended elementary, junior high, and high school in Los Angeles, CA. He graduated from California Baptist University in Riverside, CA in 1964 with a major in Sociology. He then went on to seminary, graduating from St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO. He received his doctorate from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

With energy and passion, Don served pastorates in Kansas City, MO, Lexington MO, McPherson, KS, Hemet, CA, and Wichita, KS. He also served as Executive Presbyter for Southern Kansas having responsibilities for 66 churches in the southern half of Kansas.

Don enjoyed being with family and friends, travel, model railroading, and woodworking – of which he shared his skills on projects for family, friends, and churches.

He is survived by his wife Annette, his son Brad Owens and wife Shannon, grandchildren Brooklyn Bustos and husband Francisco, Camron Owens, Bryna Owens, step grandchildren Mikey Saverino, Megan Saverino, great-grandchildren Elias Bustos, and Melania Bustos, other relatives and friends.

Doris Evans to Serve on Health, Savings and Benefits Committee at GA 225



I am serving as Vice Moderator of the Health, Savings and Benefits committee for the 225th General Assembly.

I was previously involved with the 222nd General Assembly in Portland as a TSAD (Theological Student Advisory Delegate) and served on the Vision 2020 Task Force for four of the six years the committee was in existence. I am interested in seeing the changes the pandemic has made in how we conduct General Assemblies and see if this is a model for the future.

One of the biggest changes in this new way of Assembly is the use of technology. I think this is a great asset as people who are interested in learning how the Assemblies work, now have a way to see this diverse team of elders at work.

I trusted the process of discernment with the Moderators and that they have me in a committee that represents my interests that are important to the use of my knowledge and skills that God has given me. Please hold me in your prayers during the General Assembly for strength, support and patience. I am grateful for your support and this opportunity to serve.