

Report on my experience as a Candidate and Commissioner at GA
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My experience at General Assembly had a totally different angle from all but five other Commissioners at GA - that is, with your endorsement, I was one of six candidates for Moderator. That included months of preparation. That included a world of questions sent by four different publications, orientation in Louisville, preparation of the candidate booth and all the paraphernalia to be designed and ordered - what an undertaking!

In the end, however, I am still convinced that my standing for Moderator along with the other five was by design of the Holy Spirit - that all of our voices needed to be heard. In the end, Elder Cindy Bolbach of National Presbytery, the only Elder standing, was elected. She has proven she will be a fine Moderator, along with the Vice Moderator, Rev. Landon Whitsitt, a pastor from Missouri.

I must say thank you to the presbytery staff and commissioners who could not have been more helpful in the campaign. You would have been proud to see our presbytery represented so well. Your GP, Rev. Bobbi White, was a blessing from beginning to end, along with Rev. Charles and Betty Davenport, Stated Clerk Bert Sigmon, and Paula and Guy Wallace who made the booth come alive and welcoming.

I am thankful that I came in second after the first ballot, and thankful for the warm camaraderie the five candidates enjoyed, though we covered the theological spectrum. As conservative and liberal candidates agreed, "Why can't the church enjoy what we have together?"

My committee work in Ecumenical Relations' most watched work were the Christian-Jewish paper and the Christian-Muslim Relations paper. These took hours and hours of work. In the end, we discerned the papers should go back for more work since the voice of the 75 million Presbyterians in the Middle East were not a part of their writing.

As far as the experience of General Assembly, with hours and hours in our committees and then endless hours in Assembly, I am proud to be a member of the Presbyterian Church USA. We lived out our belief that the Holy Spirit's voice is splintered into a thousand voices and can only be heard if all are heard. There was great respect shown to every viewpoint and in the end, decisions were made in prayer and concern for the people in the pew back home.

Did I agree with every decision made? No. Do I believe we strove to hear the voice of Christ? Yes.

There are possibilities of changes for our denomination before us. Only the presbyteries can make that decision. I trust we will keep our ears and eyes open to the Holy Spirit as I watched the General Assembly do.

Thank you again to Rev. Riley Covin whoso graciously gave me the opportunity to serve as a candidate for Moderator - and to all of you who trusted me to serve as your voice on the floor of General Assembly. I have been mightily blessed.