



**PRIDE SUNDAY**

**9:30 A.M. | JUNE 21, 2026**

**ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, IOWA CITY**

# Today's Worship Participants

The Rev. Jordan Warntjes, pastor

Becky Benson, worship leader

Julia Van Den Top, organist and accompanist

Wendy Lindberg and Dave Duys, *time for young disciples*

*Vocal Ensemble* | Becky Benson, Kai Bouma, Taylor Dengler, Beth Dowd,

Ethan Elsbernd, Mike Mothershed, Austen Wilson, and Nelda Wittig



## Bulletin Cover

- *Through Him, All Things*, by Lauren Wright Pittman
- Block print with oil-based ink over gouache painting
- "In my image, Jesus is a prism. The light that comes from the Creator shines through Jesus, and it is through him that we can see the fullness and beauty of who God is. The rainbow also echoes the full spectrum of humanity and celebrates the image of God that is present—not only in every human, but in every facet of Creation." — Lauren Wright Pittman



## Flowers on the Chancel

- Today's flowers are provided by the Lettuce Feed Others Garden.

## Questions for Reflection

- *Where in your life are you reacting out of "not enough" right now? What might change if you trusted God's abundance more than your scarcity?*
- *Who is the harassed and helpless person in your circles this week? How might you offer them Christ's compassion, welcome, or encouragement?*
- *Today's worship reminds us that we are already beloved. What would it look like to release the need to be anything other than who God created you to be?*
- *On baptism, we celebrate both who we are and who we are becoming. Where do you sense God inviting you into new life?*
- *We are sent into the world as people woven into a tapestry of kinship. How might God be calling you to widen the circle of belonging this week?*



**Finish the Race**  
*Owe Nothing But Love*



**STEWARDSHIP 2026**

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**Hymns + Songs** | Pages are listed for the printed bulletin

Numbers (#) are listed for music in the *Lift Up Your Hearts* (red) hymnal

**Bold Print** | Speak or sing together in unison.

✠ | Please rise in body or in spirit.



# Pride Sunday

9:30 a.m. | June 21, 2026

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church | Iowa City, Iowa

## Welcome + Announcements

**Prelude** | *Aria on "If You But Trust In God to Guide You,"* by Carson Cooman

✕ **Call to Gather** | adapted from Gayle E. Pitman's *A Church For All*

Sunday waking

**Day is breaking**

Let's go to our church for all!

**Let's go to our church for all!**

Church bells ringing, joyful noises

Choir singing, laughing voices

Candles glowing, banners flowing

**Come enter our church for all!**

Weak and healthy,

**neat and messy**

Poor and wealthy,

**plain and dressy**

All embracing, Spirit gracing

**Each one at our church for all!**

Bodies wiggling, mommies reading

**Children giggling, daddies pleading**

Toddlers flailing, babies WAILING.

**There's room at our church for all!**

Hands receiving,

**Hands connecting**

Hearts believing,

**hearts accepting.**

Feel the spirit,

**can you hear it?**

It's here at our church for all!

**It's here at our church for all!**

✕ **Gathering Hymn** | "God of Many Faces," pg. 7 | *to the tune of "Be Thou My Vision"* ✠✠

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✠ Every Sunday, we celebrate the freedom we have to be ourselves in God. This weekend, we do so through the lenses of Pride and Juneteenth. As we give thanks for the witness of LGBTQ+ and Black communities, we also recognize that God's vision of the Beloved Community is still unfolding among us. May we celebrate, recommit ourselves to the work ahead, and continue striving for a world shaped by dignity, justice, and love.

✠✠ Today's gathering hymn, "God of Many Faces," was written by Amy Cerniglia, Organist and Accompanist at First Presbyterian Church in Iowa City. The text comes from *Songs for the Holy Other: Hymns Affirming the LGBTQIA2S+ Community*, a collection created to help congregations break down barriers of "us" and "them" and celebrate the full diversity of God's people.

✘ **Prayer of Confession and Promise of Ever-Present Grace** | *adapted from a liturgy by Kat Armas*

God of Gentle Understanding,

**We confess that we have allowed ourselves to believe we are un-worthy of belonging.**

**We confess that we have, at times,**

**created places of exclusion rather than places of embrace;**

**we have chosen self-preservation over shared presence.**

Help us see that we are already worthy.

**We release the weight of needing to be anything other than beloved.**

**May we come home to our belonging in you and in each other.**

Hear these affirming words of the psalmist:

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

And these affirming words of Jesus:

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

**May the spaces we inhabit be a sanctuary for all,  
places where we lay down pretense and practice honesty.**

May the life we lead draw us closer to the heart of God and nearer to the truth of who we are.

**May we practice gentleness with ourselves and others,  
honoring the stories we carry and the needs we hold.**

May our longing for belonging be met in glimpses of the deeper belonging  
we already have in the heart of God.

**May we create a circle of belonging that includes all.**

✘ **Musical Response** | “Blessed Assurance,” vs. 1

**1 Blessed assurance: Jesus is mine!**

**Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!**

**Heir of salvation, purchase of God,**

**born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

***This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.***

## Celebration of Baptism

Claire Lane Kannegieter  
*daughter of Austin and Allison Kannegieter*

### ✕ **Sharing of Christ's Peace & Compassion**

And now, as a visible sign of what it means to live together  
in the care and context of Christ's community,  
let us extend Christ's peace and compassion to those around us!

The peace of Christ be with you all! **And also with you!**

### **First Reading** | Matthew 10:24-39 (NRSVUE)

The word of the prophets for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Time for Young Disciples** †

### **Second Reading** | Romans 6:1b-11 (NRSVUE)

The word of the prophets for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Message** | *Losing to Win*

✕ **Hymn of Response** | "Take Me to the Water," pg. 8 | v. 1, *vocalists*; vs. 2-4, *all*

### **Offering Our Time, Treasure, and Talents**

**Offertory** | *Since by Man Came Death*, from *The Messiah*, by G.F. Handel

✕ **Response to Our Offerings** | "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!", v. 5, pg. 9

5 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
your mercies, how tender, how firm to be the end, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.



Give Online

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† After the Time for Young Disciples, children in Kindergarten and younger are invited to head to the Lower Level Children's Area for children's programming.

## Elizabeth Bryce

**The Apostles' Creed** | *hymnal*, #783C

### Prayers of the People | The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

✕ **Sending Hymn** | "Be Still, My Soul," pg. 10

✕ **Benediction** | adapted from a liturgy by Kat Armas

May we go forth knowing that we are woven into a tapestry of kinship  
that stretches wide and far, into this world and beyond.

**May we carry this knowledge into every place we inhabit, every moment we breathe.**

When we feel ourselves shrinking, may we remember that we belong in all spaces, in all ways.

**We are loved not for what we do but for who we are.**

**We are seen, and it is good.**

**May we leave this place to love God with our heart, mind, soul, and strength,  
and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Amen.**

**Postlude** | *We Shall Walk Through the Valley*, arr. by Undine Smith Moore †

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† Undine Smith Moore, often called the "Dean of Black Women Composers," arranged today's postlude. Much of her music drew inspiration from Black spirituals and folk traditions. Like many spirituals, the origins of *We Shall Walk Through the Valley* are unknown, but its message reflects the hope of enslaved people who longed for freedom, peace, and God's deliverance. In a time of division and uncertainty, it remains a powerful reminder to follow Jesus and walk in peace.

# God of Many Faces

Amy Cerniglia

SLANE  
Irish Melody, harm. Jack Schrader

God of man - y fa - ces, we of - fer our praise,  
 God of man - y gen - ders, our world re - flects you,  
 God of man - y names, we in - vite you to show  
 God of man - y bod - ies, a - bide with - in ours,

sing - ing your glo - ry through all of our days.  
 sun - rise and sun - set u - ni - ting our hues,  
 us the new names that re - flect our true souls.  
 shift - ing more each day through time and through scars.

Hear ev - er grow - ing voi - ces, once fra - gile, now strong, \_\_\_\_\_  
 wo - ven in - to a ci - ty with jewels of all shades, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Breathe with your ho - ly spir - it to give us the Word \_\_\_\_\_  
 Come sanc - ti - fy our bod - ies, all fash - ioned by you, \_\_\_\_\_

car - ry - ing mel - o - dies in ex - pan - sive new songs.  
 hou - ses of ru - by and \_\_\_\_\_ walls rowed with jade.  
 that will in - dwell dry bones, grant - ing new life once heard.  
 ho - li - er ev - ery - day, still be - com - ing more true.

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## Take Me to the Water

1 Take me to the wa - ter. Take me to the wa -  
 2 I love Je - sus. I love Je -  
 3 He's my Sav - ior. He's my Sav -  
 4 Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu -

ter. Take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.  
 sus. I love Je - sus, yes, I do.  
 ior. He's my Sav - ior, yes, he is.  
 jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

TEXT and MUSIC: African American spiritual

TAKE ME TO THE WATER  
Irregular

## Upcoming Events

- **Summer Lunch Bunch** | Until Aug. 14
- **Food Market** | Wednesday
- **Meetup @ Yotopia** | Thursday
- **Fields of Faith Harvest** | Saturday
- **General Assembly (in Milwaukee)** |  
June 27 - July 2
- **Jazz Sunday** | June 28
- **Free Lunch** | July 1
- **At the Table** | July 2
- **Office Closed** | July 3
- **Beer & Hymns @ Big Grove** | July 6
- **Installation of Pastor Jordan** | July 12
- **Next Steps** | July 19
- **Food Market** | July 22
- **Guatemala Mission Trip** |  
July 25-Aug. 1
- **Synod School** | July 26-31
- **Free Lunch** | Aug. 5

## 41 O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

1 O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove!  
 2 O tell of God's might; O sing of God's grace,  
 3 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,  
 4 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?  
 5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

O grate - ful - ly sing God's power and God's love:  
 whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space,  
 Al - might - y, your power has found - ed of old;  
 It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;  
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;

our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,  
 whose char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form;  
 es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,  
 its streams from the hills; it de - scends to the plain,  
 your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.  
 and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.  
 and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.  
 our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend.

Addressing the first two stanzas to the singers of the hymn and the last three to God, this free paraphrase of Psalm 104 recasts the psalmist's imagery with baroque verve. Though it was first published in England, the tune has been more popular in North America than there.

# Be Still, My Soul



1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.  
2 Be still, my soul: your God will un - der - take  
3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has - t'ning on



Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain;  
to guide the fu - ture, as in a - ges past.  
when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord,



leave to your God to or - der and pro - vide;  
Your hope, your con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;  
when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,



in ev - 'ry change God faith - ful will re - main.  
all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.  
sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.



Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'n - ly friend  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.  
the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.  
all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

Text: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; tr. Jane Borthwick, 1855  
Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius

# St. Andrew Statement on Racial Equality & Reconciliation

*And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

*Micah 6:8 (NIV)*

As followers of Jesus Christ, who loves all and calls us to challenge the unjust structures of church and society, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is called to work for justice and peace for all God's people. We stand against racism in all its myriad forms toward Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). We acknowledge that the institutional policies of colonization, seizure of indigenous lands, enslavement, and life-ending discrimination are contrary to God's creation of all people as equals and have resulted in a broken covenant.

Only through our confession, and God's grace and forgiveness, can reconciliation occur with those who have been historically and who are presently being harmed. We confess our complicity, both through our actions and our silence, in perpetuating these prejudices and practices. Therefore, we repent. In humble gratefulness we acknowledge that St. Andrew is located on the homelands of multiple native nations (including Kiiikaapoi, Iowa, Ochethi Sakowin [Sioux], Sauk and Meskwaki).

In order to restore the broken covenant, we commit ourselves to turn away from racism and toward inclusion and justice. In our belief that God loves all people, we will honor diversity as a virtue in which God delights. In our conviction that God desires justice, we will learn from others to broaden our understanding of equality. In our humility as sinful people, we will listen openly to diverse voices regarding how racism functions in our society. In our gratitude for God's grace, we will turn again and again towards the vision of The Beloved Community found in the Word of God.

In our joyous response to God's love, we, as a community of faith, will love one another and be a safe haven for all.

— approved by the St. Andrew Session, October 2021





***Yes, you'll know  
we are Christians  
by our LOVE!!!!!!***

**St. Andrew Presbyterian Church | Iowa City**

## St. Andrew Statement of Inclusion

*"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." - Romans 15:7*

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church affirms the worth and dignity of all people. We are all created by God in God's image, and God found all of creation to be good. Just as Jesus welcomed everyone into fellowship, especially those marginalized by society, we welcome all people to our congregation regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic status, marital status, family structure, country of origin, or immigration status. All are welcome to participate fully in the life of St. Andrew: worship, service, baptism, communion, membership, ministry, and leadership. To this end, we affirm that the covenant of marriage should be extended to any two consenting adults who seek to enter a marriage based upon love, responsibility, mutual respect, and trust in God's grace. We acknowledge that the Presbyterian Book of Order allows for each pastor to follow their own conscience as to whether they will perform a particular marriage service.

We recognize that the Christian church has historically condemned and excluded LGBTQ+ persons from the community of faith, and we assert that such actions are incompatible with the gospel of Jesus. We also acknowledge, and deeply regret, that St. Andrew Presbyterian's actions have at times caused harm to our relationships with members of the LGBTQ+ community, including members of our own congregation. As we continue to grow as a congregation and discern our path forward in God's love and grace, we seek to rectify these past wrongs and pursue justice for those who have been and continue to be oppressed. We commit to continue to learn and work toward ensuring that St. Andrew is a safe place where all people are welcomed and loved.

— approved by the St. Andrew Session, June 2023

## Pastoral, Ministry, & Administrative Staff and Elected Church Officers

### Pastors

Rev. Jordan Warntjes, *pastor and head of staff* | [pastorjordan@saintandrew-ic.org](mailto:pastorjordan@saintandrew-ic.org)

Rev. Colette Soult, *pastoral care associate* | [pastoralcare@saintandrew-ic.org](mailto:pastoralcare@saintandrew-ic.org)

### Administrative Ministries

Walter Sparks, *finance administrator* | [finance@saintandrew-ic.org](mailto:finance@saintandrew-ic.org)

Jeff Charis-Carlson, *director of communications & media ministries* | [jcharisc@saintandrew-ic.org](mailto:jcharisc@saintandrew-ic.org)

Amy Schmidt-Rundell, *mission & outreach coordinator* | [amysr@saintandrew-ic.org](mailto:amysr@saintandrew-ic.org)

### Children's, Family & Student Ministries

Matt Moore, *director of student ministries* | [mmoore@saintandrew-ic.org](mailto:mmoore@saintandrew-ic.org)

Thomas Hartley, *director of children's and family ministries* | [thartley@saintandrew-ic.org](mailto:thartley@saintandrew-ic.org)

Wendy Lindberg, *director of children's and family ministries* | [wendy@saintandrew-ic.org](mailto:wendy@saintandrew-ic.org)

Nichole Hoffman, *children's ministries outreach coordinator* | [nhoffman@saintandrew-ic.org](mailto:nhoffman@saintandrew-ic.org)

Sara Penn, *children's ministries activities coordinator* | [spenn@saintandrew-ic.org](mailto:spenn@saintandrew-ic.org)

### Music Ministries

Austen Wilson, *director of music ministries* | [awilson@saintandrew-ic.org](mailto:awilson@saintandrew-ic.org)

Laura Kastens, *director of handbell ministries* | [lkastens@saintandrew-ic.org](mailto:lkastens@saintandrew-ic.org)

Julia Van Den Top, *organist & accompanist* | [jvandentop@saintandrew-ic.org](mailto:jvandentop@saintandrew-ic.org)

### Elders

**2027:** Becky Benson, Scott Fisher, Chloe Goers, Austin Kannegieter, Emily Neddermeyer, and Munir Tanas

**2028:** Helen Bryce, Don Burch, Paula McCue, Judy Swafford, and Jon Swearingen

**2029:** Margaret Heidger, John Linder, Josh Schilling, Jessica Steele, and Adam Wolf

**Outgoing:** Aaron Gibson, Mary Hausler Ruhlow, Virginia Ibrahim-Olin, and Gregs Thomopoulos

### Deacons

**2027:** Jordan Barrett, Eli Benson, Kathy & Dave Duys, Lynne Ginsberg, Cody Neddermeyer, and Jenni Stacy-Adams

**2028:** Laurel Crusinberry, Vern Dengler, Rick Graf, Cindy Seyfer, and Allison Van Iddekinge

**2029:** Jean Barth, LuAnn Robinson, Jamie Tanas, Mettie Thomopoulos, and David Weitzel

**Outgoing:** Jim Halverson, Scott Hoffman, and Emmitt Schmidt-Rundell

### Personnel Team (at large)

**2027:** Kent Short | **2028:** Ernie Found and Mindy Egeland | **2029:** Twila Finkelstein

### Nominating Team (at large)

**2027:** Pat Cone-Fisher, Paul Heidger, Marissa Moore, and Jeremy Penn

**Outgoing:** Kyle Bernard and Toni Van Voorhis

# Questions about Worship?

- **Welcome!** Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are *delighted* to worship together.
- St. Andrew is an open, affirming, and inclusive congregation. That means we welcome saints and sinners, skeptics and believers, families of *all* shapes and sizes, and people from every point along life's journey. So, whoever you are this morning, whatever you believe—whether you believe anything at all: *You are welcome here!*
- If you are here for the first time, we encourage you to stop by our Welcome Table or Information Kiosk near the main entrance in the Atrium. There you will find some good people who would love to answer any questions you might have about our faith community.
- If you can't stop at the Info Kiosk today, you can learn more about St. Andrew by emailing [office@saintandrew-ic.org](mailto:office@saintandrew-ic.org) or filling out this short form: <https://tinyurl.com/sapc-guest>.
- Our worship services begin **in-person and online at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings**, followed by Sunday School and Adult Christian Education offerings from September to April and a variety of After Worship activities from May to August.
- **Nursery care** (up to age 2) is provided in the Lower Level throughout the morning. Programming for children (through Kindergarten age) begins in the Lower Level after the **Time for Young Disciples**.
- Unless otherwise designated, gifts given to the **weekly offering** support the church budget, including staff salaries, utilities, mission outreach, and all aspects of ministry.
- To log into the **St. Andrew Connect** system, either download the **St. Andrew App** through the **App Store/Google Play** or visit <https://saintandrew.ccbchurch.com>.
- There are wheelchairs available for use as needed in the lower level entrance foyer and by the coat racks near the upper level entrance.
- There is an AED near the Coffee Kitchen should a medical emergency arise.
- Permission to livestream the music in this service is from CCLI (#617801) and One License (A-711114).

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## ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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# PERSEVERING *Toward* WHOLENESS

*The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) convenes June 22-July 2, 2026, with online committee meetings followed by in-person plenaries. While this year's gathering remains hybrid, GA will consider reinstating a fully in-person format, including the return of exhibit halls, beginning in 2028.*

Saturday, June 27, will be a **community day of service** and witness in the Milwaukee area. A **mission fair** will be held on that day from 2-5 p.m. in response to calls to bring the exhibit hall back.

The **election for co-moderator** will be held at the end of the assembly, on July 2. The Rev. CeCe Armstrong and the Rev. Tony Larson, co-moderators of GA226, will preside over the GA227 plenaries.

*Eight pastors have announced they will stand for co-moderator:*

- The Rev. Dr. Barbara Barkley will stand with the Rev. Dr. William C. Myers.
- The Rev. Rebecca Luter will stand with The Rev. Chris Peters.
- The Rev. Dr. Frances Lin will stand with the Rev. Dr. Sean Chow.
- The Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer will stand with the Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero.

## **Overtures on unification**

The Unification Commission guided the formation of the **Presbyterian Life & Witness** (formerly the Interim Unified Agency), and GA227 will determine whether the current model becomes the denomination's permanent form of shared life.

Commissioners will hear the UC's report and vote on the 2027-2028 budget. Overtures recommend a new introduction to the Manual of the General Assembly, the reinstatement of the Office of Theology and Witness, and the reinstatement of the immigration attorney position.

## **24-A and 24-C oversight**

Clarification is sought regarding **Amendments 24-A and 24-C**, widely referred to as the Olympia Overture, which added "gender identity" and "sexual orientation" to the categories protected from discrimination in the *Book of Order*. The passage of 24-C requires councils of the church to determine a candidate's commitment to fulfill all requirements outlined in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation. GA227 is asked to establish a committee to study 24-C to assess whether its implications impair freedom of conscience.

## **Mission co-workers and missiology**

Three overtures address interconnected questions following the **closure of World Mission** and the elimination of 54 co-worker positions: whether non-disclosure covenants silenced mission co-workers, whether the process violated the denomination's own policies, and what missiology will guide the PC(USA)'s global engagement going forward. A group of denominational leaders, former mission co-workers, and academics gathered in March to begin drafting a missiological statement to present if RIW-02 passes and directs staff to develop a new formal theology of mission.



## **MRTI and fossil fuels**

Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) has recommended **divesting from ConocoPhillips and Duke Energy**, citing a lack of meaningful policies and practices regarding greenhouse gas emissions and continued fossil fuel development. The recommendation would place both companies on the denomination’s divestment/proscription list, prohibiting further investment until they meet the church’s environmental standards. A separate business item (COM-001) would direct MRTI to continue engaging additional Climate Action 100+ companies, with possible further divestment recommendations to be considered by the 228th Assembly. Another item (CLJ-02) goes further, seeking full divestment as soon as 2030.

## **LGBT+ advocacy**

GEN-02, “On Access to Healthcare,” calls on GA to declare that the PC(USA) supports all individuals, including minors, in accessing medically necessary, **evidence-based gender-affirming healthcare**. The overture builds on POL-01 from GA226, which added gender identity and sexual orientation to the denomination’s non-discrimination language. The ongoing implementation of the Olympia Overture amendments continues to shape how the denomination approaches inclusion in ordination.

## **Israel/Palestine**

Commissioners are asked to condemn the **Israeli government’s actions** in Gaza as violations of the United Nations Genocide Convention and to call on members of the

church to contact Congress and the president to block U.S. military sales to Israel until Israel complies with international human rights law. The stated clerk, the Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C., and church members are called upon to urge the U.S. government to enact a trade embargo on Israel until certain humanitarian conditions are met.

## **The new confession**

A special committee has proposed a **new confession** for the PC(USA) addressing contemporary issues such as racism, intersectionality, colonialism and ecological justice. The four-part document is described as “both a declaration of our faith and a confession of our sins.” If GA227 approves the draft, a separate committee would study and potentially amend it before a subsequent assembly votes on its inclusion in the Book of Confessions.

## **Christian nationalism**

COM-033 recommends that the assembly formally repudiate the ideology and practices of **White Christian nationalism** “in all its forms,” distinguishing patriotism from nationalism and arguing that White Christian nationalism is fundamentally about power rather than genuine Christian faith. A companion overture would amend the *Book of Order* to prohibit the denomination from aligning with any theology that privileges a particular faith tradition in civic life.



### **Stay informed on updates from GA:**

Visit our website: [pres-outlook.org](http://pres-outlook.org) for stories and to **download** *The Presbyterian Outlook's Guide to GA227*

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