



“Empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit through Scripture, our confessions, and conscience the Presbytery of Lake Erie journeys with congregations, ruling elders and teaching elders as we live, grow, fellowship and witness to the work of God through Jesus Christ in today’s changing world. Recognizing that we are called to serve all of God’s children, we do this through shared prayer, worship, training, evangelism, and mission to strengthen the dynamic Body of Christ.”

## Greetings from St. Louis!

**Sunday evening** provided a delightful opportunity to tell the story of the partnership between the Presbytery of Lake Erie and the Presbytery of the Upper Northern Presbytery in Ghana. Both Seth Agidi and David Oyler were interviewed, with input from mission co-workers Debbie Braaksma and Josh Heikkila, about this developing partnership. It is a growing partnership around which there appears to be energy from many sides. You are doing significant ministry!

## Monday is Committee Day!

One of the delightful benefits of a week at General Assembly is the opportunity to gain information and access resources. As General Presbyter, I was able to attend the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation breakfast on Monday. New curriculum was presented, including detailed information on the new Book of Common Worship and the Confirmation materials being released. And new children’s books are being developed through Flyaway Books ([www.flyawaybooks.com](http://www.flyawaybooks.com)). Check them out! Later in the day I benefited from Church Leadership Connection training, as well as talking with people who are discerning God’s call in their lives. In addition, a working supper for Middle Governing Body leaders engaged thoughtful discussion on engaging racism and effective ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The commissioners are busy listening to and voting on reports on Monday in their committees. As was indicated in yesterday’s report, the three commissioners from Lake Erie Presbytery are serving on:

- Emily Zeig Lindsey - Bills and Overtures;
- Doug Lee - Peacemaking, Immigration and International Issues;
- Ben Fugate - Theological and Church Growth Issues and Institutions.

I can assure you they are hard at work – along with hundreds of others. Some of their business is rather routine, but other actions engage significant philosophical discussion and debate.

For more information and for live streaming of the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly please visit <https://ga-pcusa.org/> Daily GA News <https://ga-pcusa.org/general-assembly-news/>

## \*No Winner Yet

Where’s Waldo? Or actually ‘Where’s Lake Erie Presbytery?’ The picture includes many of the representatives of the Synod of the Trinity at General Assembly. The first person who identifies the three people in the picture from Lake Erie (Doug Lee, Ruling Elder Commissioner; Ben Fugate, Young Adult Advisory Delegate and David Oyler, General Presbyter) and contacts the presbytery office wins a prize!! (Emily Zeig Lindsey was not in the picture because her committee was

meeting at that time.) This Image has been attached to the email.



Please remember to visit our website at:

<http://www.pbylakeerie.org>



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There are several items that are capturing the attention of many at this General Assembly:

1. In a time of climate change there has been discussion around whether it is wise and appropriate to hold investments in fossil fuels. This is a topic on which there are strong perspectives. Their recommendation to the entire Assembly will be heard later in the week.
2. Another topic that has generated a great number of reports and counter proposals has been the structure of the denomination. There is one commission and two committees that have been tasked by previous Assemblies to discuss structure and vision. Honest conversations were aired on Monday in seeking a wise way forward. Strongly differing perspectives were evident. More action will follow later in the week.
3. Also this spring there has been a visible discussion about the funding of the work of the PCUSA. An initial proposal requested a significant increase in General Assembly per capita. Later in the spring that figure was revised to a smaller increase. The committee on Monday recommended a different (and lower) figure, however, a final decision will not be made until later in the week, where it may well be changed once again. At the same time, that committee also recommended a substantive conversation on the funding of denominational ministries, including a review of the per capita assumptions.

Monday also provided a wonderful opportunity – between committee meetings – to talk about issues, gain new insights and greet long term friends. It truly is like a large family reunion – sometimes raucous, sometimes emotional, sometimes a warm, welcoming hug. A number of people have been present who have ties to the Presbytery of Lake Erie.

More to come! Stay tuned!

Rev. David Oyler  
General Presbyter