

June 15-17, 2018

The Lake Erie Breeze

GENERAL ASSEMBLY EDITION



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

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



"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!

The 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) began with a most powerful worship service on June 16. Your commissioners – Emily Zeig Lindsey, Doug Lee and Ben Fugate – were joined by more 2,000 other worshippers. With a 100+ voice choir, a wide range of musical instruments, powerful liturgy, a stirring sermon by the outgoing co-moderators, and overwhelming hymn singing, it was a profound time of praise and worship mingled together. But there is a great deal more that occurs at General Assembly.

In the first two days:

- Rev. Liz Theoharris, co-founder of the New Poor Peoples Campaign, addressed issues of systemic racism and the institutional roles of keeping people in poverty.
- your commissioners interacted with the 6 agencies of the denomination and learned more of the role they fill so the ministry of Christ can be advanced through the PCUSA.
- David Oyler spoke to a group of about 20 concerning the ministry of Ghana partnership. Good, continuing conversation was shared with Dr. Seth Agidi and Rev. Josh Heikkila.
- On the fourth ballot the commissioners elected Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri of



the Presbytery of Tropical Florida and Rev. Cindy Kohlmann of the presbyteries of Boston and Northern New England. Vilmarie, a native of Puerto Rico, is an ESL teacher and a ruling elder at First Spanish Presbyterian Church in Miami. Cindy serves as resources presbyter for two presbyteries, where she designs leadership training opportunities, connects pastors and congregations. This is the second Assembly in which Comoderators have been elected, a pattern that appears to be endorsed by the commissioners vote.

picture because her committee was meeting at that time.) This Image has been attached to the email.



-Sunday morning found the commissioners and scattered across the greater St. Louis area for Sunday morning worship. Some of the churches are primarily African American, others have historic background around issues of freedom of the press, like Lovejoy Presbyterian Church. The commissioners had a front row seat on what it means to be the church as they worshipped with brothers and sisters in many different contexts.

-The commissioners were oriented to their work, including electronic voting.

-Diane Givens Moffet was confirmed as director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. This African American pastor from Salem Presbytery brings great energy to her new responsibilities.

-The 2020 Vision Team provided their Interim Report which focused on the church needing to be **Prayerful, Courageous, United, Serving, Alive.**

-The Way Forward Commission provided a framework for the work in which they have engaged. The commission listed up the effort to strengthen congregations and mid-councils, affirm denominational equity and inclusion, provide the culture in which agencies can dream and create and nurture collaboration and cooperative interagency work.

-Sunday found the commissioners divided into the committees to prepare recommendations for later in the week. Emily Zeig Lindsey is serving on Bills and Overtures; Doug Lee on Peacemaking, Immigration and International Issues and Ben Fugate on Theological and Church Growth Issues and Institutions.

More to come! Stay tuned!

Rev. David Oyler
General Presbyter



Please remember to visit our website at:

<http://www.pbylakeerie.org>

Contact Us

Presbytery of Lake Erie

2816 Elmwood Ave.

Erie, PA 16508

Phone: 814-868-4891

Fax: 814-866-0856

DAVID OYLER, GENERAL PRESBYTER

david@pbylakeerie.org

GREG GILLISPIE, STATED CLERK:

revgreggillispie@gmail.com

MELINDA WINGENBACH:

adminasst@pbylakeerie.org

MARSHA MACKINNON:

webmaster@pbylakeerie.org