

The 222nd General Assembly

Streamed for you to watch...



I wonder how many of you have attended a Presbyterian General Assembly. Recently? Within the last decade? Ever? I wonder how many of you actually know what it is. I wonder how many of you have told me you would “*never*” attend one. And I wonder how many of you have issues with the decisions that come from a General Assembly.

Well, I have wonderfully good news for each of you! This year at the General Assembly (that is, an *assembly of people* who represent the whole denomination) one of the Ruling Elders from Grace Presbytery will represent not only this Presbytery, but this very church! Mrs. Kathy Porter will attend the General Assembly this June as a commissioner. She will vote there; she will attend committee meetings there; she will *hob-nob* with Presbyterians from all over the U.S.A.

The G.A. is held every two years, in a different city each time. It consists of Presbyterian folks, *just folks*, who are members of Presbyterian Church Sessions, or Presbytery committees, or Synod groups. Half of the commissioners will be ruling elders, half will be teaching elders. Few will ever have been commissioners to the General Assembly before, but will have served in one of the other governing bodies of our church.

This year, the General Assembly will be held over nine days in June in Portland, Oregon. And Kathy will be there.

We are very proud to be represented so well. We are going to be watching to see what the assembled commissioners decide, knowing that Kathy will have voted on every issue they will discuss.

And here's the really good news..... Gathered portions of the General Assembly will be computer streamed *live*. People all over the country may sit at their computers and watch exactly what's happening, exactly what's decided, exactly who said what at the debate. And Kathy will be there.

So, for three evenings, while the General Assembly is in session, your Christian Educations Committee (always interested in the education of this congregation) has offered to show the *live feed* on our TV in the Fellowship Hall. For three evenings, Wed through Fri, June 22nd – 24th, we will offer you a sandwich, a cold soda, perhaps some popcorn, and a chance to watch any part or all of the proceedings, and to ask me questions while you're here.

The experience is fascinating! It is surprisingly “decent and in order” and speakers who are passionate about their issue, always sound so polite. It's what our congressional gatherings should look like. It's our denomination, in action, alive, and well. And Kathy will be there. We'll look for her whenever the TV cameras pan the convention floor.

Please put it on your calendar. It's our chance to look Presbyterian. You may wear your blue shirt to get in the spirit of it all. You may come once, or all three times. I will be there to talk you through it. Others who have been to previous G.A.s will also answer your questions. Come! Be Presbyterian! Our church is really one of God's favorites, you know.

Blessings,

Candice

“On the eighth day you shall have a solemn assembly. You shall do no laborious work.” — Numbers 29:35