

Presbyterianism Summary

- **What does Presbyterian mean?**
 - Rule by a plurality of elders.
- **Are we Presbyterian by convenience or conviction?**
 - By conviction. We believe it is Biblical.
- **What is the Biblical warrant for rule by elders?**
 - Acts 14:23; Acts 20:17; Titus 1:5; 1 Pet. 5:1
- **Why does it matter?**
 - Because truth and godliness matter – 1 Tim. 3:14-16, “There is a direct line of connection between every infringement upon proper government [of the church] and the breakdown of the witness to the truth itself” (Murray, Vol 1. 261).
- **Do we have Biblical precedent for GA/church courts?**
 - Acts 15:1, 6.

2026 PCA GA Summary

- **Key Figures:**
 - Fred Greco new stated clerk (6th stated clerk in 53 years)
 - Mel Duncan – moderator of the assembly
 - Guy Waters – moderator of Overtures Committee
- **Overtures:**
 - What is an overture work?
 - An overture is a proposed change to our constitution put forward (most often) by a presbytery to the GA.
 - What is Overtures Committee (OC)?
 - OC consists of delegates from each Presbytery who gather on Monday and Tuesday of the Assembly to deliberate on how they recommend the Assembly answer each of the proposed overtures.
 - After OC has voted on the overtures they are brought to the floor with the OC recommendation.
 - At this time commissioners present at the Assembly vote on the overtures.
 - What answers can be given to an overture?
 - An overture can be answered in the negative, affirmative, or be referred back to the Presbytery from which it came for further work.

- What were some important overtures this year?
 - Overture 37: Allow women to serve as ordained deacons
 - OC: Negative 115-14-1
 - Floor failed: It was a voice vote and it was absolutely crushed
 - “Combine and decline”
 - All overtures that were either for or against women serving in office were answered in reference to 37.
 - Overtures clarifying that functioning female officers, whether formally ordained or not, are out of accord with our constitution, were answered in the negative with reference to 37.
 - Overture 72: Require recording of session/diaconate members in minutes
 - OC: Affirmed
 - Floor Passed
 - Overture 61: Declare the ‘Danvers Statement’ Biblically faithful
 - OC: 66-64-3
 - Floor Passed
 - Overture 66: Declaration of Thanksgiving for 250th Anniversary of USA
 - OC: 91-30-5
 - Floor passed
- **Study committees:**
 - Directory for Worship: Partial report. Will be brought back next year for refinement and possible approval
 - Christian Nationalism: Partial report. It needs more work and will come back next year.

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- **How easy is it to make changes?** The wheels of Presbyterianism move slowly:

- Presbytery → GA
- GA → Presbytery
- Presbytery → GA

TOTAL TIME: Over 1 year

Conclusion:

Let's give thanks to the Lord for the Presbyterian Church in America.