

GA Report Megan Berry - YAAD

Leading up to General Assembly I had differing feelings: excitement, scared, and overall what I have done. Is taking a week off of work worth this? Am I going to hate being Presbyterian after this? Spoiler alert, yes it was worth the week off and I am more in love with my denomination than ever before. I had the wonderful opportunity to be a YAAD (Young Adult Advisory Delegate) for our presbytery. I got to be a part of a committee (6-Church Polity and Ordered Ministry, it was a long but very rewarding committee) where I had full voice and vote, and then I got to be in plenary (where we come together as the body to vote through ALL of the overtures/resolutions the committees worked on) where I only had voice, but no vote. My role was to advise the commissioners on how they should vote. My first few days I had YAAD training, we got to meet each other, learn about GA, have talks with the wonderful people who ran for co-moderator and moderator/vice-moderator, and overall be trained on how GA works and will go. I am way more introverted than I ever thought, so this was slightly exhausting but good. The first day the assembly met, we had an opening worship service before our first round of plenary. The opening worship service was worth every bit of frustration and anger and tears over GA. It was absolutely beautiful to worship with so many Presbyterians in one space. Our first plenary session we got to elect our new co-moderators (whom I already love and adore). The real work got started on Monday with our committee meetings, I was a little nervous but very excited because this was going to be the good stuff. We had started off the night before getting to know each other and creating a covenant. In committee meetings, we had open hearings so people could give their opinions on the overtures, then we got to listen to advocacy groups come and give their opinions. After that, we as a committee would decide whether to approve, disapprove, amend, etc. an overture. Robert's Rules of Order are officially a part of my brain that will never get forgotten. Committee work was tedious and at times extremely frustrating but overall very, very good. I learned a lot about the items we worked with

and am pleased with the work we did. Wednesday even more fun began! We returned to plenary where we as a body then got to vote through everything the committees had worked so hard on. This was extremely overwhelming and I will be forever grateful that I had the opportunity to be an adviser before I go back as a commissioner one day. We had three days to vote through EVERYTHING, because Saturday was our last day. Seeing our church in action, fighting for justice issues, fighting for what they believe is right, and seeing how the results turned out was honestly inspiring. Even though there were a few votes that didn't go my way, and there are issues that I am still very passionate about, I am so EXTREMELY proud to be a Presbyterian. I am excited and on fire to go to Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in the fall and continuing to build on this foundation that I have. The whole week was filled with many ups and down, but was one of the greatest weeks of my summer so far. I can't wait to go to GA again whether as a TSAD (Theological Student Advisory Delegate), a student assistant (someone who runs around and fixes things), and hopefully one day a real teaching elder commissioner. If you made it to the end of this article, bless you. This only scratches the surface of my feelings on General Assembly.