

I thank Heartland presbytery for choosing me to be an elder representative from Heartland as a commissioner for the 2018 GA. Having followed some previous GA's on-line for specific concerns it certainly was a different experience than actually attending – what a machine the whole process is. I felt that as a whole GA was well organized and it was easy to access help and/or answers as needed. The 'training' we had in advance was good but maybe a short 'revisit' after the original training and having had time to 'play with' pc-biz and a reiterate few 'rules' reiterated before actual work begins at GA.

Hands & Feet activity – participated in the march on the streets of St Louis to the St. Louis Justice Center. Very confirming to have an action NOT that this march solved the whole problem but it surely identified actions that are harmful to those less fortunate just in our own neighborhood. Interesting that it was held just days after Rev. Jimmy Hawkins and Rev. Liz Theoharis were arrested in DC and experienced incarceration and the 'bail' problem.

Notes for GA committee (planning committee or??) :

I would have appreciated knowing in advance the actions coming before the whole GA in order to read the action via pc-biz. As a commissioner, voting on issues presented in committee that was not the assigned commissioners committee, to read and get a handle on the issue would have contributed to a more educated decision. Some of the issues I chose NOT to vote on as I did not feel I was educated enough to offer and/or to pray-fully consider my vote and its consequences on the whole of the creation of God. Could those issues being brought to the whole be published for those who would like to review for more than 2 minutes (it felt as though I had just 2 minutes for some of the very complicated issues!) and be prepared to offer a discerned vote. Since the items coming out of committees are known and most committee actions were finalized at least 24 hours before being heard on the floor, having a message sent that states – NEXT plenary we will visit committee # and the specific ones that will be brought to the floor as a whole.

Liked the action breaks after some long presentations – the facility was so cold that moving certainly helped to increase my body temperature. Thank you also to the 'magic' of warm liquids especially on the long evening in that especially cold space.

Scheduling meals/immigrant rally – being a moderator of a 25+partnership in Central America and knowing immigrant issues are affecting our brothers & sisters I had wanted to attend the immigrant rally BUT the scheduling over the lunch hour where I was committed to attending another PCUSA sanctioned luncheon activity was sad for me.

Having been one of the presenters in our presbytery where we became an early concurring presbytery on an overture that was not the committee I was assigned - I still was quite interested in the discussion and decisions of the committee and assembly. I question the presentation times allowed of the committees vs a minority report and VERY uncomfortable with the 'worship' time following the presentation before the 'vote'. Just a bit of 'politicking went on' and that really bothered me and the whole picture that was being presented to those who were going to vote and maybe/probably did not have time to read the information concerning the overture in advance on pc-biz (see comment above).