

## **The Synod of the Northeast overtures the 227th General Assembly (2026) to:**

Direct the Unified Agency to reinstate the position of Staff Attorney for Immigration as a full-time role, filled by a licensed immigration attorney, and to further direct the Unified Agency to:

- (1) provide the full budget required for this position, including but not limited to salary and benefits;
- (2) provide additional programmatic funds necessary to carry out this ministry on behalf of the whole denomination; and
- (3) ensure the continuity of this position, regardless of future reorganizations, and require that the position be held by an attorney with demonstrated specialization and expertise in federal immigration law and religious-based employment.

## **Rationale**

In recent months, mid-councils across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have experienced a disruption in access to coordinated immigration legal support for employment-based matters involving teaching elders and candidates for ministry. During this period, a vital denominational function that previously supported mid-councils throughout the Church has remained unfilled, with limited clarity regarding how this work will be sustained. Communication regarding the handling of current and future employment-based immigration cases has been inconsistent, creating uncertainty across the denomination. Taken together, these conditions present a matter requiring immediate institutional attention.

Consequently, many mid-councils have been compelled to retain legal counsel independently to meet immediate needs. While undertaken in good faith, these decentralized responses have produced uneven practices, increased administrative burden, and heightened confusion. Within the current legal climate of the United States, such fragmentation increases the risk of harm to immigrant pastors and candidates for ministry and diminishes the Church's capacity to provide reliable accompaniment. These challenges also affect immigrant congregations, Committees on Preparation for Ministry, Committees on Ministry, and other interconnected ministries that depend upon accurate and timely legal guidance.

Despite requests for clarification and shared discernment, there has not yet been a clear articulation of how this work will be supported moving forward, nor a clear affirmation that this function will continue at the national church level for the benefit of the whole denomination. As a result, mid-councils are struggling to sustain this essential work independently. Experience over the past year demonstrates that decentralized solutions are insufficient to meet the scope, complexity, and risk inherent in federal immigration processes, resulting in a patchwork of approaches across the Church.

The United States immigration process related to religious-based employment is complex, highly technical, and subject to frequent change. It is neither reasonable nor feasible for individual mid-councils to remain fully current on these developments while also providing accurate legal guidance to congregations, ministers, and candidates for ministry. These matters regularly cross presbytery boundaries, as calls often do, further underscoring the need for coordinated expertise. At the same time, mid-council leaders lack consistent access to the training, education, and information required to navigate this evolving legal landscape effectively.

The need for accurate, timely, compassionate, and accessible immigration legal support for the whole Church has intensified over the past year, even as the risks associated with missteps in federal immigration processes have increased significantly. While it has been suggested that changes in visa availability may reduce the need for such services, our experience within the Synod suggests otherwise. Local presbyteries have been hindered in their ability to resource and advocate for immigrant communities, congregations, ministers, and candidates under care.

There is an urgent need for the General Assembly to address this matter with clarity and resolve, affirming care for immigrant congregations, ministers, and candidates for ministry, and support for the mid-councils who accompany them. This commitment is foundational to our biblical and theological tradition, which consistently calls God's people to honor and protect the "foreigner and stranger among us" (Genesis 23:4; Deuteronomy 10:19, 27:19; Leviticus 19:34; 1 Chronicles 16:19–22; Job 29:15–17; Jeremiah 7:5–7; Ezekiel 47:22; Zechariah 7:9–10; Matthew 5:43–48, 25:35–40; Luke 10:27; Acts 10:27, 34; Romans 12:13, 13:8–10; Colossians 3:11; Hebrews 13:1–3; 3 John 1:5; Revelation 21:3). Previous actions of the General Assembly, including Transformation of Churches and Society Through Encounters with New Neighbors (1999) and the Resolution Calling for a Comprehensive Legalization Program for Immigrants Living and Working in the United States (2004), further affirm this witness.

This overture is offered in a spirit of shared responsibility and collaboration, inviting the General Assembly to speak with a clear and unified voice and to exercise institutional leadership in restoring this vital service for the good of the whole denomination.

**[OVT-002] On Taking Action to Repudiate Christian Nationalism and Affirm Our Faith Commitments: <https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3001414>**

The Presbytery of San Jose respectfully overtures the 227th General Assembly (2026) to:

1. Direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the Book of Order to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:  
**Shall F-1.0404 be amended** to add the following statement after . . . “*a new openness to God’s continuing reformation of the Church ecumenical, that it might be more effective in its mission.*”: “*The church shall not align with any ideology that seeks to privilege Christianity in public life or conflate religious identity with national or ethnic supremacy. Christian Nationalism, in all its forms, which seeks to privilege a singular religious-cultural framework in civic life, is: incompatible with the example and teachings of Jesus Christ, a theological error, a threat to faithful witness, and contrary to the church.*”;
2. Direct the Stated Clerk and the Moderator to issue a joint statement calling attention to the dangers and distortions of Christian Nationalism as an urgent theological and social concern of our time, providing moral clarity and guidance for the Church and the larger society.
3. Engage with other faith traditions to form a coalition to: speak out against Christian Nationalism, engage in collective actions, and deconstruct practices, theologies, and patterns of Christian Nationalism in the Church and society at large

**[OVT-003] On Confession, Repentance and Renewed Theological Engagement Regarding HIV/AIDS and Human Sexuality Overture:**  
<https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3001415>

The Presbytery of the Cascades overtures the 227th (2026) General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to:

1. Confess and repent that the church actively participated in the rise of the HIV/AIDS pandemic through harmful theological frameworks and heteronormative assumptions, participating in the isolation and stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS through rejection, judgment, and abandonment; seek forgiveness from siblings harmed and commit to repair through transformative theological and pastoral action.
2. Direct the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) and the Advocacy Committee for LGBTQIA+ Equity (ACQ+E) to develop a comprehensive theological framework addressing human sexuality and relationships in contemporary contexts, examining the full spectrum of relational and family structures and exploring ethical approaches to consent, mutuality, and care, developed in consultation with people living with HIV, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and theologians from historically marginalized communities, reporting findings to the 228th General Assembly (2028).

**[OVT-006] Calling for a New Missiological Statement for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): <https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3001418>**

The Presbytery of the Cascades overtures the 227th (2026) General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to:

1. Direct staff, accompanied by an advisory group to be named by the Moderator or Co-Moderators, to develop a new missiological statement on which the global engagement of the PC(USA) will be founded, answering at minimum these questions, and other questions as they emerge:
  - a. What is the missiology of the PC(USA), and how does this guide the church to serve God and neighbor and inform the global engagement of the church?
  - b. How does this missiology relate to past statements and mission work, and how does it serve the contexts of the mission of God undertaken by the PC(USA) nationally and internationally?
  - c. Who engages in the global mission of the PC(USA), and how are each group or individual engaging?
  - d. What new and renewed models are in place or emerging to serve God's mission through the PC(USA) and its members and member entities, agencies, networks, mid-councils, and congregations?
  - e. What is the PC(USA) sending body framework or frameworks for mission, and what protections and safeguards for those sent and those with whom they serve are in place or need to be developed?
  - f. What funding models are in place or need to be developed?  
Staff and the advisory group are directed to ensure meaningful consultation with representatives of the following groups in their work:
    1. Missiological scholars who are members of the PC(USA)
    2. Former staff members of PC(USA) World Mission who have served internationally with and under the supervision of global partners
    3. PC(USA) Mission Networks
    4. PC(USA) mid councils engaged in global mission
    5. Congregations engaging in global mission
    6. PC(USA) global partners
2. To report to the 228th General Assembly

**[OVT-007] On Seeking God’s Peace Through Nuclear Disarmament in the 21st Century: <https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3001419>**

The Presbytery of Mission overtures the 227th General Assembly (2026) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to do the following:

1. Reaffirm the action of the 223rd General Assembly (2018), which called upon all members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to take actions in defense of God’s creation by working for nuclear disarmament; and acknowledging in particular the admonition to “find new peace strategies”, call upon all members to carefully and prayerfully examine whether our current policies toward nuclear weapons are realistic.
2. Call on every congregation to commit to a year of study of three questions about nuclear weapons:
  - a) What, objectively, is the level of risk involved in relying on nuclear deterrence for safety?
  - b) What, realistically, is the practical military utility of nuclear weapons?
  - c) Is there a mythology wrapped around these weapons that falsely attributes god-like power to them?
3. Provide materials to make an in-depth and serious study of these topics possible.
4. Call on our national leaders to take immediate action — not to disarm unilaterally, but rather to assume the leadership of a worldwide effort to re-examine nuclear weapons realistically and begin a process of mutual disarmament.

**[OVT-009] On Access to Healthcare:**

<https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3001421>

Cherokee Presbytery overtures to the 227th General Assembly (2026) to:

Declare that the PC(USA) supports all individuals, including minors, to have access to all medically necessary, evidence-based gender-affirming healthcare.

**[OVT-013] Recognition that Israel has Violated the International Law Prohibiting Genocide: <https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3001425>**

The Presbytery of the Redwoods overtures the 227th (2026) General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to:

1. Condemn the government of Israel's violation of the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the war against Gaza that began in 2023.
2. Encourage Presbyterian lay, ordained members, and the Office of Public Witness to contact members of Congress and the President to urge them to block military sales to Israel until Israel complies with all U.S. laws prohibiting sales of military equipment to countries in violation of international human rights laws, including the prohibition of Genocide.
3. Encourage members of the Presbyterian Church to refrain from buying products made or distributed by Israeli companies until the PC(USA) determines Israel complies with all international human rights laws, including the prohibition of Genocide.
4. Stand against all forms of Antisemitism/Anti-Jewish racism and Islamophobia/Anti-Arab racism, condemning both as pernicious forms of evil, dividing and separating us from our interfaith siblings, and stand with those threatened with any harm that inhibits their full participation in the life and liberty of our communities.
5. Affirm that standing up for basic human rights is not Antisemitism.
6. Encourage our member congregations to preach and teach on this critical issue.
7. Publicize this overture's approval on the PC(USA) webpage, and as practical, in other print or digital formats, and encourage congregations to adopt this resolution, or write and affirm one themselves.

**[OVT-027] Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution:**<https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3001439>

The Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey respectfully overtures the 227th (2026) General

Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to:

1. Commemorate the vital role of the Presbyterian Church and the Reformed Tradition in the American Revolution of 1775-83, including 12 Presbyterians and 13 Congregationalists among the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, representing the largest religious grouping within the 2.5 million inhabitants of the 13 colonies at that time;

2. Promote the historic ministries of presbyteries and congregations whose members and ministers supported the Revolution, including churches in and around the leading cities of the former colonies and such leaders as John Witherspoon, Samuel Davies, David Brainerd, Jonathan Dickinson, James & Hannah Caldwell, and Gilbert Tennent, and comparable supporters of the Revolution in Dutch Reformed and Congregational Churches identified by our full communion partners in the Reformed Church in America and the United Church of Christ;

3. Educate and advocate for the enduring principles rooted in Reformed Christianity: reverence for God, the author of liberty and equality for all those created in God's image; self-government on a democratic and representative basis as we have in our churches; respect for individual conscience based in the Holy Spirit's ability to speak to all, thus giving all the right to speak and vote; accountable government and limits on the powers of any individual or interest in or on that government; a high view of public service opposed to corruption and self-enrichment; checks and balances on power based in a realistic understanding of human sin and self-interest; fair taxation; appropriate regulation; a covenantal view of reciprocal responsibilities; and a positive understanding of government to serve the common welfare and common defense, not just a "necessary evil;"

4. Encourage congregations and presbyteries to consider the application of these principles in the current governmental practices of the United States, and to hold public informational events including elected officials, educators, and faith leaders;

5. Support the accurate researching and teaching of all aspects of our history, including—as honest patriots—the failures of our nation to live up to its ideals with regard to Native Americans, African-Americans, and various immigrant groups: Propaganda cannot be allowed to re-write history;

6. Support independent media sources and public libraries free of censorship, and encourage public reflection, art, acts of solidarity and worship to demonstrate ways our country may better reflect the Gospel image of a “city set on a hill;”

7. Direct the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy to

a. provide policy and study guidance for the 228th General Assembly (2028) on Reformed Christian principles and their application to matters of civic urgency and importance, acting in coordination with the Office of Public Witness in Washington, DC, and drawing on the resources of the Presbyterian Historical Society and Reformed scholars in higher education; and

b. provide written and video resources for the church in 2026-7 based on existing General Assembly policies, such as those cited in section E. of the supporting statement.

8. Cooperate with other Reformed communions and ecumenical bodies in furtherance of the above objectives, taking initiative as needed locally, regionally, and in the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.