



A funny thing happened on the way to GA

June 20th was supposed to be the start of the 224th General Assembly in Baltimore, MD. I was excited because not only was this the first time being a GA commissioner, I was headed back to my old stomping grounds. I am a Marylander, born and raised. I was excited about going to Charm City and seeing old friends and making new ones. But along comes Covid-19 and all plans were scrapped. Instead of meeting in person, we were going to have GA over three days on Zoom. Imagine having

a Zoom meeting with 700 of your closest friends.

I really felt for the folks in Baltimore. All the plans that were put in place had to be changed in short order. And they did a tremendous job. The “techy” folks were great. I don’t recall any severe glitches.

The first night (Friday, June 19) was a discussion on if the docket should be expanded. There were motions made, motions amended, and amendments amended. There was a lot of back-and-forth discussion by the commissioners. Commissioners overwhelmingly passed a statement affirming that Black lives matter and resolving to end systemic racism and privilege. We were supposed to elect our new co-moderators that night, but that was pushed backed to the next evening. We elected as co-moderators, Gregory Bentley and Elona Street-Stewart. I am excited about their election. Both will bring energy to their roles and serve us well over the next two years.

The assembly started back the following Friday and Saturday. The big news of the day was that Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson II was elected to a second four-year term. Commissioners also voted in favor of the budget for 2021-2022; approved a small increase in the per capita; and passed a revised child, youth and vulnerable adult protection policy- this motion came with several amendments. The evening ended with a 8:46 moment of silence, followed by a worship service.

All in all, it was a successful GA. A lot of work was accomplished in a short amount of time. A lot of effort went into making it a success. A bright future is ahead for the church, as long as we continue to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

For a brief summary of General Assembly #224, you might find this bulletin insert helpful - [Click Here](#)