



## **Barkley to stand with Myers for election for Co- Moderator during 227<sup>th</sup> General Assembly** May 6, 2026

**Charleston, W.Va.-** The Rev. Dr. Barbara Barkley has announced she will join The Rev. Dr. Bill Myers in the stand for Co-Moderator at the conclusion of the 227<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which will be held online and in person in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22-July 2. The election is scheduled for the Assembly's final day.

Barkley, who pastors Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church in the San Francisco Bay Area, has spent 30 years serving a couple different churches in the Bay Area, one in Arizona, and one in Ohio. With the calling of crossing bridges to help us hear one another and bring others into circles of belonging, Barkley feels now is the time to stand for co-moderator.



Pictured: The Rev. Dr. Barbara Barkley has announced she will join The Rev. Dr. Bill Myers (pictured right) in the stand for Co-Moderator at the conclusion of the 227<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

“I am dismayed at the growing divisions in our country and in our churches. We no longer have simple differences, but gulfs that divide into ‘us’ and ‘them,’” Barkley said, describing her final event that led to the decision to stand for Co-Moderator as a gathering of Presbyterian teaching and ruling elders whose primary language is Spanish, immigrants from Central and South America with only a couple of those in attendance who primarily speak English.

“As we sat together in fellowship, my colleagues and friends shared stories of the pain, hurt and fear that are currently so deeply a part of their experiences. We listened. We prayed. Still, despite the pain, there was a lot of laughter, the sharing of amazing foods and a sense of connection and care that crossed boundaries,” Barkley explained. “But then the pastor who called us together asked why there were only a couple of us there whose first language was English. Where were our other non-Hispanic colleagues who speak Spanish (or, like me, are learning Spanish)? They were invited. Why didn’t they come?”

Explaining the business and overcommitments others make, Barkley felt the hurt in the truth of the friend who called the group together. “People make time for what is important to them. Why isn’t connecting with us important to them?”

At the core, Barkley believes it is vital to show up for one another; to understand and celebrate others; to recognize connections and see others as the children of God that they are. So when Barkley was presented with Myers' press release that he was looking for a Co-Moderator to stand with him at the upcoming General Assembly three times in one hour, she could not ignore the reminder of hearing God tell her he would be asking her to do something, so stay open and do not be dismissive.

Myers platform matched Barkley's personal concerns and passions for the need to build bridges and create spaces for conversation across differences; however, she believes they will stay open to the calling and movement of the Spirit going forward to refine and reform their platform, to listen to people.

Excited to hear of Barkley's willingness to stand for Co-Moderator, Myers reached out to Barkley after learning of her shared instincts about the church. Her values of listening well, remaining at the table and taking the voices seriously that others do not always hear were of great importance.

"We come from different contexts, but we recognize the same steady, resilient faith in the communities we serve. I trust her judgment, her clarity, and her commitment to the whole church. That kind of trust, and that kind of partnership, matters in a moment like this," Myers said.

"We are not coming with a program as much as a way of leading. Together, we can help create space for the church to listen more deeply, speak more honestly, and stay engaged even where there is real difference," he continued. "That doesn't resolve everything, but it builds trust. When trust begins to grow, the church can move forward with greater integrity, clarity, and a more credible witness"

Both Barkley and Myers emphasize the values of listening and staying through hard conversations, listening to where the Spirit leads and working together as a denomination. The hope is that others are encouraged to more fully connect and engage in conversations across boundaries and differences. With growing division across the country and in congregations, it is increasingly important to call people in rather than call them out.

If elected as Co-Moderator, Barkley anticipates the response to Christian Nationalism, wars and conflicts, the response to use resources and invest money and stewardship of all creation. With a strong faith that grounds her in hope for the denomination, she truly finds hope in the shrinking population of those in the church.

"The people who are now in our church gatherings are there because of their faith, not because it is culturally expected. That makes for a stronger church rather than simply a social club. That gives me great hope," Barkley said.

Truly, the people are what is fueling this co-moderator team.

“Every time I’ve been part of the wider church, I’ve come away reminded of the depth of faith and quiet determination that holds it together. I’m looking forward to those conversations, those relationships, and the chance to see, again, how God is already at work in places I may not yet know,” Myers said.

The Rev. Dr. Barkley is looking forward to the endorsement of her Presbytery at a meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

*About Barkley: After graduating from UC Berkley, where Barkley received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Cultural Anthropology, she attended San Francisco Theological Seminary for both her M. Div and D. Min with a concentration in spirituality. She was the recipient of the homiletics award for her class year. Barkley has been active within the San Francisco Presbytery on the Peacemaking and Justice Committees. She served as co-moderator of the Presbytery for two years and the co-chair of Mission and Vision Leadership Committee (executive council) for three years, of which she is still a member. Additionally, she served on the Transitional Executive Nominating Committee and the Associate Transitional Executive Nominating Committee. Barkley currently serves the updated standing rules implementation committee.*

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