

Get to know us!



1

Do you have any previous service with the Presbytery?

MYERS:

Wherever I've served, I've been active in presbytery life. In Mackinac Presbytery, I served as Vice Moderator, Moderator, and Moderator of the Presbytery Council, as well as on the Permanent Judicial Commission and as Co-Moderator of a presbytery search committee.

I've also served on Committees on Ministry across multiple presbyteries (including as moderator) and as adjunct COM staff in Great Rivers Presbytery.

More recently, I've been part of the Leadership Team in West Virginia and have led ALP/CLP retreat workshops.

Across all of it, what matters most to me is helping the church stay connected, thoughtful, and grounded in its shared calling.

BARKLEY:

I have been active on the peacemaking and justice committee. I served as co-moderator of the Presbytery of San Francisco for two years. I served as co-chair of our Mission and Vision Leadership committee (executive council) for three years and I continue to serve on that committee. I was part of the Transitional Executive Nominating Committee, and the Associate Transitional Executive Nominating Committee. I serve on the updated standing rules implementation committee.

2

Why do you feel called to stand for Moderator?

MYERS:

I feel called to stand for Moderator because I believe the wider church needs to hear what God is already doing in places that are too often overlooked.

In West Virginia—and in many communities like it—I've seen a kind of faith that is steady, creative, and deeply resilient. It doesn't draw attention, but it is real, and it is alive.

These are not lesser stories. In many ways, they are closer to the heart of who we are being called to become—congregations learning to trust God with less, to stay rooted in community, and to keep showing up with quiet, persistent hope. What I've witnessed here has changed me. It has reshaped how I understand strength in the church—and deepened my conviction that the Spirit is at work in ways we don't always recognize.

I want to help lift up those stories—not to romanticize them, but to let them speak. Because when we begin to see more clearly where God is already at work, it changes how we imagine the future.

BARKLEY:

I feel called right now to stand for co-moderator because 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." I have felt for a long time that my call is to cross bridges, to help us to hear one another across our differences and to bring others into circles of belonging. For these reasons, it feels like now is the time.

3 What are the most important issues facing the church, especially PC(USA) churches?

MYERS:

We are facing not one issue, but a convergence of challenges—structural, theological, and deeply relational.

There are real questions about institutional change, financial sustainability, and what it means to be a connectional church in a different time. We are also wrestling with identity—how our public witness is rooted in deep spiritual formation, and how we engage faithfully in areas like global mission and justice.

That includes ongoing conversations around immigration, human rights, the Middle East, and climate justice—issues that require both moral clarity and pastoral sensitivity, especially where the impact is personal.

Underlying all of this are questions of trust—how decisions are made, whose voices are heard, and how we discern together.

BARKLEY:

I believe the growing division in our country (mirrored in our congregations) is a huge issue that needs to be addressed, as well as the continuing many ways in which we divide ourselves into “us” and “them”. Racism, genderism and other “isms” are part of that, but they also include the politically and theologically divisions. How do we stay at the table with those who are different in view point or in any other way? How do we remain open to hearing other people’s experiences? How do we call people “in” rather than calling them “out.”

The questions of how we will respond to both Christian Nationalism within our own country, and the wars and conflicts in the world that we take part in as a nation continue to be issues. How we respond to and how we use our resources and invest our money in light of these situations is essential. The growing issues of climate change and the stewardship of all creation will continue to be issues, especially when we look at how and where we invest our money and resources.

4 What are you most looking forward to during this candidacy?

MYERS:

The people. 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.

BARKLEY:

I am looking forward to hearing the stories of other people, of connecting and learning from others as we work together. Our denomination has done a great deal of work recently in diminishing the hierarchies in our church. One example is that we no longer have a moderator and vice-moderator: instead, we have co-moderators. We work hard to listen, to be a church that starts from the grass-roots voices and needs and gives respect and space to all who come to the table. Being able to join in those conversations, or hearing and story-telling is very exciting work to me! The Spirit moves through honest sharing of our experiences. I can’t wait to hear how God is moving through the church and through its people as we work together to make a stronger, more unified, but more celebrating-of-diversity people of God.

5

What made you want to work together during this election?

MYERS:

What drew me to Barbara was a shared instinct about the church—that it's at its best when it listens well, stays at the table, and takes seriously voices that we don't always hear. 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.

BARKLEY:

First, a strong sense of call to address the issues that we are tackling. So yes, similarities in vision and hope. But secondly, when we talk, it feels like everything is lining up for us to do this together, the Spirit is active in our conversations and in our prayers. I am so excited to be moving forward in this work with Bill!

6

What do you believe the two of you can accomplish together?

MYERS:

We're 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. That doesn't resolve everything—but it builds trust. When trust begins to grow, the church is able to move forward with greater integrity, clarity, and a more credible witness.

BARKLEY:

Together I am hoping that we are able to connect people more fully, to invite people into conversations across boundaries and differences. Together I am hoping that we model good listening and a willingness to stay in the room with those with whom we disagree. I am hoping we bring our skills in conflict management to help cross the divides. I believe all conflict management and listening across differences must be grounded in faith. So we also bring a reminder that in all things we start and end with prayer, with listening to God, with the intentions of hearing others and growing in our work together as a denomination.