



SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
183rd General Assembly
Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Michael Sharpe, Stated Clerk

The following summary is NOT the authoritative document for guiding the Church's action. Only the General Assembly Minutes can serve that purpose.

ORGANIZATION

1. The General Assembly opened with worship, directed by the Reverend Lisa Scott Worship Director. The Retiring Moderator, Reverend Robert Rush delivered a sermon entitled, "Telling Your Story With Confidence In God" – Acts 3:1-10 and II Cor. 4:7-12."
2. Elected the Reverend Forest Prosser, Tennessee-Georgia Presbytery, as the Moderator.
3. Elected the Reverend Jamie Lively, Presbytery of East Tennessee, as the Vice Moderator.
4. Elected thirty-nine persons to board/agency membership.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

5. Reverend Wilfrido Quinonez, Cauca Valley Presbytery, delivered the Tuesday morning devotional.
6. A Communion service was held on Wednesday evening. The Reverends Lisa Scott and Elton Hall (CPCA Moderator) served as Co-Celebrants of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Reverends Randy Jacob,

- Jamie Lively and Ms. Susan Parker served as storytellers during the message.
7. Youth Advisory Delegate Cole Coffman, Missouri Presbytery, delivered the Thursday morning devotional.
 8. Reverend Lisa Scott delivered the closing devotional "Telling Our Stories Through Loving Actions" based on Acts 4:32-37.

OUR UNITED OUTREACH

9. Approved a goal of \$2,900,000 for Our United Outreach for 2014.
10. Approved January 15 as the cut-off date for receiving year-end gifts for Our United Outreach.
11. Introduced the Reverend Cliff Hudson as the new "Development Director for Our United Outreach".
12. Encouraged congregations to link their website to the Our United Outreach website: www.cumberland.org/ouo

MINISTRY COUNCIL

13. Approved a change to GA bylaw 10.08.03, regarding criteria for Youth Advisory Members on the Ministry Council....."shall be between the ages of 15-17, elected for a 1-year term, with eligibility for re-election for one additional term. "

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM

14. Endorsed the following as CPC approved curriculum: *Encounter, Faith Out Loud, Faith Alive, Feasting on the Word and Gather Round.*
15. Approved clarification on the process for examining and commissioning persons by presbyteries as Certified Youth Ministers and Christian Educators.
16. Encouraged the Discipleship Ministry Team to pursue creating 1st edition curriculum in native languages that represent all Cumberland Presbyterians.

MISSIONS MINISTRY TEAM

17. Authorized a church-wide missionary fund offering, named the Stott-Wallace Missionary Fund, directed toward the support of CP missionaries, with a special offering to be taken in churches on Pentecost/World Mission Sunday each year

and that additional contributions may be collected throughout the year for this purpose.

18. Designated the Missions Ministry Team as the agency responsible for oversight, guidance and authority for mission work and mission fields that cannot have a meaningful relationship with a presbytery due to distance and/or language.

19. Recognized current and former missionaries present at GA: Kenneth and Delight Hopson, Daniel and Kay Jang, Boyce and Beth Wallace (50th anniversary of mission work in Colombia), Beverly Stott, John Lovelace, Robert Watkins, Lynn and Nona Thomas.

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY TEAM

20. Encouraged CP ministers, probationers, sessions, congregations, presbyterial committees, denominational staff and institutions to study the Covenant of Trust: Ministerial Ethics for Cumberland Presbyterians.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY

21. Requested that congregations encourage those interested in a college education or an advanced degree to consider the opportunities offered by Bethel University.

22. Encouraged the CP Church to offer our ongoing support to the Bethel Board of Trustees as they endeavor to provide excellent educational opportunities to the CP's and others throughout the West TN region and the nation.

23. Announced the retirement plans of Dr. Robert Prosser, President of Bethel University, effective July 31, 2013.

24. Encouraged the Bethel Board of Trustees to seek a successor who has a deep understanding and appreciation of Bethel's history, church relationship, and regional missions.

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

25. Expressed appreciation to the entire CPCH staff for their dedication to the families they serve.

26. Commended the Reverend Kevin Henson for his essential contribution to the guidance and leadership that has led the CPCH in a position of positive change.

27. Encouraged congregations to pray for the CPCH, as it seeks to find its next President and Chief Executive Officer.

COMMISSION ON CHAPLAINS & MILITARY PERSONNEL

28. Encouraged CP Churches in the United States to observe the annual Memorial Day offering on the Sunday nearest Memorial Day and send offerings to the General Assembly office which will be forwarded to the Presbyterian Council to support their efforts of care for military personnel and their families.

29. Announced the retirement plans of Edward T. Brogan, Director for The Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel, and presented him with a Distinguished Service Award for his years of service.

HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

30. Encouraged congregations and presbyteries to support and promote membership in the 1810 Circle, which requests a minimum gift of \$25 per annum to support the work of the Historical Foundation.

31. Announced to presbyteries, congregations and individuals that the Historical Foundation is interested and has funds to publish books on topics concerning the CPC and CPCA.

32. Encouraged congregations to have a special offering on the Sunday designated as Denomination Day to help support the programs of the Historical Foundation.

33. Encouraged all congregations to preserve their session records by depositing them in the Historical Foundation.

34. Instructed each synod and presbytery to deposit their minutes in a timely fashion with the Historical Foundation.

35. Instructed presbyteries to locate the session records when closing a church and then deposit them in the Historical Foundation.

JUDICIARY

36. Adopted a Constitutional Amendment ratified by the presbyteries, changing the wording to section 4.6 to read: "The session may designate **two** elders, either of who, when authorized by the presbytery, may administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper to the congregation".

37. Rescinded the ruling of the 1987 General Assembly allowing ministers of other denominations, with presbyterial approval, to serve communion in CP congregations (see Digest 4.5 k Interpretive, 1987). Does not affect ministers of another denomination presiding over communion in a duly formed union, federated congregation (as per Constitution 10.4).

38. Affirmed the *Guidelines for Congregation Care*, and requested that they be forwarded to all Presbytery Clerks for use by committees involved in Congregational Care (especially when dealing with congregations which are alienated or in danger of becoming alienated from presbytery and the denomination).

39. Established a fund for legal expenses of the Office of the General Assembly and designated that \$25,000 be included in the OOU allocation for this purpose in 2014 & 2015.

40. Approved allocating \$3,500 a year in OOU allocations during the next three years (2014-2016), for use by the next Evaluation Committee.

EVALUATION COMMITTEE

41. Commended the Ministry Council for an excellent and thorough report, especially in the area of cooperative work with the Evaluation Committee.

42. Commended the Evaluation Committee for being thorough and open in this second step of the evaluation process.

43. Recommended the following changes to the proposed MC bylaws: to include the election process for Ministry Team members as well as the composition, qualifications and terms of office for Ministry Team Members; to change wording of bylaw article 7E to read "Ministry Team Leaders"

instead of Ministry Team Executive Directors" to maintain consistency of titles; endorsements must be received for all MC or Ministry Team Members nominees prior to their election. This includes those being re-nominated and those being nominated from the floor of General Assembly.

44. Recommended that information obtained by the Director of Ministry as a result of her travels be shared with other denominational agencies for the benefit of all.

45. Recommended that the Director of Ministries continue in this effort of building rapport as well as developing and implementing new ways to extend that effort with all denominational staff and entities.

46. Dissolved the current Evaluation Committee and approved criteria and selection process for the next Evaluation Committee, to be named in 2016.

47. Required all members of denominational boards and agencies included in the next evaluation, to participate in the process.

MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

48. Expressed gratitude to Mr. Harvey Ferguson and the Reverend Emily Matheny for their faithful service, and to the widows of Reverend Doctor Craig Martindale and Reverend Dr. David Boyle for their husbands' faithful service to MTS and the CPC.

49. Encouraged all presbyteries through their appropriate committees to urge all probationers to consider MTS and PAS as their first options for meeting educational requirement for ordained ministry.

50. Granted the request by MTS to conduct a capital campaign, pending action to approve the campaign by the Board of Trustees of the Seminary.

51. Commended the Board of Trustees, the administration, staff, and faculty for their faithful and selfless service to the CPC and to the larger community of believers served by the Seminary.

52. Encouraged all churches to recognize and support Seminary Sunday.

THEOLOGY & SOCIAL CONCERNS

53. Reaffirmed the action taken by the General Assemblies of the CPC & CPCA in 2011 concerning the unification of the two denominations.
54. Encouraged each presbytery to form a Committee on Theology & Social Concerns if one is not already formed.
55. Requested that presbyteries give the Unification Task Force time at the Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 presbytery meetings to present updates on unification and get feedback on the development of a plan for union.
56. Encouraged that joint clusters of churches also schedule a time for a presentation on unification by a member of the task force and/or other leaders with both denominations.
57. Approved including \$20,000 in the OOU allocation for 2014, to cover the meeting and program expenses of the Unification Task Force.

STEWARDSHIP

58. Commended Reverend Robert Heflin and the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits for their diligent work in their many areas of responsibility.
59. Adopted a memorial from Red River Presbytery, instructing the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and benefits to make it a standard practice to notify the Stated Clerk of the presbytery which has oversight and jurisdiction over the particular church any time a congregation falls behind in their loan repayments by more than three months.

MISCELLANEOUS

60. Encouraged Synods to have a general synod at its 2014 meeting and seek to involve the corresponding synod of the CPCA in having a union meeting. The meetings to include workshops (e.g. OOU, Safe Sanctuary, Unification Updates etc.).
61. Approved the dates for the 2013-2015 Church Calendar.
62. Adopted a resolution of appreciation.

NEXT MEETING

General Assembly adjourned to meet concurrently with the General Assembly of the CPCA at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel and Conference Center, Chattanooga, TN on June 16-20, 2014.

Copies of the General Assembly Minutes when completed will be made available in the following formats:

Online: www.cumberland.org/gao

A limited supply of printed copies will be made available through the Cumberland Presbyterian Resource Distribution at: 901-276-4581

Digital copies of the Minutes on CD format will also be available from the General Assembly Office. Contact Elizabeth Vaughn at: 901-276-4572 or eav@cumberland.org