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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

I. REFERRALS

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary and The Report of the Board of Trustees of Bethel University.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Reverend Jay Earheart-Brown, President Memphis Theological Seminary; Elder Mark Maddox, Member of the Board of Trustees for Memphis Theological Seminary; and Reverend Michael Qualls, Director of Program of Alternate Studies; Mrs. Nancy Bean, Vice-President of the College of Arts and Sciences at Bethel University; Reverend Anne Hames, Chaplain at Bethel University, and Mr. Cliff Barner, chaplain's assistant ministering to athletes.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

A. BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The committee reviewed the Report of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary and discussed it at length with the representatives of Memphis Theological Seminary who met with us. We are pleased to offer the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary be adopted:

“That the General Assembly express its gratitude to Mr. Harvey Ferguson and Reverend Emily Matheny for their faithful service, and to the widows of Reverend Dr. Craig Martindale and Reverend Dr. David Boyle, for their husbands’ faithful service to Memphis Theological Seminary and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.”

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 2 of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary be adopted:

“That the General Assembly urge all probationers to consider Memphis Theological Seminary and the Program of Alternate Studies as their first options for meeting educational requirements for ordained ministry.”

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 3 of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary be adopted:

“That the General Assembly encourage all churches to recognize and support Seminary Sunday.”

The trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary are considering a capital campaign with several possible goals to enhance the Seminary's future.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That Recommendation 4 of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary be adopted:

“That the General Assembly approve Memphis Theological Seminary to conduct a capital campaign, pending action to approve such a campaign by the Board of Trustees of the seminary.”

RECOMMENDATION 5: That the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary, the administration, staff, and faculty, be commended for their faithful and selfless service to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and to the larger community of believers served by the Seminary.

B. BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BETHEL UNIVERSITY

We recognize the covenant relationship between Bethel University and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the continuing financial support given to the University through Our United Outreach and we appreciate the annual reporting of the University to General Assembly.

We recognize and honor the fifteen years of service of the retiring Bethel University president, Robert Prosser. We encourage the trustees of Bethel University to seek a successor who has a deep understanding and appreciation of Bethel's history, church relationship, and regional missions.

We are pleased to offer the next recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 6: That all congregations encourage those interested in a college education or an advanced degree to consider the opportunities offered by Bethel University, both on the McKenzie campus and on the various satellite campuses in several communities.

RECOMMENDATION 7: That the Board of Trustees of Bethel University be offered our ongoing support as they endeavor to provide excellent educational opportunities to Cumberland Presbyterians and others throughout the West Tennessee region and the nation.

Respectfully submitted,
Committee on Higher Education

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN’S HOME AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

I. REFERRALS

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report of the Board of Trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home and The Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Reverend Richard Brown, Acting President of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home; Ms. LaToyia Dennis, Vice-President of Development of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home; Reverend Don Tabor, member of the Board of Trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home; Ms. Susan Knight Gore, Executive Director of the Historical Foundation; Ms. Lauren Gam Gilliland, Archival Assistant; Reverend Michael Fare, member of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation and Reverend Melissa Knight.

III. THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN’S HOME

We wish to express our appreciation for the presentation made to us by Reverend Richard Brown, Ms. LaToyia Dennis, Reverend Melissa Knight, and Reverend Don Tabor. Their impressive professionalism and dedication to their calling was evident. We can foresee a bright future for the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home under their leadership. We anticipate a successful outcome of their ten year strategic plan. It is also our desire to express our appreciation to the entire Children’s Home staff for their dedication to the families they serve.

We want to commend Reverend Kevin Henson for his essential contribution to the guidance and leadership that has lead the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home into a position of positive change. We are thankful for the faithful witness of the Reverend James Gilbert for the many years of service and vision on behalf of the Children’s Home.

As the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home seeks to find the person God would choose for its next President and Chief Executive Officer, we ask for the prayers and support of our people

IV. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

We wish to express our appreciation for the presentation by Ms. Susan Knight Gore, Ms. Lauren Gam Gilliland, and Reverend Michael Fare. It was both informative and interactive. They shared many historical pieces dear to the heart and soul of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. The staff is available to assist with requests of the church and other areas no matter the scope of the request.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation, be adopted:

“That the General Assembly, through its minutes and summary of actions, make congregations and presbyteries aware of the 1810 Circle and encourage new members to support this endeavor annually.”

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation, be adopted:

“That congregations be encouraged to have a special offering on the Sunday designated as Denomination Day to help support the special project designated for that year.”

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 3 of the the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation, be adopted:

“That the General Assembly make presbyteries, congregations, and individuals aware that the Historical Foundation

is interested and has funds to publish books on topics concerning the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That Recommendation 4 of the the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation, be adopted:

“That the General Assembly encourage all congregations to preserve their session records by depositing them in the Historical Foundation.”

RECOMMENDATION 5: That Recommendation 5 of the the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation, be adopted:

“That the General Assembly instruct each synod and presbytery to deposit their minutes in a timely fashion with the Historical Foundation.”

RECOMMENDATION 6: That Recommendation 6 of the the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation, be adopted:

“That the General Assembly instruct presbyteries to locate the session records when closing a church and then deposit them in the Historical Foundation.”

In God’s Love,
The Committee on the Children’s Home and the Historical Foundation

REPORT ONE OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

I. REFERRALS

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report of the Stated Clerk, Sections IV; The Report Number Two of the Ministry Council, Section I.b-c; The Report of the Permanent Committee on Judiciary; The Report of the Joint Committee on Amendments, and The Report of the Evaluation Committee.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Reverend Michael Sharpe, Stated Clerk; Reverend Charles McCaskey and Reverend Sherrlyn Frost, representatives of the Evaluation Committee; Ms. Edith B. Old, Director of Ministries; Reverend Troy Green, representative for the Ministry Council; Reverend Elinor Swindle Brown, Discipleship Ministry Team Leader; and Reverend Perryn Rice, Permanent Committee on the Judiciary.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

A. REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK, SECTION IV

The 182nd General Assembly submitted to the presbyteries the following Constitutional Amendment:

4.6 The session may designate one elder who, when authorized by the presbytery, may administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper to the congregation.

Change to Read

4.6 The session may designate two elders, either of whom, when authorized by the presbytery, may administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper to the congregation.

Stated Clerk, Reverend Michael Sharpe reported that twenty (20) presbyteries voted in the affirmative; one (1) presbytery voted in the negative; and two (2) presbyteries did not report.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation One of the Report of the Stated Clerk, Section IV, "That the 183rd General Assembly declare that the Constitutional Amendment has been approved," be adopted.

B. REPORT NUMBER TWO OF THE MINISTRY COUNCIL, SECTION I.B-C

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

We note that subcommittees from both the Ministry Council and the Evaluation Committee met along with the Stated Clerk, Reverend Michael G. Sharpe, to discuss and note the progress made in following the directives of the 182nd General Assembly. It is further noted that almost all of these directives have been implemented.

1. Priority Goals and Vision for Future Ministry

The General Assembly has made the Priority Goals an important part of our on-going work. We feel that these goals will continue even though their timeline has expired. These are continued in part in the Step Out! program, which is no less important.

It is not our intent to make directives, which will affect in any way the process of unification.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation One of the Report Number Two of the Ministry Council, "That in light of the strong likelihood of unification between the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, the assignment made by the General Assembly to the Ministry Council to review the denomination's Priority Goals be postponed until such time as new priority goals can be established by the new unified church or the present Cumberland Presbyterian Church," be adopted.

C. REPORT OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

We considered Recommendation One of the Report of the Permanent Judiciary Committee. We affirm that the

communion table in any particular Cumberland Presbyterian Church is the Lord's table and not that of our denomination or any local church. General Assembly authorized ministers of other denominations, always and only with presbyterial approval, to serve communion in a local Cumberland Presbyterian congregation in 1987.

This practice, while well intended, has produced as many problems as blessings. In many cases, abuse of the practice has occurred. Further, some presbyteries in some cases have failed to provide proper oversight. In addition, there are many retired Cumberland Presbyterian ministers and ordained ministers without charge within our presbyteries who should make themselves available for ministry purposes such as this.

We believe that on the whole, we should step away from this practice and empower our presbyteries to provide leadership and the care our local congregations deserve.

We also note that **Constitution 4.6** provides for designation of elders, authorized and trained by presbyteries, to administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper to the local congregation.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation One of the Report of the Permanent Judiciary Committee, "That General Assembly's 1987 ruling allowing ministers of other denominations, with presbyterial approval, to serve communion in Cumberland Presbyterian congregations (see Digest, 4.5.k Interpretive, 1987), be rescinded," be adopted.

An ordained minister, although of another church, may serve the Lord's Supper in a Cumberland Presbyterian church, provided this minister has been approved by a judicatory (that is, a presbytery) of the church. 1987, p. 123, 216.

Adoption of this recommendation would not affect Constitution 4.6 which allows ordained elders, under specific conditions, to preside at certain communion services, nor would it affect ministers of another denomination presiding over communion in a duly-formed union or federated congregation as per Constitution 10.4.

4.6 The session may designate one elder who, when authorized by the presbytery, may administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper to the congregation.

10.4 A presbytery may authorize one or more of its constituent churches to form a federated or union church with a church or churches of another ecclesiastical body or bodies or may organize a federated or union church acting in concert with a comparable judicatory of another ecclesiastical body or bodies. This shall be done by agreement in writing between the presbytery and the comparable judicatory of the other ecclesiastical body or bodies.

The 182nd General Assembly adopted a document called "**Guidelines for Congregational Care.**"

Guidelines for Congregational Care

Each Cumberland Presbyterian congregation (called "a particular church" in our constitution) is under the care of and subject to the authority of the presbytery of which it is a part. The presbytery is responsible for preventing and responding to any problems in its constituent congregations (Constitution 5.6.j). This response, as all church discipline, is meant to be healing and redemptive rather than punitive (Rules of Discipline 1.1).

Presbyteries can be proactive in preventing congregations from becoming alienated by following these guidelines:

- Be familiar with the Constitution, Rules of Discipline, and Presbytery Manual of Operations, and insure that sessions have access to and are familiar with these resources, all of which are available at www.cumberland.org/gao.
- Remind sessions that any type of pastoral relationship must be approved by presbytery (Constitution 5.6.f).
- Be diligent in oversight of ministers of other denominations serving congregations within the presbytery, possibly including regular meetings with an appropriate presbyterial agency and mandatory attendance of presbytery meetings (Constitution 5.6.p).
- Remind sessions of their responsibility to communicate with presbytery regularly (Constitution 5.6.e, 4.5.m-n).
- Appoint a Cumberland Presbyterian minister as moderator for the session of every congregation without an installed Cumberland Presbyterian pastor, informing the session of who the appointed moderator is, and insuring the appointed moderator fulfills his or her responsibilities (Constitution 5.6.p).

- Follow the 2007 General Assembly directive to have in place a process to review any Cumberland Presbyterian minister transferring from another presbytery; carefully examine probationers on adherence to Cumberland Presbyterian theology and polity; and closely review ministers of other denominations who are seeking to have their ordinations recognized, especially in the area of Cumberland Presbyterian theology and polity.

- Establish, either as a separate entity or as a subdivision of the Missions Committee, a Congregational Care Committee to keep lines of communication open between congregations and presbytery.

- Such a committee should visit in person with all congregations in the presbytery at least annually.

- Such a committee could be in regular contact with each congregation, making inquiries which can identify impending alienation and thereby prevent it.

For congregations already experiencing alienation or severe trouble, the Rules of Discipline explain how presbytery is to enact its care for and authority over the congregation (Rules of Discipline 2.3).

- Discipline only progresses from one level to the next if an attempt at discipline is ineffective (Rules of Discipline 1.3).

- When the action of a congregation is detrimental to the spiritual welfare of its members or to the connectional relations and ministries of the larger church, presbytery, through its board of missions or other appropriate committee, should:

- counsel with the session and/or congregation and suggest ways to correct what is wrong;

- officially admonish the church and instruct its session to correct what is wrong;

- suspend the session and govern the church temporarily through a commission. This means the session may not make decisions for the congregation and may not send a voting delegate to meetings of presbytery. Suspension may be for a definite or indefinite period of time.

- dissolve the session and conduct a new election of elders, or dissolve the church and attach its members to other congregations.

- The board of missions or other presbyterial agency tasked to deal with the alienated or troubled congregation may turn the matter over to the presbyterial judiciary committee if it seems necessary.

This document is so well stated and has been so helpful to our committee that we wish to emphasize it again.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That Guidelines for Congregational Care be affirmed by the 183rd General Assembly and forwarded to all Presbytery Stated Clerks for use by committees involved in Congregational Care.

Legal Expense Fund

The Office of the General Assembly recognizes the need to have money available for legal expenses, including insurance deductibles. The Our United Outreach proposed budget makes this monetary request a set aside line item.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That Recommendation Two of the Report of the Permanent Judiciary Committee, “That a fund be established to make money available for any legal expenses of the Office of the General Assembly, that \$25,000 be included in the Our United Outreach allocation designated for that fund for 2014 and 2015 each, and that \$50,000 remain in that fund each year thereafter”, be adopted.

D. REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON AMENDMENTS

The Committee understands and agrees with the theological concept of the priesthood of all believers. We acknowledge also the need in many small congregations without pastoral leadership to have the administration of the sacraments; that is Holy Communion, on a regular basis and Baptism whether for infants or as a result of a profession of faith.

We, however, also acknowledge the long and arduous road many have traveled in preparation for ordination of Word and Sacrament. It is our hope and belief that all congregations, whether large or small, have resources to draw on to administer these sacraments without changing the constitutional requirements, and we have a strong commitment to encourage the use of persons in every presbytery who are available to administer these sacraments such as retired ministers or those without charge.

Believing also that this is not an appropriate time to ask presbyteries to debate another constitutional amendment in the light of our global presbyteries and the strong possibility of unification with Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America General Assemblies.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That Recommendation 1 in the Report of the Joint Committee on Amendments, “That Constitution 4.6 be changed from “The session may designate one elder who, when authorized by the presbytery, may administer the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper to the congregation” to “The session may designate

one elder, who when authorized by the presbytery, may administer the sacrament of baptism or the Lord's Supper in the elder's congregation" and that Constitution 5.6.p be changed from "Take special oversight of churches which do not have the services of a minister, appointing a minister to moderate the session; and, if necessary, authorize an elder designated by the session to administer the Lord's Supper to the congregation, provided that the elder shall be instructed by the committee on the ministry in the meaning of the sacrament and how it should be administered; the elder shall serve under the authority of an ordained Cumberland Presbyterian minister selected by the presbytery, and each grant of authority shall be for one year" to "Take special oversight of churches which do not have the services of a minister, appointing a minister to moderate the session; and, if necessary, authorize an elder designated by the session to administer the sacrament of baptism or the Lord's Supper to in the elder's congregation, provided that the elder shall be instructed by the committee on the ministry in the meaning of the sacraments and how they should be administered; the elder shall serve under the authority of an ordained Cumberland Presbyterian minister selected by the presbytery, and each grant of authority shall be for one year," be denied.

E. REPORT OF THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

We commend the Evaluation Committee for being thorough and open in this second step of the evaluation process. The following recommendations have been affirmed.

1. Work with the Office of General Assembly in reviewing the Ministry Council's Bylaws, to see that they are in alignment with the current responsibilities and that they reflect actions taken at General Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION 7: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, "That if for any reason the Ministry Council determines the responsibility of Our United Outreach Education should not be a part of the job description of the Ministry Team Leader of the Discipleship Ministry Team, then any unused portion of the allocated funding should be transferred to the Our United Outreach Committee to assist with programmatic costs," be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 8: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, "That regarding Article 5, we recommend that the article be revised to include the election process for Ministry Team Members as well as the composition, qualifications and terms of office for Ministry Team Members," be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 9: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, "That regarding Article 7E of proposed Ministry Council bylaws, we recommend that wording be changed to read "Ministry Team Leaders" instead of "Ministry Team Executive Directors" in order to maintain consistency of titles," be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 10: That Recommendation 4 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, "That regarding Article 9, that wording be changed to read, "Unanimously adopted by the Ministry Council on April 19, 2013" (instead of January 19th, 2013)," be adopted.

2. Oversee the implementation of the approved recommendations in Report 2 of the Judiciary Committee of 2012 as it pertains to the Evaluation Committee Report, (specifically, recommendations 2-20).

Topic – Strengthening Ministry Teams and the Ministry Council through the Nominating process

RECOMMENDATION 11: That Recommendation 5 of the Evaluation Committee, "That it be added to the Ministry Council bylaws that all nominees for the Ministry Council or Ministry Team positions be ineligible to serve beginning in the year 2014 unless an endorsement is received. The requirement for endorsement would also be needed for those who are being re-nominated for a second or third term and for those being nominated from the floor of General Assembly," be adopted.

Topic – With regard to Judiciary Committee

RECOMMENDATION 12: That Recommendation 7 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, "That the information obtained by the Director of Ministry as a result of her travels be shared with other denominational

agencies for the benefit of all,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 13: That Recommendation 8 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, “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,” be adopted.

3. Develop Methods, Procedures and Process for future evaluations and report to the 183rd General Assembly (Specifically Judiciary Committee Recommendations 23 & 25)

RECOMMENDATION 14: That Recommendation 9 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, “That funds for future evaluations be earmarked from Our United Outreach funds and that the Our United Outreach Committee set aside \$3,500 each year for the next three years (2014, 2015, and 2016), so that there is a total of \$10,500 available for the next evaluation,” be adopted.

4. Report basic statistical data, sample size, percent of respondents and item responses.

RECOMMENDATION 15: That Recommendation 10 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, “That all members of all denominational boards and agencies be required to participate in the evaluation process and/or surveys in all future evaluations,” be adopted.

5. Have surveys include scaled item responses

RECOMMENDATION 16: That Recommendation 11 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, “That the current Evaluation Committee be dissolved and that the next Evaluation Committee be named in 2016, that the scope of its work be re-defined at that time in light decisions made in the unification process and that the work of the newly appointed Evaluation Committee begin at that time,” be adopted.

6. Regarding Judiciary Committee Recommendation 5

The Committee agrees with the Evaluation Committee’s conclusion that the Ministry Council members need to spend adequate time with the Ministry Teams to which they are assigned, depending upon the needs of the particular Team. However, we did not feel it necessary to stipulate a minimum amount of time that must be spent.

RECOMMENDATION 17: That Recommendation 6 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, “That each Ministry Council member spend a minimum of 2 hours with their respective Ministry Teams at least twice a year,” be denied.

We appreciate our Youth Advisory Delegates willingness to share their opinions, beliefs, and ideas. Each of you has been a great asset to the work of this committee.

Respectfully submitted,
The Committee on Judiciary

REPORT TWO OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

The Evaluation Committee has designed the evaluation format, the evaluation tools, and the method for evaluating the Ministry Council, Ministry Teams and other boards and agencies as requested by the General Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION 18: That the outline for future evaluation committees included in the Evaluation Committees report:

“For future evaluations, we suggest that future Evaluation Committees revisit the tool and how it was developed and distributed. Specific questions may be added or tweaked to fit that Evaluation Committee’s goals for current boards and agencies. In addition, the Evaluation Committee shall receive the self-evaluation tools and results of the Ministry Council, Ministry Teams and any other boards and agencies of the denomination as they are used and available.

We recognize that the survey of the Church At Large is difficult, but feel the churches should have an opportunity to respond. Future evaluations will include the Historical Foundation and Memphis Theological Seminary. We would suggest that Memphis Theological Seminary staff and its Board of Trustees be handled as a separate survey.

Future Evaluation Committee members, beginning with 2016 (3 years after dissolution of the existing Evaluation Committee), shall be appointed by the General Assembly Moderator and Stated Clerk. Those appointed should include at least one member of the previous Evaluation Committee when possible and should include at least one member from each of the five Synods and one person “at large.”

Evaluations shall be done every three years subsequent to the close of the 183rd General Assembly in 2013. However, we note that the entities of the denomination to be evaluated may need to be re-defined as a result of the unification process and will be determined by the Evaluation Committee in consultation with the Stated Clerk and the General Assembly Moderator at that time.”

Be adopted for future Evaluation Committees.

Respectfully submitted,
The Committee on Judiciary

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

I. REFERRAL

Referrals to this committee is as follows: The Report of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns, The Report of the Unification Task Force, The Memorial from Grace Presbytery Concerning The Distinction Between Christianity and Islam, and The Resolution from Grace Presbytery Concerning the Sacrament of Baptism.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Reverend Michael Sharpe, Stated Clerk, Reverend Byron Forester (CPC) and Elder Joy Wallace (CPCA) representatives from the United Committee on Theological and Social Concerns, and Reverend Michael Wilkinson, Commissioner from Grace Presbytery.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

A. REPORT OF THE UNIFIED COMMITTEE OF THEOLOGY AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

RECOMMENDATION 1: That the report be concurred in.

The committee finds a need for a strong commitment from presbyteries in order to move forward in the unification process.

RECOMMENDATION 2: Reaffirm the action taken by the General Assemblies of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America in 2011 concerning unification of the two denominations.

RECOMMENDATION 3: Reaffirm the action of 181st General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church that “encourages each presbytery to form a committee on Theological and Social Concerns if not already formed” for purposes which include but are not limited to unification of the denominations.

B. REPORT OF THE UNIFICATION TASK FORCE

RECOMMENDATION 1: That the report be concurred in.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Unification Task Force, “That the Unification Task Force be given time at the Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 presbytery meetings to present updates on the unification and to get feedback on the development of a plan for union,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Unification Task Force, “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 within both denominations,” be adopted.

In order to accomplish the task of unification timely and efficiently, it has been brought to the attention of this committee by members of the Unification Task Force that the budget must be adjusted.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the Unification Task Force, “That \$12,000 be included in the OOU allocation for 2014, to cover the meeting and program expenses of the Unification Task Force,” be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That \$20,000 be included in the OOU allocation for 2014, to cover the meeting and program expenses of the Unification Task Force.

C. MEMORIAL FROM GRACE PRESBYTERY CONCERNING THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM

The Confession of Faith states, “1.01 We believe in the only true and living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; who is holy love, eternal, unchangeable in being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth, and 1.02 The one living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, speaks through the holy scriptures, the events of nature and history, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, but uniquely in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.” The Confession of Faith further states, “In carrying out the apostolic commission, the covenant community has encountered and continues to encounter people who belong to religions which do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord. While respecting persons who adhere to other religions, Christians are responsible to share with them the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.”

RECOMMENDATION 1: That the Memorial from Grace Presbytery Concerning the Distinction Between Christianity and Islam which states:

“In the tradition of the early Cumberland Presbyterian Church, this memorial begins: “A great evil” has arisen in Western Christianity in general and in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in particular. This issue confronts our understanding of scripture, our Christology, our comprehension of the trinity and the veracity of the Revealed Word. In addition, it insults another religion by implicitly stating that the adherents of that religious system are ignorant of their own system of belief.

Whereas, Christian theology asserts that God is a trinity composed of three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; One God now and forever. And,

Whereas, Jesus, the Christ, is referred to within our individual historic creeds as the Son of God, and,

whereas, the Revealed Word has Jesus himself making that assertion in John 3: 16, and Paul affirms this position throughout his letters, and,

Whereas, 1st John re-enforces this position in 1st John 1: 3 which reads in Young’s Literal Translation “1:3 that which we have seen and heard declare we to you, that ye also may have fellowship with us, and our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ” and;

Whereas, 1st John 2: 24 and 1st John 4: 1-3 assert that 1) Jesus is the Son, and 2) to not recognize Jesus is to be of the spirit of antichrist, and

Whereas, it is clear from scripture that any system of thought which denies the Godhead of Jesus, and the Sonship of Jesus and His status as fully human and fully God is denying the basic Trinitarian God of Christianity. And,

Whereas, many congregations and congregational leaders have taken the incompatible position that the god of Islam and the God of Christianity are the same god, and:

Whereas, this is not possible by the doctrines of either Christianity or Islam,for:

- 1) The greatest sin and most unforgivable sin of Islam is shirk which is to associate any other beings (i.e. the son or the Holy Spirit) with Allah (which is a personal name),**
- 2) The Jesus (ISA) of Islam is not crucified, is not God and speaks of the destruction of the Jew**
- 3) ISA is most definitely NOT the son of god in Islam**
- 4) To be saved in Christianity is to believe that Jesus is God (and man) and this is indirect contradiction to the God of Islam, and**

Whereas, the Jesus of Christianity and the Isa of Islam stand at polar opposites that cannot be reconciled,

Be it resolved, that Grace Presbytery memorialize the General Assembly meeting in 2013, to assert the distinctions of the two belief systems, and to assert that belief in the Trinity and Jesus as the Son of God is incompatible with the doctrines of Islam, and to affirm that the two deities cannot be the same or god would not be omniscient (violating the doctrines of both religions) since this god would self-contradict. However, this is no justification for hatred, animosity, prejudice; rather this position honors both Christianity and Islam by taking their doctrines seriously. To do otherwise, would insult both religions though colonial and paternal thinking.

I hereby certify that this Memorial was approved by Grace Presbytery on October 19, 2013, and is hereby submitted to the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for further action.

Signed:

Reverend Jan Overton, Stated Clerk”, be denied.

D. RESOLUTION FROM GRACE PRESBYTERY CONCERNING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Cumberland Presbyterian doctrine of baptism is sufficiently and clearly stated in the Confession of Faith (5.18 - 5.22).

Baptism

5.18 Baptism symbolizes the baptism of the Holy Spirit and is the external sign of the covenant which marks membership in the community of faith. In this sacrament the church witnesses to God's initiative to claim persons in Christ, forgive their sins, grant them grace, shape and order their lives through the work of the Holy Spirit, and set them apart for service.⁸⁶

5.19 The sacrament of baptism is administered to infants, one or both of whose parents or guardians affirm faith in Jesus Christ and assume the responsibilities of the covenant, and to all persons who affirm personal faith in Jesus Christ and have not received the sacrament.⁸⁷

5.20 Water is the element to be used in this sacrament. The person receiving the sacrament is to be baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.⁸⁸

5.21 In administering the sacrament the pouring or sprinkling of water on the person by the minister fittingly symbolizes the baptism of the Holy Spirit; however, the validity of the sacrament is not dependent upon its mode of administration.⁸⁹

5.22 It is the privilege and duty of all believers to seek baptism for themselves and their children, and to accept its benefits. However, baptism is neither an indispensable condition of salvation nor effective apart from life in Christ and the church.⁹⁰

RECOMMENDATION 1: That the Resolution from Grace Presbytery Concerning the Sacrament of Baptism which states:

“Whereas, the Confession of Faith 5.16-5.17 states clearly that the sacrament of baptism is a sign and testimony of God’s covenant of Grace. Baptism is to be administered by and through the church as part of her common worship,

Whereas, the Constitution 2.52 places the responsibility for the local church government upon the session of a particular church. The session is responsible to lead in all ministries which belong to the church. Under public worship the celebration of baptism of infants and adults is one of the sacraments which belong to the church,

Whereas, the Constitution 2.60-2.64 makes clear that the person who is called and properly ordained to minister serves in the office of minister of word and sacrament. Properly ordained pastors are to administer baptism to infants and adults as one of the signs of God’s covenant of Grace,

Whereas, the Constitution 4.5 explains that the session is charged with pastoral oversight of a particular church. One of the session’s many responsibilities is to urge upon parents the importance of presenting their children for baptism,

Whereas, the Directory of Worship mentions no alternatives for baptism of adults or infants

Whereas, the Digest to the Confession of Faith 4.5 e, 1845 and 1897 explains that it is the duty of the parents to see that their children are baptized. The Digest further explains that it is the duty of the minister in charge and the session to Biblically teach the church members about the sacrament of baptism, which is to be administered to infants and adults, and Biblically teach

Therefore, be it resolved, that Grace Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church reaffirm the Confession of Faith and the Constitution and the Directory of Worship for Cumberland Presbyterians,

Be it further resolved, that in doing so, no Cumberland Presbyterian minister or session within Grace Presbytery allow for any alternatives to infant baptism, such as baby dedication, christening, or naming as a means of entrance into the covenant community,

Be it further resolved, baby dedication is based upon human activity. A sacrament is based upon God’s activity, and it is also a means of grace. By refusing the sacrament of baptism you refuse this means of grace to both children and adults.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was approved by Grace Presbytery on October 19, 2012 and is hereby submitted to the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for further action.

Signed:

Reverend Jan Overton, Stated Clerk,” be denied.

E. REFERRAL TO THE UNIFIED COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

The 2013 CPC General Assembly’s Committee on Theology and Social Concerns requests that the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns and the General Assembly Office bring clarification and communicate to the 184th CPC General Assembly regarding the relationship between baptism, profession of faith, and church membership in the following areas:

- Our yearbook shows several churches with more baptisms than new members. Please clarify the relationship between baptism and church membership.
- Please clarify the relationship between baptism and a profession of faith. Is a profession of faith recognized without baptism?
- Please clarify the instructions for the annual report to support the findings.
- Should we report professions of faith that do not result in church membership?

Respectfully submitted,
Committee on Theology and Social Concerns

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STEWARDSHIP/ELECTED OFFICERS

I. REFERRALS

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report of the Moderator, The Report of the Stated Clerk, except section IV, which is referred to Judiciary Committee; The Report Number Two of the Ministry Council, Section I.e, The Report of the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits; The Report of the Our United Outreach Committee; The Report of the Place of Meeting Committee; The Memorial from Red River Presbytery Concerning Congregations Who Secure Loans, and The Line Item Budgets Submitted by General Assembly.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Reverend Robert Heflin, Executive Secretary, Reverend Michael Wilkinson, Board Representative, and Mr. Boyd Day, Board Member from the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits; Mr. Ron Gardner, Chair of the Our United Outreach Committee; Reverend Cliff Hudson, Fund Development Coordinator of Our United Outreach; Reverend Michael Sharpe, Stated Clerk; and Reverend Robert Rush, Moderator of 182nd General Assembly.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

A. REPORT OF THE MODERATOR

The committee would like to commend Reverend Robert Rush for his service as moderator and commitment to the mission of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

The committee agrees with the Moderator's concern regarding synodic functioning and the opportunity for continuing education in communion with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. The committee recognizes the financial burden of such a meeting, but encourages it because of its positive step toward unification through relationship building.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Moderator, "That the General Assembly encourage each synod to have a general synod in its next meeting and to seek to involve the corresponding synod of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America in having a union meeting", be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That the General Assembly encourage each synod to have a general synod at its 2014 meeting and seek to involve the corresponding synod of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America in having a union meeting. We further encourage synods to have workshops, e.g. OOU, Safe Sanctuary, etc. at this meeting.

B. REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK, EXCEPT SECTIONS IV

The Office of General Assembly is now responsible for reporting the "Church Calendar" to the General Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Stated Clerk, "That the 183rd General Assembly approve the following dates for the 2013-2015 Church Calendar," be adopted, with the following changes in bold.

CHURCH CALENDAR 2013-2015

July-2013

8-10 Hispanic Pastors Conference, Bethel University, McKenzie, Tennessee

13 Program of Alternate Studies (PAS) Graduation

13-27 PAS Summer Extension School

16-20 Presbyterian Youth Triennium

16-20 Ministers Retreat, Bethel University, McKenzie, Tennessee

August-2013

3 Bethel Commencement

17 Bethel Blast

24 MTS Fall Semester Classes begin

25-Sept 29 Christian Education Season

27 Bethel Opening Convocation (171st Year)

September-2013

4 MTS Opening Convocation

8 Senior Adult Sunday

15 Christian Service Recognition Sunday

22 International Day of Prayer and Action for Human Habitat

October-2013

1-31 Clergy Appreciation Month

6 Worldwide Communion Sunday

13 Pastor Appreciation Sunday

19-20 Bethel Homecoming

27 Native American Sunday

November-2013

Any Sunday in November Loaves and Fishes

1 All Saints Day

1 World Community Day (Church Women United)

3 Stewardship Sunday

3-6 The Forum

10 Day of Prayer for People with AIDS and Other Life-Threatening Illnesses

17 Bible Sunday

December-2013

Any Sunday in December Gift to the King

1-25 Advent in Church and Home

7 Bethel Commencement

24 Christmas Eve

25 Christmas Day

January-2014

6 Epiphany

11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day

13-14 Stated Clerks' Conference

15 Deadline for receipt of 2013 Our United Outreach Contributions

February-2014

1-28 Black History Month

1 Annual congregational reports due to General Assembly Office

2 Denomination Day

2 Historical Foundation Offering

2 Souper Bowl Sunday

9 Our United Outreach Sunday

16 Youth Sunday

March-2014

Women's History Month (USA)

5 Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent

5-Apr 20 Lent to Easter

30-Apr 5 National Farm Workers Awareness Week

April-2014

13 Palm/Passion Sunday

13 One Great Hour of Sharing

17 Maundy Thursday

18 Good Friday

20 Easter

25-26 30-Hour Famine

27 CPCH Sunday

27 - May 3 Family Week

May-2014

2 Friendship Day (Church Women United)

17 MTS Closing Convocation & Graduation

25 Memorial Day Offering for Military Chaplains & Personnel for USA churches

June-2014

7 Children's Fest, CPCH, Denton, TX
 8 Pentecost
 8 World Mission Sunday
 16-20 General Assembly, Chattanooga, TN
 17-19 CPWM Convention, Chattanooga, TN

July-2014

6-11 Cumberland Presbyterian Youth Conference, Bethel, McKenzie, TN
 12 Program of Alternate Studies Graduation
 12-26 PAS Summer Extension School, Bethel, McKenzie, TN
 19 Children's Fest, Bethel, McKenzie, TN
 22-26 Ministers Retreat, Bethel, McKenzie, TN

August-2014

23 MTS Fall Semester Begins
 31-Sept 28 Christian Education Season

September-2014

3 MTS Opening convocation

14 Senior Adult Sunday
 21 Christian Service Recognition Sunday
 28 International Day of Prayer and Action for Human Habitat

October-2014

Clergy Appreciation Month
 5 Worldwide Communion Sunday
 12 Pastor Appreciation Sunday
 26 Native American Sunday

November-2014

Any Sunday Loaves and Fishes Program
 1 All Saints Day
 2 Stewardship Sunday
 9 World Community Day (Church Women United)
 9 Day of Prayer for People with Aids and Other Life-Threatening Illnesses
 16 Bible Sunday
 23 Christ the King Sunday
 30-Dec 25 Advent in Church and Home

December-2014

Any Sunday Gift to the King Offering
 24 Christmas Eve
 25 Christmas Day

January-2015

6 Epiphany
 11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day
 12-13 Stated Clerks' Conference
 15 Deadline for receipt of 2014 Our United Outreach Contributions

February-2015

1-28 Black History Month
 1 Annual congregational reports due in GA office
 1 Denomination Day
 1 Historical Foundation Offering
 1 Souper Bowl Sunday
 8 Our United Outreach Sunday
 15 Youth Sunday
 18 Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent
 18-Apr 5 Lent to Easter

March-2015

Women's History Month (USA)
 22-28 National Farm Workers Awareness Week
 29 Palm/Passion Sunday
 29 One Great Hour of Sharing

April-2015

2 Maundy Thursday

3 Good Friday

5 Easter

12 CPCH Sunday

12-18 Family Week

25-26 30-Hour Famine

May-2015

1 Friendship Day (Church Women United)

16 MTS Closing Convocation & Graduation

24 Memorial Day Offering for Military Chaplains & Personnel for USA churches

24 Pentecost

24 World Mission Sunday

June-2015

General Assembly, Colombia, SA

CPWM Convention, Colombia, SA

July-2015

6-11 Cumberland Presbyterian Youth Conference, Bethel, McKenzie, TN

11 Program of Alternate Studies Graduation

11-25 PAS Summer Extension School, Bethel, McKenzie, TN

22-26 Ministers Retreat, Bethel, McKenzie, TN

C. REPORT NUMBER TWO OF THE MINISTRY COUNCIL SECTION I.E

The committee encourages all churches to participate in Our United Outreach and support the programs of the denomination. We believe membership at all judicatorial levels implies such support. We also believe the presbyteries should encourage all churches to support Our United Outreach. Because education about denominational programs occurs at General Assembly, we do not believe delegates should be excluded based upon previous support of programming.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That Recommendation 2 of Report Number Two of the Ministry Council Section I.e., “That General Assembly encourage Presbyteries to consider Our United Outreach support as important criteria when selecting Commissioners to General Assembly,” be denied.

D. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP, FOUNDATION AND BENEFITS

We reviewed the report and would like to call special attention to Section X.A.2. Ministerial Aid Program-Basic Requirements and Section XI.B. Group Long Term Disability Insurance. The committee encourages Presbyterial committees on Stewardship and Ordained Ministry to review this information and communicate it accordingly to churches and church employees.

The committee commends Reverend Robert Heflin and the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits for their diligent work in their many areas of responsibility.

E. REPORT OF THE OUR UNITED OUTREACH COMMITTEE

After Reverend George Cliff Hudson accepted the call to the position of Fund Development Coordinator, the Our United Outreach Committee felt the need to change the name of the position.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That Recommendation 1 of The Report of Our United Outreach Committee, “That we ask General Assembly that the title of Fund Development Coordinator be changed to Development Director for Our United Outreach,” be adopted.

The Our United Outreach allocation basis for 2014 is \$2,900,000.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That Recommendation 2 of The Report of Our United Outreach Committee, “We ask General Assembly that the following allocation for incoming 2014 Our United Outreach funds:

The allocation is to be as follows:

\$2,900,000.00

Development Coordinator	79,000.00
Debt Retirement	139,993.00
Evaluation Committee	3,500.00

	Judiciary—Insurance Deductible	25,000.00
		\$2,652,507.00
Ministry Council	\$1,326,254.00	50%
Bethel University	132,625.00	5%
Children’s Home	79,575.00	3%
Stewardship	159,150.00	6%
General Assembly Office	212,201.00	8%
Memphis Theological Seminary/ Program of Alternate Studies	185,676.00	7%
Historical Foundation	79,575.00	3%
Shared Services	450,926.00	17%
Comm. on Chaplains	9,284.00	.350%
Judiciary Committee	8,753.00	.330%
Theology/Social Concerns	3,249.00	.123%
Nominating Committee	2,719.00	.103%
Contingency Fund	2,520.00	.095%
	\$2,652,507.00	

Our United Outreach Goal \$2,900,000.00,” be adopted.

For the calendar year 2012, January 15, 2013, was used as the cut-off date for crediting Our United Outreach monies received after December 31, 2012. For bookkeeping purposes, the OUO Committee requests establishing this date formally.

RECOMMENDATION 7: That Recommendation 3 of The Report of Our United Outreach Committee, “That we ask General Assembly approval that the cut-off date for year-end Our United Outreach monies be based on the postmark as on or before the last business date no later than January 15 each year and that this be adopted as policy,” be adopted.

A website is available to facilitate communication about Our United Outreach.

RECOMMENDATION 8: That Recommendation 4 of The Report of Our United Outreach Committee, “ We ask General Assembly to encourage local churches to link their website to the Our United Outreach denominational website: www.cumberland.org/ouo,” be adopted.

F. REPORT OF THE PLACE OF MEETING COMMITTEE

The 184th General Assembly will be hosted by Tennessee –Georgia Presbytery on June 16-20, 2014 at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo Hotel concurrently with the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. The 185th General Assembly will be hosted by the Cauca Valley & Andes Presbyteries in June 2015. The Office of General Assembly is currently exploring options for the 186th General Assembly in 2016 in a geographic area convenient to both the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America.

G. THE MEMORIAL FROM RED RIVER PRESBYTERY CONCERNING CONGREGATIONS WHO SECURE LOANS

RECOMMENDATION 9: That the Memorial from Red River Presbytery Concerning Congregations Who Secure Loans which states:

“WHEREAS, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church is structured in such a way that presbyteries hold title to the properties of the churches within their bounds, and

WHEREAS, congregations who secure loans through the denominational Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits have as their guarantors the presbytery of which they are a part, and

WHEREAS, the difficult economic times in which we are living and the unfortunate decline of some congregations can make it difficult for churches to keep current with the loan payments

through the denominational loan program, and
WHEREAS, it would make the planning of assistance with congregations who are struggling financially much more manageable if presbyterial committees are informed in a timely fashion so that their debt load does not become too big a burden for the presbytery, and
WHEREAS, a presbytery can better assist with a congregation to get back in good standing on their loan when they are made aware of the situation before it becomes completely overwhelming or unmanageable,
WHEREAS, there does not currently appear to be a timeline for reporting problems with debt repayment from the denominational Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits to the presbytery being affected by this situation,
THEREFORE, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the 183rd General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church instruct the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits to make it 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.

I certify that this is a true copy of a memorial adopted by Red River Presbytery on April 20, 2013.

Signed:

Reverend Vernon Sansom, Stated Clerk”, be adopted.

H. LINE ITEM BUDGETS SUBMITTED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENCIES

The committee reviewed the line item budgetary items. No actions were required of this committee.

Respectfully submitted:
The Committee on Stewardship

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY COUNCIL/COMMUNICATIONS/DISCIPLESHIP

I. REFERRALS

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report Number One of the Ministry Council, except Sections IV and V, which are referred to Chaplains/Missions/Pastoral Development; and The Report Number Two of the Ministry Council, except Section 1.b-c, which is referred to Judiciary; Section I.e which is referred to Stewardship/Elected Officers; and Section III & IV which are referred to Champlains/Missions/Pastoral Development.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Ms. Edith Old, Director of Ministries; Reverend Troy Green, Representative from Ministry Council; Reverend Elinor Swindle Brown, Discipleship Ministry Team; and Mark Davis, Communications Ministry Team.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

A. REPORT NUMBER ONE OF THE MINISTRY COUNCIL

1. Ministry Council

The Committee met with Ms. Edith Old, Director of Ministries and Reverend Troy Green, a representative from the Ministry Council. They shared information about the structure of the ministry council and the implications of this structure for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. They shared with the committee the importance of Our United Outreach Giving and the importance of having people interested in serving on the council to get in touch with them. They also shared with us their leadership vision of equipping the congregations, specifically the laity, to do the ministry of the church. They then shared how youth advisory members serving on the ministry council are a crucial part of this vision. Due to the importance of the youth advisory members on the council and the scheduling conflicts that arise in youth going off to college the committee recommends the following:

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report One of the Ministry Council, “That General Assembly Bylaw 10.08.03 be amended to read “The Stated Clerk, Moderator, and Immediate Past Moderator shall be designated as Advisory Members to the board of directors of the Ministry Council. In addition, the corporation shall elect three (3) Youth Advisory Members who shall be between the ages of 15 – 17 be elected for 1-year terms, with eligibility for re-election for one additional term” beginning in 2014; and that following this approved change to General Assembly Bylaw 10.08.03, the Ministry Council Bylaws be amended accordingly,” be adopted.

2. Discipleship Ministry Team

The Committee met with Reverend Elinor Swindle Brown, Discipleship Ministry Team, and Elizabeth Gilbert Horsley, a representative of the Ministry Council. They shared with us the curriculum that our Discipleship Ministry Team produces and then spoke to the benefits of having curriculum endorsed by the General Assembly. They shared with the criteria they used when evaluating curriculum which was finding writers rooted in the Reformed Faith.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 2 of the Report One of the Ministry Council, “That the 183rd General Assembly endorse Encounter, Faith Out Loud, Faith Alive, Feasting on the Word, and Gather Round as CPC approved curriculum,” be adopted.

There is a great need in our times to create a safe environment for all people who walk through the doors of our churches and participate in the activities and events associated with our churches. The issue was also addressed in pre-assembly workshops prior to the 183rd General Assemblies. After discussing the necessity for this type of planning to be done in our churches the committee then discussed the Recommendation 3 of the Discipleship Ministry Team Report. The committee then amended the recommendation to make it clearer that the plans are to be unique to each ministry setting.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 3 of the Report One of the Ministry Council, “That the 183rd General Assembly approve a plan for all congregations, presbyteries, synods, and denominational groups to

have a safe sanctuary policy in place by December 31, 2014,” be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That the 183rd General Assembly approve that all congregations, presbyteries, synods, and denominational groups have a safe sanctuary plan in place by December 31, 2014,” be adopted.

B. REPORT NUMBER TWO OF THE MINISTRY COUNCIL

The process of Certification of Youth ministers and certification of Christian educators were recommended to the 2011 and 2012 General Assemblies respectively. We will have our first candidate, Joanna Bellis, eligible for certification this spring. In light of this the committee considered Recommendations 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 all together. During our discussion a concern was brought up about the wording of Recommendation 4 – *“That upon satisfactory examination by presbytery for certification, a commission be named to administer the certification in a commissioning/installation service of worship by asking the questions for certification approved by the General Assembly.”* The committee had concerns that the word installation is most often associated with installing someone to serve in a particular ministry setting. Reverend Elinor Brown came back before the committee to address this concern and expressed that she thought the word installation had already been removed. The committee was encouraged to remove the word installation from Recommendation 4 and was in agreement that the word be removed and that the minutes reflect this removal.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That Recommendation 3 of the Report Number Two of the Ministry Council, “That Presbyterial Committees on the Ministry, when satisfied that a candidate for certification of either Youth Ministry or Christian Education has completed the educational requirements and upon satisfactory examination of the candidate, recommend to presbytery that the candidate be examined for certification by the presbytery. No call to a church is needed for certification,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That Recommendation 4 of the Report Number Two of the Ministry Council, “That upon satisfactory examination by presbytery for certification, a commission be named to administer the certification in a commissioning/installation service of worship by asking the questions for certification approved by the General Assembly,” be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 7: That upon satisfactory examination by presbytery for certification, a commission be named to administer the certification in a commissioning service of worship by asking the questions of certification approved by the General Assembly, be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 8: That Recommendation 5 of the Report Number Two of the Ministry Council, “That a candidate for certification may be examined and approved for certification by presbytery pending completion of all necessary classes prior to the commissioning service”, be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 9: That Recommendation 6 of the Report Number Two of the Ministry Council, “That the Discipleship Ministry Team will provide certificates for both Youth Minister and Christian Educator certifications and presbyteries may request these through the CP Resources,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 10: That Recommendation 7 of the Report Number Two of the Ministry Council, “That if at all possible, a member of the Discipleship Ministry Team, either staff or elected members, attend the commissioning service of individuals completing the certification of Youth Minister or Christian Educator process,” be adopted.

C. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE COMMITTEE

The committee spent a significant amount of time discussing the need for curriculum that is in the native languages of all Cumberland Presbyterians. Numerous committee members expressed the need for curriculum in these ministry settings and the great benefit they would provide the churches there. The committee submits the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION 11: That the 183rd General Assembly encourage the Discipleship Ministry Team to pursue creating 1st edition curriculum in native languages that represent all Cumberland Presbyterians” be adopted.

Respectfully submitted:

The Committee on Ministry Council/Communication/Discipleship

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAINS/MISSIONS/PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

I. REFERRALS

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report Number One of the Ministry Council, Sections IV and V; The Report Number Two of the Ministry Council, Sections III and IV; and The Report of the Commission on Military Chaplains and Personnel.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Reverend Ed Brogan, Director Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel; Reverend Charles McCaskey, Retired Army Chaplain; Reverend Milton Ortiz, Pastoral Development Ministry Team Leader; Reverend George Estes, Missions Ministry Team Leader; Reverend Sam Romines, representative for the Ministry Council; and Reverend Michael Sharpe, General Assembly Stated Clerk.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

A. REPORT NUMBER ONE OF THE MINISTRY COUNCIL, SECTIONS IV & V

This committee would like to commend the Missions Ministry Team and Team Leader, Reverend George Estes, for their efforts to enable the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in fulfilling its call to God's mission of redemption and reconciliation on a global basis. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church continues to grow daily through many global ministry efforts.

The committee notes the retirement of Reverend Robert Watkins, who retired July 2012 and commends him for his 44 years of service as a missionary, pastor, director of global missions, and staff member of the Board of Missions/Missions Ministry Team. The committee commends Reverend Watkins for his significant contributions to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and his global vision for God's church. We wish God's blessings in his retirement.

The committee would like to call attention to the inadvertent omission to recognize the presence of Cumberland Presbyterian missionary John Lovelace. Also present are current missionaries Kenneth and Delight Hopson, Boyce and Beth Wallace, Daniel and Kay Jang, and former missionary Beverly Stott. We celebrate with Boyce and Beth Wallace on their 50 year anniversary of mission work in Colombia. Our committee commends each of you and the many other missionaries current and past ministering and delivering the gospel of Jesus Christ on behalf of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

The committee calls attention to the Missions Advocate Retreat, March 7-8, 2014, at the West Nashville Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Presbyterian Boards of Missions and others are encouraged to send representatives.

The committee notes the Youth Missions Trip to Hong Kong, June 28-July 15, 2014.

The committee recognizes Reverend Johan Daza as the new Director of Cross-Cultural Ministries in the United States.

The committee commends Reverend Lynn Thomas, Director of Global Cross-Cultural Ministries, for his tireless and sacrificial service to furthering God's Kingdom around the world.

The committee wishes to call attention to the need for a missionary fund to help fund current and future mission efforts around the world as a part of the Step Out! movement previously approved by General Assembly. The committee recognizes that an excellent way to raise funds for missions could be through a denomination-wide Missionary Support Fund such as the Stott-Wallace Missionary Fund being introduced at this General Assembly and already fully endorsed by the Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry. We concur in the need for the fund as well as with the funding method proposed by the Missions Ministry Team and encourage ongoing creative fund raising throughout the year, therefore we make the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 4 of the Report Number One of the Ministry Council, "That the General Assembly authorize a church-wide missionary fund offering, in response to Step Out! Goals, to be named the Stott-Wallace Missionary Fund, directed toward the support of Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries, with the 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,” be adopted.

This Committee would like to commend the Pastoral Development Ministry Team and Team Leader, Reverend Milton Ortiz, for providing care, concern, and resources for clergy and probationers of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and keeping God’s call before the church in the United States and around the globe.

The committee calls attention to three items from the Pastoral Development Ministry Team’s report:

a. The 2014 Ministers Conference will be held next January 14-16, 2014, in Huntsville, Alabama. The theme will be “Preaching the Parables of Jesus” by Cumberland Presbyterians and will feature eight Cumberland Presbyterian and Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America preachers sharing their sermons on select parables.

b. The Clergy Crisis Fund administered by the Pastoral Development Ministry Team exists to help ministers and the families of ministers in need beyond the realm of normal circumstances. The fund currently has approximately \$20,000 available to assist in clergy crisis situations but the fund is still open to more gifts. The Pastoral Development Ministry Team dreams of a fund with \$50,000 available to assist in clergy crisis situations.

c. The Ministers Retreat is offered yearly at the Summer Extension School (third block of Program of Alternate Studies) to provide ministers a time to get away from everyday stresses in a setting that combines rest and reflection. This year’s retreat will be held July 16-20, 2013, at Bethel University. The Pastoral Development Ministry Team provides \$1,500 in scholarships for interested ministers as well as free lodging.

B. REPORT NUMBER TWO OF THE MINISTRY COUNCIL, SECTION III & IV

The committee has extensively discussed the challenges of the Missions Ministry Team as they work to evangelize and plant churches globally in Christ on behalf of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and yet fulfill the constitutional requirements for the formation of new churches, new Presbyteries, and the installation of pastors on non-USA mission fields such as the newly developing Guatemalan field. The committee further recognizes need for a constitutional interpretation of the process by which new works and new fields can be established constitutionally with more ease. It is also the feeling of the committee that members of the Missions Ministry Team who already make trips on behalf of our denomination should be empowered to act on our behalf in Step Out! efforts. Historically recognizing such a need, the 1984 General Assembly so empowered the Board of Missions to act on non-USA mission fields to carry out the function of a presbytery when no presbytery had yet to be formed. Due to the structural reorganization of the denominational boards and agencies, this programmatic provision needs to be reassigned to the appropriate entity. Further recognizing that the Missions Ministry Team meets regularly at least twice a year with elected and staff members (clergy and elders), we therefore make the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 8 of the Report Number Two of the Ministry Council, “That the General Assembly, following previously approved guidelines and in interpretation of the Constitution, sections 9.4 d, j, and m, designates the Missions Ministry Team (elected and staff members) or its successor 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. The Missions Ministry Team is authorized to conduct all actions typical in oversight of such mission work until such time as a presbytery can be formed to accommodate the mission churches, pastors and probationers. As part of its oversight, the Missions Ministry Team may, if circumstances warrant, attach mission work to an existing presbytery, with its approval, following General Assembly-approved guidelines for host presbyteries,” be adopted.

The committee recognizes the extreme importance of ministerial ethics and that the Pastoral Development Ministry Team has thoughtfully prepared a study guide developed for the ministers and congregations of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in an effort to define ethical standards of ministry that are clear to ministers and congregations. Seeing the importance of understanding ministerial ethics, we therefore make the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 9 of the Report Number Two of the Ministry Council, “That the 183rd General Assembly encourage Cumberland Presbyterian ministers, probationers, sessions, congregations, presbyterial committees, denominational staff and institutions to study the Covenant of Trust: Ministerial Ethics for Cumberland Presbyterians,” be adopted.

The committee encourages presbyteries to require probationers and licentiates to study the Covenant of Trust.

C. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MILITARY CHAPLAINS & PERSONNEL

The committee appreciates the ministry of our Cumberland Presbyterian chaplains who minister to military personnel both in the United States and around the globe. We affirm the work of our military chaplains as they continue to provide spiritual guidance for military personnel and families in these challenging times. The committee encourages churches to support the work of military chaplains in the following ways:

- a. Contact the Stated Clerk's Office for information on military chaplains at local bases.
- b. Contact the Stated Clerk's Office for information on supporting overseas chapel programs.
- c. Contact local Veterans services (VFW, American Legion, Vet Centers, VA Hospitals, National Guard) for opportunities to support local veterans and families.

Recognizing the need for funding to continue the work of the chaplaincy, we make the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION 4: That the collection of an annual Memorial Day Offering, which is recommended to take place on the Sunday closest to Memorial Day yearly, be encouraged in the churches across the denomination in the United States and the money collected from such church offerings be sent to the General Assembly Stated Clerk and then forwarded to the Chaplains Council for support of their efforts.

Respectfully submitted:

The Committee on Chaplains/Missions/Pastoral Development

**The
 Proceedings
 of the**
**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-THIRD
 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**
of the
CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
session held in
MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE
June 17 - 21, 2013

At Murfreesboro, Tennessee and within the facilities of the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center, there the seventeenth day of June in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Thirteen, at the appointed hour of two o'clock in the afternoon, Minister and Elder Commissioners from the various presbyteries, youth advisory delegates and visitors assembled.

FIRST DAY – MONDAY – JUNE 17, 2013

PRE-ASSEMBLY WORKSHOPS

Commissioners, Youth Advisory Delegate, and visitors were invited to attend the following workshops. Each was presented twice so attendees could participate in two separate workshops.

- “Set Them Free - Human Trafficking 101,” led by Pam Phillips-Burk.
- “Helping your Congregation with the “E” Word: Evangelism,” led by T.J. Malinoski.
- “Curriculum Chat,” led by Jodi Rush.
- “Safe Sanctuary,” led by Susan Groce.
- “Lay Leader Program,” led by Members of the Pastoral Development Team.
- “Unification Updates,” led by Members of the Joint Unification Task Force.
- “Our United Outreach,” led by Cliff Hudson and Ron Gardner.

OPENING WORSHIP

In the Murfreesboro Embassy Suites & Convention Center, the one hundred eighty-third General Assembly, the Convention of Cumberland Presbyterian Women’s Ministry, and visitors shared in worship. The Worship Director was the Reverend Lisa Scott, Missouri Presbytery. The Song Leader was the Reverend Lanny Johnson, Murfreesboro Presbytery. The Prelude, Special Music and Postlude were performed by Vocal Authority from Bethel University. Ms. Carla Bellis, Cumberland Presbyterian Women’s Ministry National President read the scripture: Acts 3:1-10 and II Corinthians 4:7-12. The Reverend Robert Rush, Retiring Moderator of the General Assembly delivered the sermon, “Telling Your Story With Confidence In God.” The Blessing and Benediction was pronounced by the Reverend Lisa Scott.

THE ASSEMBLY IS CONSTITUTED

The Moderator, the Reverend Robert Rush, called the assembly to order. The Reverend Jeff Briggs, North Central Presbytery, prayed the constituting prayer. On motion, the program was adopted.

Elizabeth Forester, Youth Advisory Delegate, West Tennessee Presbytery, presented the Report of the Credentials Committee. There were forty-nine (49) ministers, forty-four (44) elders, making a total

of ninety-three (93) commissioners present at 2:00 p.m. There were twenty-four (24) Youth Advisory Delegates present. On motion by Reverend Melissa Knight, Del Cristo Presbytery, the report was concurred in, marked appendix "A" and filed.

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

Moderator Robert Rush declared the floor open for nominations for the office of Moderator of the one hundred eighty-third General Assembly. The following nominations, previously endorsed by their presbytery were presented: the Reverend James McGuire, Presbytery of East Tennessee, nominated the Reverend James Lively, Presbytery of East Tennessee. The Reverend Cliff Hudson, Tennessee-Georgia Presbytery, nominated the Reverend Forest Prosser, Tennessee-Georgia Presbytery.

The Moderator declared that nominations cease and the body proceeded to hear the nomination speeches. The Reverend James McGuire gave the nominating speech in favor of the Reverend James Lively and the Reverend Cliff Hudson spoke in favor of the Reverend Forest Prosser. Both nominees were given the opportunity to talk of their faith journeys and vision for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

The Moderator asked that the commissioners cast ballots. Ballots were collected and presented to the Credential Committee for counting.

While the ballots were being counted, the Moderator introduced the pastor host, the Reverend Jeff Clark, Murfreesboro Presbytery, pastor of Joywood Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Reverend Clark welcomed the assembly on behalf of Murfreesboro Presbytery. Reverend Clark then introduced the Mayor of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Mr. Tommy Bragg. Mayor Bragg welcomed the General Assembly to Murfreesboro and invited the General Assembly to meet again in Murfreesboro in the future.

Moderator Rush recognized the following members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America General Assembly Executive Board: Reverend Elton Hall, Moderator, Reverend Theodis Acklin, Stated Clerk, Elder Lewis Leon Cole, Jr., Reverend Anthony Hollis, Elder Craig White, Dr. Lynne Herring, Administrative Director, and Attorney William Underwood. The Assembly greeted the Board with applause. Moderator Rush invited the Reverend Elton Hall, Moderator of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America to address the body. Moderator Hall brought greetings to the body from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America.

The Reverend Lisa Knight, Del Cristo Presbytery reported the results of the Election of the Moderator. Sixty (60) votes cast for Reverend Forest Prosser and twenty-nine (29) votes and for Reverend James Lively. Moderator Rush declared the Reverend Forest Prosser, Moderator of the one hundred eighty-third General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

The Reverend Cliff Hudson escorted Moderator Prosser to the Podium. Retiring Moderator Robert Rush placed the Moderator's cross on Reverend Prosser, and presented him the gavel. Moderator Prosser introduced his wife, Mina, as well as granddaughters, Jordan and Jade Baker, daughter Karen Baker and brother and sister-in-law Robert and Toni Prosser and their daughter Cynthia Bowker.

Moderator Prosser opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Moderator. The Reverend James (Jamie) Lively was nominated. There being no other nominations, the Moderator declared nominations cease. The Reverend James (Jamie) Lively, Presbytery of East Tennessee, was elected as Vice-Moderator of the one hundred eighty-third General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

The Stated Clerk, Michael Sharpe, invited the retiring Moderator to the podium and presented the Reverend Robert Rush with a replica of the Moderator's cross and a gavel representing the one used in the one hundred eighty-second General Assembly. Reverend Rush thanked the assembly for allowing him to serve as moderator.

The Stated Clerk, Michael Sharpe announced that the referrals to committees will be printed in the minutes as presented in the preliminary minutes with one change.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

Referrals to the Committee on Children's Home and Historical Foundation

Page Report

248 The Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation

269 The Report of the Board of Trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home

Referrals to the Committee on Higher Education

Page	Report
224	The Report of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary

Referrals to the Committee on Judiciary

Page	Report
34	The Report of the Stated Clerk, Section IV, Recommendation 1
121	The Report Number Two of the Ministry Council, Section I.b-c, which includes Recommendation 1
258	The Report of the Permanent Committee on Judiciary
261	The Report of the Joint Committee on Amendments
287	The Report of the Evaluation Committee

Referrals to the Committee on Chaplains/Missions/Pastoral Development

Page	Report
61	The Report Number One of the Ministry Council, Section IV & V, which includes Recommendation 4
128	The Report Number Two of the Ministry Council, Section III & IV, which includes Recommendations 8 & 9
256	The Report of the Commission on Military Chaplains and Personnel

Referrals to the Committee on Ministry Council/Communication/Discipleship

Page	Report
40	The Report Number One of the Ministry Council, Except Section IV & V, Recommendation 4, which is referred to Chaplains/Missions/Pastoral Development
121	The Report Number Two of the Ministry Council, Except the following: Section I.b-c, Recommendation 1, which is referred to Judiciary Section I.e, Recommendation 2, which is referred to Stewardship/Elected Officers Section III & IV, Recommendations 8 & 9, which is referred to Chaplains/Missions/ Pastoral Development

Referrals to the Committee on Stewardship/Elected Officers

Page	Report
32	The Report of the Moderator
33	The Report of the Stated Clerk, Except Section IV, Recommendation 1, which is referred to Judiciary
126	The Report Number 2 of the Ministry Council Section I.d which includes Recommendation 2
197	The Report of the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits
246	The Report of the Our United Outreach Committee
264	The Report of the Place of Meeting Committee
275	The Memorial from Red River Presbytery Concerning Congregations Who Secure Loans
278	Line Item Budgets Submitted by General Assembly Agencies

Referrals to the Committee on Theology and Social Concerns

Page	Report
266	The Report of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns
268	The Report of the Unification Task Force
275	The Memorial from Grace Presbytery Concerning The Distinction Between Christianity and Islam
276	The Resolution from Grace Presbytery Concerning The Sacrament of Baptism

At 4:10 p.m. the Vice-Moderator, Jamie Lively, led the assembly in prayer. Recess was declared until 8:30 a.m. Tuesday. Committees met briefly to organize.

THE EVENING PROGRAM

The General Assembly, the Convention of Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry, and

visitors participated in a reception to honor the past Moderator, the Reverend Robert Rush; the newly elected Moderator, the Reverend Forest Prosser; the newly elected Vice-Moderator, the Reverend James (Jamie) Lively; the President of the Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry, Ms. Carla Bettis; and the President-elect of the Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry, Ms. Melody Dierking.

SECOND DAY – TUESDAY – JUNE 17, 2013

The General Assembly and visitors began their day in worship. Wonderful music was provided once again by Bethel University's Vocal Authority. The Reverend Lisa Scott, Del Cristo Presbytery, served as Worship Director with the Reverend Lanny Johnson, Murfreesboro Presbytery, serving as Song Leader. The Scripture Reading for the morning was Acts 3:11-26; 4:1-4 which was read by the Reverend Lisa Scott. The message, "Telling Your Story So That Others Might Know And Love Jesus Christ" was presented by the Reverend Wilfrido Quinonez, Cauca Valley Presbytery. The message was translated by the Reverend Johan Esteban Daza, Cross-Culture Ministries Director.

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

The Moderator, Forest Prosser, called the assembly to order. The opening prayer was given by the Reverend Boyce Wallace. There were forty-seven (47) ministers, forty-one (41) elders, and twenty-two (22) youth advisory delegates present. Moderator Prosser announced that he would be attending to personal business during the morning session and asked the Vice-Moderator, James (Jamie) Lively to preside in his absence.

Vice-Moderator Lively introduced the Reverend Charles McCaskey, Murfreesboro Presbytery who greeted the assembly on behalf of the Commission on Chaplains. He then introduced the Reverend Edward T. Brogan, Director of the Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel. Reverend Brogan explained the importance of the work of Military Chaplains from the Civil War to the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He thanked the body for the support of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Reverend McCaskey presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the General Assembly to Reverend Brogan for his service to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Cumberland Presbyterian Chaplains upon his retirement.

Vice-Moderator Lively introduced Elder Ron Gardner, representing the Our United Outreach Committee. Elder Gardner gave the history of the hiring of the Our United Outlook Development Director. He reported that since hiring the Reverend Cliff Hudson to the position, nine (9) new endowments have been established. Reverend Hudson was introduced and spoke on his vision for Our United Outreach.

Vice-Moderator Lively introduced the Reverend Jay Earheart-Brown, President of Memphis Theological Seminary who introduced MTS Board of Trustee members: Elder Mark Maddox and Ms. Pat Meeks who brought tribute honoring the recently deceased member of the Board of Trustees, the Reverend Craig Martindale. Craig's wife, Dana Martindale, daughter Kelly Martindale, son and daughter-in-law Craig, Jr. and his wife, Frances Martindale and their son were introduced to the assembly. Ms. Martindale expressed her appreciation and spoke of her remembrances of Craig. She shared that Craig wanted to be remembered as one who loved the Lord. Craig's son also shared remembrances of his father.

Vice-Moderator Lively introduced the Reverend Don Tabor representing the Board of Trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home. Reverend Tabor brought greetings to the assembly. He announced the resignation of the Reverend Kevin Henson as President of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home. Reverend Tabor announced that the Children's Home, Vice President, the Reverend Richard Brown has been appointed by the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home Board of Trustees to serve as Interim President as a search for a new CEO/President is conducted.

Reverend Brown addressed the assembly telling the story of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home. Reverend Brown remembered former Director, the Reverend James Gilbert and his legacy. He also praised the work and vision of those who followed Reverend Gilbert, especially Reverend Kevin Henson. He also promoted the search for the new position of CEO/President and asked that those interested in the position should contact Children's Home board member, Ms. Patricia Long.

Reverend Brown introduced the new Vice President of Development, Ms. LaToya Dennis. Ms. Dennis greeted the assembly and expressed her appreciation for the welcome she has received from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and her enjoyment of the worship experiences during General Assembly. She told of her life and faith walk and her commitment to the Children's Home. Ms. Dennis talked about the new directions and expanded ministry for the Children's Home. She also told of the graduation of one of the residents and the impact that the Children's Home and her graduation had made on her life.

Vice-Moderator Lively introduced the Reverend Lynn Thomas, Director Global Cross Cultural Missions. Reverend Thomas recognized Boyce and Beth Wallace for fifty years of service as Missionaries to Colombia, South America. The Wallaces addressed the body. Beth invited everyone to attend General Assembly in 2015 in Colombia. She told of the wonderful experience that will be enjoyed in Colombia. She also spoke of the work that is taking place in Colombia. Boyce thanked the assembly for fifty years of fun.

Reverend Thomas introduced Daniel and Kay Jang and their children who serve the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in the Philippines. There are now 120 congregations in the Philippines.

Reverend Thomas noted that the Cumberland Presbyterian Church is active in seventeen (17) countries with thirty-four (34) missionaries.

Also recognized was Beverly Stott, former missionary and widow of missionary Buddy Stott. Ms. Stott told of their work in Japan and thanked the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for the years of support.

Also present was the Reverend John Lovelace, former missionary to Colombia, who served the Church faithfully in Colombia for many years and has led over 100 short term mission work teams since his return to live in the USA.

There were no Resolutions presented by Commissioners.

Vice-Moderator Lively dismissed the body to gather for Worship and Holy Communion on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. The remainder of the day was devoted to committee work.

THE EVENING PROGRAM

At 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening, the Discipleship Ministry Team and Historical Foundation sponsored "Celebrating 90 years of Youth Ministry." Participants gathered for music, energizers, photos from the past, video interviews, cup cakes and ice cream and fellowship as the ministries of CPYC, NACPYPF and YPGA were celebrated by those who attended and/or provided leadership in the past.