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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 shaded sections which are referred to Missions/Ministry and Item III which is referred to Board of Stewardship, and The Report Number Two of the Ministry Council except shaded sections which are referred to Missions/;Ministry and item C which is referred to Judiciary.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

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

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

A. REPORT NUMBER ONE OF THE MINISTRY COUNCIL EXCEPT SHADED SECTIONS WHICH ARE REFERRED TO MISSIONS/MINISTRY AND ITEM III WHICH IS REFERRED TO BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

The Report Number One of the Ministry Council except shaded sections which are referred to Missions/Ministry and item III which is referred to Board of Stewardship was received and the following recommendations were made:

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report Number One of the Ministry Council, “that the 186th General Assembly amend the Ministry Council Bylaws, ARTICLE III, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AUTHORITY, AND MEETINGS, Section E., Meetings “The board of directors shall meet at least three times annually upon the call of the president or secretary . . .” to “The board of directors shall meet a least twice a year upon the call of the president or secretary . . .” beginning in 2017. (MC Bylaws online at <http://cpcmc.org/mc/bylaws/>),” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 2 of the Report Number One of the Ministry Council, “that the 186th General Assembly urge each congregation and presbytery to proactively recruit and encourage qualified leaders to prayerfully consider opportunities to serve as elected board members at the denominational level, to include the Ministry Council and all other denominational entities,” be denied.

The General Assembly communicates directives and instructions to the presbyteries which then pass along that information to congregations, therefore:

RECOMMENDATION 3: That the 186th General Assembly urge each presbytery to proactively recruit and encourage qualified leaders to prayerfully consider opportunities to serve as elected board members at the denominational level, to include the Ministry Council and all other denominational entities.

B. REPORT NUMBER TWO OF THE MINISTRY COUNCIL

We commend the ministry council on their hard work, continued exceptional stewardship of all their resources, and the creation of a cooperative and empowering environment.

Respectfully submitted:

The Committee on Ministry Council/Communication/Discipleship

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAINS/HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

I. REFERRALS

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation and the Report of the Commission on Military Chaplains and Personnel.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Susan Knight Gore, Archivist, Historical Foundation, Lisa Oliver, representative, Board of the Historical Foundation and Reverend Mary McCaskey-Benedict, representative, Commission on Chaplains and Military Chaplain, Glenn Turner.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

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

As a committee we want to commend the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation and Archivist, Ms. Susan Knight Gore for their hard work and dedication.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation that, “That the General Assembly make congregations and presbyteries aware of the 1810 Circle and encourage new members to support this endeavor annually,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation that, “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,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation that, “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,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That Recommendation 4 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation that, “That the General Assembly encourage all congregations to preserve their session records by depositing them in the Historical Foundation,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That Recommendation 5 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation that, “That the General Assembly instruct each synod and presbytery to deposit their minutes in a timely fashion with the Historical Foundation,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That Recommendation 6 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation that, “That the General Assembly instruct presbyteries to locate the session records when closing a church and then deposit them in the Historical Foundation,” be adopted.

B. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MILITARY CHAPLAINS AND PERSONNEL

After reading the Report of the Commission on Military Chaplains and Personnel, we concur in the report and make the following recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 7: That General Assembly encourage each presbytery to communicate with their congregations to have a special offering on, May 28, 2017 for Memorial Day and all subsequent Sundays on or before Memorial Day.

Respectfully submitted:
The Committee on Chaplains/Historical Foundation

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN’S HOME AND HIGHER EDUCATION

I. REFERRALS

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary, The Report of the Board of Trustees of Bethel University and the Board of Trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Reverend Richard Brown, President, CEO and General Counsel; Dr. Jennifer Livings, Vice President Programs, Ms. Debbie Garrett, Assistant Vice President of Development; Reverend Lisa Anderson and Reverend Duane Dougherty, members of the Board of Trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home; Reverend Jay Earheart-Brown, President Memphis Theological Seminary; Reverend Susan Parker, Member of the Board of Trustees for Memphis Theological Seminary; and Reverend Michael Qualls, Director of Program of Alternate Studies; and Dr. Robert Truitt, President of Bethel University.

III. THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

After the approval of the 183rd General Assembly, “Ministry for the Real World,” a comprehensive campaign to raise \$25 million through 2020 for operations, capital improvements, and endowment was launched in October 2015. To date, \$10 million has been raised. The priority capital improvement project is construction of a new chapel. The second is construction of a home for the Methodist House of Studies.

A third initiative is to increase the endowment and create the Baird-Buck Chair in Cumberland Presbyterian Studies. This endowed chair will add to the many that have already been created to offer scholarships and focused teaching at MTS.

Another emphasis of the “Ministry for the Real World” is to equip ordained and lay ministers to model Christ-like behavior everywhere they are and in every contact they make.

The trustees have done an excellent job in shepherding Memphis Theological Seminary.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary, “that the General Assembly express its gratitude to the five trustees named above for their faithful service to Memphis Theological Seminary and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church,” be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That the General Assembly express its gratitude to those who continue to serve, but especially the following individuals for their faithful service to Memphis Theological Seminary and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church:

Ms. Pat Meeks (Cumberland Presbyterian, Cordova, Tennessee – went home to Jesus April 2016); Reverend Robert M. Shelton (Cumberland Presbyterian, Dallas Texas); Mr. Dan Hatzenbuehler (Episcopal, Memphis, Tennessee); Mr. Tim Orr (Cumberland Presbyterian, Newbern, Tennessee) and Mrs. K. C. Warren (Presbyterian, USA, Memphis, Tennessee)

As a Seminary that teaches and prepares ministers of all denominations for the life of ministry, the committee commends the efforts of the Real World Campaign.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary, “that the General Assembly encourage individuals, churches, and groups across the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to consider investing in the development of future leaders through the “Ministry for the Real World” campaign,” be adopted.

MTS has completed the experimental phase for all four Cumberland Presbyterian Studies courses to be offered on-line. When fully implemented, two could be taken on-line and two in a traditional classroom setting.

The PAS advisory council is exploring partnership with the “Sower’s Field” in creating a certification program

where potential new church development leaders would consult with missional leaders, PAS and seminary students, current pastors and lay leaders to equip them for new church development.

New academic initiatives include a new degree program, the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (2-year program), designed for persons who are called to ministries other than ordained pastoral ministries.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary, “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,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That Recommendation 4 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary, “that the third Sunday in August, (August 21, 2016 and August 20, 2017) be included in the General Assembly Calendar as Seminary/PAS Sunday, and that the General Assembly encourage all churches to share information about MTS and PAS and receive a special offering on that day, or a more convenient day of the session’s choosing,” be adopted.

IV. THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BETHEL UNIVERSITY

August 2016 to July 2017 marks the Bethel Seminary/College/University’s 175th Birthday. The full report of the history of Bethel University is included in the preliminary minutes, page 116.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That the General Assembly encourages all Churches and Presbyteries celebrate the accomplishments of Bethel University’s 175 years of education and service to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the world. Bethel Forevermore!

Bethel University asks for your continued prayers and support, and asks that we recommend students to Bethel.

RECOMMENDATION 7: That the General Assembly encourage all Churches and Presbyteries to continue to support Bethel University through prayer and financial assistance and to encourage those pursuing higher education to seek information about what Bethel University has to offer.

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

Currently endowment distributions constitute 23.1% of the operating income for the Children’s Home. The market determines income of the endowment based on investments made by the managing company. There is concern that this practice is unsustainable. The committee recognizes a significant need to increase funding to sustain the operation of the Children’s Home.

There are other opportunities to help the Children’s Home in addition to giving money. Each congregation should emphasize opportunities to help. For example, Red River Presbytery is sponsoring a youth convocation Labor Day weekend where youth 4th grade through High School will come to the campus to perform interactive ministry and service at the CPCH. This type of project promotes team building, but also provides opportunities for mentoring and role modeling with the clients at CPCH. The committee endorses efforts of this nature and encourages more interaction with the CP Children’s Home.

RECOMMENDATION 8: That the third Sunday in March (March 19, 2017) be included in the General Assembly Calendar as Children’s Home Sunday, and that the General Assembly encourage all churches to share information and a video about Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home and receive a special offering on that day, or a more convenient day of the session’s choosing.

The video can be seen and downloaded at the Cumberland Children’s Home Facebook page.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Committee on the Children’s Home and Higher Education

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

I. REFERRAL

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns, The Report of the Unification Task Force, the Memorial from Covenant Presbytery Regarding Church World Services, and the Memorial from Covenant Presbytery Regarding Homosexuality.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Reverend Mitchell Walker (CPCA) and Reverend Joy Warren (CPC), representatives of the Unification Task Force; Reverend Shelia O'Mara, representative from the Unified Committee of Theology and Social Concern; Reverend Michael Qualls, Director of Program of Alternate Studies; Reverend Jay Earhart-Brown, President of Memphis Theological Seminary; Reverend Michael Sharpe, Stated Clerk of the CPC; Reverend Perryn Rice, Pastor of Lake Highlands Presbyterian Church; Reverend Byron Forester, member of the Permanent Committee of the Theology and Social Concern; Elder L. Leon Cole, Jr., Moderator of the 141st General Assembly of the CPCA; Rex Hayes, Hunter Hughes, Ethan Kohrs, Will Lombard, Micah Warren, Maggie McClung, Hayden Hughes, Max Moore, Gavin Kohrs, Ana Montañó, and Ariana Hudgins, Kids Connect Commissioners in Training.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

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

1. Study Papers

We commend the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns for their faithful work in preparing the study papers entitled *Homelessness as a Justice Issue – A Theological Response* and *A Confessional Approach to Discrimination*. We encourage all ministers and presbyteries to study and discuss them among their members.

The committee found two areas in these respective papers that needed amending. First, in the paper *Homelessness as a Justice Issue – A Theological Response*, the committee amended the final paragraph before the study questions, second sentence to read, “The scriptures of the Bible continually call us out for being complicit with those who possess all the power and wealth and abandoning the marginalized people that God also loves.” Secondly, in the paper *A Confessional Approach to Discrimination*, the committee amended the quotation of the *Confession of Faith*, section 1.16, to read “God never leaves or forsakes his people. All who trust God find this truth confirmed in awareness of his love, which includes judgment upon sin, and which leads to repentance, and to greater dependence upon divine grace. All who do not trust God are, nevertheless, under the same providence, even when they ignore or reject it. It is designed to lead them also to repentance and to trust in divine grace.”

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Unified Committee of Theology and Social Concerns, “that the General Assemblies accept the papers, “Homelessness as a Justice Issue-A Theological Response” and “A Confessional Response to Discrimination” as study papers and that they be used to initiate thought and discussion within the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Unified Committee of Theology and Social Concerns, “that the Office of the General Assembly of both denominations make these papers available to churches through the stated clerks of the presbyteries,” be adopted.

2. Unification Efforts

The Committee affirms and supports the work of the Unification Task Force and any recommendation it may have for delaying the timeline for unification and the need to revise the proposed plan for unification.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the Unified Committee on Theology and

Social Concerns, “that a Sunday be set aside as Unification Sunday and that all churches have a service geared toward unification, “be adopted.

3. Church Calendar

The Committee supports the ongoing focus by the Women’s Ministry of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church on domestic violence and would like to see an addition to the church calendar to give a denomination-wide focus on the topic. Nation-wide, October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That Recommendation 4 of the Report of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns, “that National Domestic Violence Awareness Month be added to the church calendar for the month of October,” be adopted.

B. REPORT OF THE UNIFICATION TASK FORCE

The Committee heard from Reverend Mitchell Walker (CPCA) and Reverend Joy Warren (CPC) from the Unification Task Force. The Committee wishes to encourage and give great appreciation to the members of the Unification Task Force for their great faithfulness in pursuing the unification of the CPC and CPCA. The amount of work, time, and effort by each member is priceless and for their diligence, we praise Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Unification Task Force, “that the revised Plan for Union of the CPC and CPCA be approved for study in the two churches, and that all ministers, sessions, presbyteries, synods, and members of the two churches be encouraged to study the document and provide feedback to the task force during the upcoming year,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Unification Task Force, “that the General Assemblies of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church commit to meeting concurrently in the same city during the same week for the foreseeable future,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 7: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the Unification Task Force, “that the third Sunday in February be recognized in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America as Unity Sunday, and that all churches be encouraged to pray for our unity in Jesus Christ, and for discernment as we seek to express our unity more fully in the future,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 8: That the Unification Task Force meet with representatives of Memphis Theological Seminary, the Program of Alternate Studies, and the School of Continuing Education and Certification to discuss the pathways of education for clergy.

C. MEMORIAL FROM COVENANT PRESBYTERY REGARDING CHURCH WORLD SERVICES

The Committee discussed the memorial from Covenant Presbytery regarding Church World Service, and was unanimous in the following recommendation:

“We, the undersigned, do petition the Covenant Presbytery to memorialize the 2016 General Assembly with the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Church World Services has an overall rating by Charity Navigator of 81.75; and
WHEREAS, Church World Services is linked with Presbyterian Church USA, Presbyterian Church of Canada, Reformed Church in America, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, Christian Reformed Church, Church of the Brethren, Episcopal Church, Mennonites, Community of Christ, and the Moravian Church and others which accept the homosexual lifestyle as normal, ordain homosexual individuals into the ministry, and/or promote or give acceptance to those who do; and
WHEREAS, Samaritan’s Purse which has an overall rating of 96.17 rating by Charity Navigators, and
WHEREAS, Samaritan’s Purse is not in league with any of the above organizations and
WHEREAS, it behooves us to use our funds in a prudent, effective and righteous way; and
WHEREAS, Samaritan’s Purse has a very evangelical approach to its mission: (see mission statement below)
BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2016 General Assembly dissolve its relationship with Church World Services and join with Samaritan’s Purse by the 2017 General Assembly.

**Signed: the Elders of Bayou de Chine Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Dr. Kenneth G. Richards, Moderator and Pastor, Jim Crass, Mark Crass, Walter Lawrence,
Baker Thompson and Larry Wooten, Treasurer.**

Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. Emergency relief meets desperate needs of victims worldwide. Operation Christmas Child delivers more than 8 million shoebox gifts to poor children in more than 100 countries each year. World Medical Mission sends doctors, equipment, and supplies to underprivileged countries. Community development and vocational programs in impoverished villages and neighborhoods help people break the cycle of poverty and give them hope for a better tomorrow. Vulnerable children are rescued, educated, fed, clothed, and sheltered, letting them know that God loves them, Jesus died and rose again for them, and they are not forgotten.

Covenant Presbytery at its Fall Meeting of Presbytery on October 3, 2015, passed this memorial to be forwarded to the General Assembly headquarters for consideration at the 2016 General Assembly.

Signed Reese Baker, Stated Clerk, Covenant Presbytery," be denied.

D. MEMORIAL FROM COVENANT PRESBYTERY REGARDING HOMOSEXUALITY

A memorial from Covenant Presbytery was referred to this committee:

We, the undersigned, do petition the Covenant Presbytery to memorialize the 2016 General Assembly with the following resolution:

WHEREAS, in the beginning "God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27) and called it "very good"; and

WHEREAS, "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24); and

WHEREAS, nowhere in the Bible does it say God ever changed His mind or thought He made a mistake in creating humankind any differently or that marriage should be any different than between a man and a woman; and

WHEREAS, Jesus said, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." (Matthew 19:5); and

WHEREAS, The Bible is clear that anyone who keeps "practicing" sinful ways in no way conforms to God's plans for humanity - "We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers-and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me." (1 Timothy 1:8-11); and

WHEREAS, Paul admonishes the faithful - "Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them." (Romans 1:26-32) and "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. "As God has said: 'I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people. Therefore, 'Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.' And, 'I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.'" (2 Corinthians 6:14-18 and

WHEREAS, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church is currently linked with many other organizations listed below that either accept the homosexual lifestyle as normal, ordain homosexual individuals into the ministry, and/or promote and/or give acceptance to those who do:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Covenant Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church memorialize the 2016 General Assembly to separate itself from the following in all areas by the time of the General Assembly of 2017: Presbyterian Church USA, Presbyterian Church of Canada, Reformed Church in America, Evangelical

Lutheran Church in America, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, Christian Reformed Church, Church of the Brethren, Episcopal Church, Mennonites, Community of Christ, and the Moravian Church.

**Signed: the Elders of Bayou de Chine Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Dr. Kenneth G. Richards, Moderator and Pastor, Jim Crass, Mark Crass, Walter Lawrence,
Baker Thompson and Larry Wooten, Treasurer.**

Covenant Presbytery at its Fall Meeting of Presbytery on October 3, 2015, passed this memorial to be forwarded to the General Assembly headquarters for consideration at the 2016 General Assembly.

Signed Reese Baker, Stated Clerk, Covenant Presbytery,” be denied.

We commend to General Assembly the official statement on homosexuality from the 166th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

In 1996 The General Assembly adopted the following statement on Homosexuality (GA Minutes, page 313):

Whereas, in our society today, there are many issues which concern the people of God, one such issue being the rise in acceptance of and openness toward homosexual activity, and we, of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, believe there is a need to state clearly our understanding of the Biblical teaching about homosexual activity, and

Whereas, it is also our desire to set forth our position regarding the appropriate response of Christians and the church to this critical issue, especially in light of the trend in some Christian bodies toward the ordination of practicing homosexuals, and

Whereas we believe the scripture of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired word of God, the source of authority for faith and practice, and therefore, contemporary sexual attitudes and behavior are to be judged in the light of the Bible rather than the Bible being reinterpreted, modified, or overturned by current cultural trends in thought and behavior.

Be it resolved that the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church go on record affirming that Biblical teaching makes it clear that the practice of homosexuality is a sin, yet with the understanding that while God loves the sinner, He hates the sin, and His grace is available to all “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him” John 3 17

Be it further resolved, that since the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with a Christian life style and since officers of the church must be “examples to the flock.” the General Assembly go on record stating that the Cumberland Presbyterian Church does not condone the ordination of practicing homosexuals as Deacons, Elders or Ministers of Word and Sacrament; and

Be it further resolved, that the General Assembly state as its position that we, as Christians who are ourselves sinners redeemed by the grace of God. must reach out to those persons who are struggling with homosexuality, offering them Christian love, education, friendship, therapy and intercession to the end that they and we may experience true wholeness through the freeing, renewing grace of God in Jesus Christ.

E. RESOLUTION FROM JAPAN PRESBYTERY

The Committee discussed the Resolution from Japan Presbytery which states:

**Resolution Adopted by Japan Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church,
Meeting on 23 November 2015**

On the occasion of the 70th year after WWII

**Praying to be used as peacemakers, an instrument for peace, at the time of
the great crisis that would destroy the peace**

On the occasion of the 70th year after WWII, we, Japan Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, confess again our repentance to God for our nation's wartime aggression on the land of Asian neighbors by which we caused calamity through colonial domination and fifteen years of war¹.

50 years after WWII, we at last expressed our transgressions to God, which were committed by the state and churches in Japan, and we decided to embark on a new step which would bear fruit of repentance. 10 years after our decision, we resolved again to stand as a peace-maker by renewing our mission to be a watchman and taking seriously our responsibility as the church to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

However, we admit that our commitment as a watchman was not a sufficient, and we were weak peace-makers. Our state, Japan, has been driving for the past 10 years developments that would enable the nation to engage in war². In 2006, the government corrupted the Fundamental Law of Education³. In 2007, the Japan Defense Agency was upgraded to a ministry, and the Law of the National Referendum was established to enable amending the Constitution⁴. In 2012 the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP, the right-wing conservative party) delivered a draft of constitutional amendments which proposed the establishment of the Defense Force and the diminishing of human rights.⁵ In 2013, in order to realize the constitutional amendment, the cabinet of the second Abe administration railroaded through the legislature the National Security Council and the Act on the Protection of Specially Designated Secrets (SDS). In addition, Prime Minister Abe visited the Yasukuni Shrine, an act widely seen as supporting the re-militarization of Japan.⁶ In 2014, the government of Japan removed the ban of arms exports by eliminating the "Three Principles on Arms Export". Then the Abe cabinet, in spite of the violation of the Constitution, approved "the use of the right to collective self-defense" at the cabinet meeting⁷. In September 2015, both the Upper House and Lower House railroaded through new security-related laws for

¹ Fifteen years of war starting with the Manchurian incident in 1931 and ending with the Japanese surrender in 1945.

² See Appendix 1.

³ See Appendix 2.

⁴ See Appendix 3.

⁵ See Appendix 4.

⁶ See Appendix 5.

⁷ See Appendix 6.

realizing “the use of the right to collective self-defense”. Furthermore, both Houses authorized the establishment of the “Acquisition, Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA)” in order to promote arms exports.

Following the established trend, the government intensified the interference in education by enforcing the singing of the national anthem and the payment of respect to the national flag with starting.⁸ The government also increased the pressure on the media to support these changes. Under the influence of worsening relations with China and Korea, ethnic discrimination and antiforeignism, reflected in a hate-speech movement and the publication of the anti-Chinese and anti-Korean sentiment, grow rampantly in Japan.

As just described, our country Japan stands at a time of crisis in which the Constitution, written in a spirit of peace, has been corrupted, even though the Japanese had vowed not to commit the same transgressions as in the past.

In the midst of this period, we, Christians, who revere the Lord Christ of peace as the head of our church, have decided to rise as a peace-maker in the world. We oppose the politics which create animosity, division, and conflict, and we refuse the road of settling disputes by swords. We firmly protest against engaging in such evils as war which God abhors, as we confess based on the Confession of Faith 7.06⁹. We, Christians who live in reconciliation brought by Christ and who are given the message and ministry of reconciliation, seek to live “for seeking to promote reconciliation, love, and justice among all persons, classes, races, and nations”¹⁰ (The Confession of Faith 6.32). Japan Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which experienced reconciliation with Hong Kong Presbytery of the CPC when we confessed our repentance and apology for what we had done wrong during WWII, seek to build a further relationships of mutual trust with our neighbors in Asia.

Not only opposing war which brings suffering and destruction of life, but also seeking more positive peace, we bear witness to the gospel of peace, and “oppose, resist, and seek to change all circumstances of oppression--political, economic, cultural, racial--by which persons are denied the essential dignity God intends for them in the work of creation”¹¹ (the Confession of Faith 6.30). Particularly, we work with Okinawan people in a spirit of solidarity because they had been forced to live under discrimination and suppression from the mainland of Japan by, such as, the concentration of the facilities of the U.S. forces in Japan.

⁸ See Appendix 7.

⁹ The Confession of Faith 7.06: “God's judgment is experienced in history in the freedom of persons and nations to choose to engage in such evils as war, civil strife, slavery, oppression, destruction of natural resources, and political and economic exploitation. God abhors all such acts which cause needless suffering and death.”

¹⁰ The Confession of Faith 6.32: “God gives the message and ministry of reconciliation to the church. The church, corporately and through her individual members, seeks to promote reconciliation, love, and justice among all persons, classes, races, and nations.”

¹¹ The Confession of faith 6.30: “The covenant community, governed by the Lord Christ, opposes, resists, and seeks to change all circumstances of oppression--political, economic, cultural, racial--by which persons are denied the essential dignity God intends for them in the work of creation.”

We, as Christians who respect human lives and fundamental human dignities which God created, defend the Constitution of Japan which values fundamental human rights, professes an arms-denying pacifism and is built on the principle of popular sovereignty, and stand against any movement which undermines constitutionalism and a spirit of the Constitution of Japan.

Based on the resolution we adopted, we pray that the Lord of peace uses us as an instrument for peace.

APPENDIX

1. Building Nation for Enabling Japan to Engage in War

Japan caused tremendous sufferings to the people of Asian countries including its own country by wars of aggression and colonial domination during the decades before 1945. Because of our deep remorse, we decided to walk as a nation which renounced war, and established a Constitution that renounces the threat or use of force as a means of settling disputes and prohibits maintaining force. The majority of Japanese people valued this decision. However, the political administration of the (Liberal Democratic Party) LDP-led coalition has been trying to remove the constitutional constraints which renounce warfare because of the poor reflection of the past state's transgression against our neighbors, particularly in Asia.

2. Transformed the Fundamental Law of Education for the Worse

From the end of nineteenth century to the end of WWII in 1945, an education in Japan had been based on the Imperial Rescript of Education which required loyalty to the state with the emperor at the center. As the emperor centered educational system was regarded as a one of the causes which led Japan into the mistake of imperial warfare, the nation turned to the principle of sovereignty of the people, the establishment of the Constitution, and the Fundamental Law of Education (FLE) with its requirement to respect human rights. However, at the time of the revision of the FLE in 2006, lawmakers transformed the FLE. The revision of the FLE encouraged the people to do what was right for the state, by adding the ethnic Japanese values such as respecting tradition and culture, and patriotism. Thus, the revised FLE had the effect of transferring sovereignty to the state from the people, contrary to the spirit of the original FLE.

3. The Establishment of the National Referendum Law in advance of the Amendment of the Constitution

The long-term regime of the (Liberal Democratic Party) LDP's party line claims to regain the pride of Japan by revising the Constitution because they regard the Constitution as having been imposed by the U.S. at the time of defeat. At the time of the first Abe-Cabinet, the Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who exhibits intent to revise the Constitution, established the National Referendum Law (NRL) which specifies the constitutional amendment procedure as the first step for constitutional amendment. As the established NRL does not define the minimum turnout of voters, the risk is high that the Constitution could be amended with support from a minority of the people.

4. The Draft of the Revision of the Constitution which contains the Suppression of Fundamental Human Rights

The Draft of the Revision of the Constitution of the LDP stands basically against

constitutionalism which is the idea that a constitution binds national power in order to protect the rights of the people. The draft undermines inviolable human dignities and rights inherent in a human being as an individual by deleting the Article 97 which specifies that “the fundamental human rights by the Constitution guaranteed to the people of Japan are fruits of the age-old struggle of man to be free and are to be held for all time inviolate”¹², and by changing the words from “all people are respected as an individual”¹³ to “all people are respected as a human” in Article 13.

Furthermore, it would enable the nation to open the way to constrain human rights by changing the words; “the people’s human rights are respected to the utmost extent as long as they are not against the public welfare” to “the people’s human rights are respected as long as they are not against the public benefits and order.”

5. Prime Minister Abe visits the Yasukuni Shrine

Though a number of shrines exist in Japan, the Yasukuni Shrine is positioned as special because it is the shrine where dead soldiers are honored as gods who died for the emperors between the latter half of the nineteenth century and 1945. This means that their deaths deserve praise as a model to be followed by future generations. Therefore the Yasukuni Shrine has played a significant role in the support, justification, and glorification of Japan’s history of aggressive warfare. Though the Yasukuni Shrine was relegated to the one of the religious corporations after WWII, the conservative politicians who hallow the Shrine have been visiting it in order to build its national value as the place to honor Japan’s war dead. Japan Presbytery has raised its voice against this matter as a violation of the principle of separation of politics and religion and the freedom of religion, and as an act of glorification of war and of the intent to enable the state to engage in war.

6. The Abe-Cabinet authorized the use of the right to collective-defense in spite of the violation of the constitution

After WWII, Japan, based on the Article 9 of the Constitution, declared the renunciation of war and holding military powers. However, after the establishment of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) under the Constitution, the government has repeatedly claimed that the Constitution did not deny holding the retention of a minimum power necessary for self-defense, and, when subjected to foreign aggression without having any alternatives, a minimum counterattack was approved by the Constitution because it was an exclusive defense. As for collective-defense, it was not approved because it included the right to

¹² The Constitution of Japan Article 97: “The fundamental human rights by this Constitution guaranteed to the people of Japan are fruits of the age-old struggle of man to be free; they have survived the many exacting tests for durability and are conferred upon this and future generations in trust, to be held for all time inviolate.”

¹³ The Constitution of Japan Article 13: “All of the people shall be respected as individuals. Their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness shall, to the extent that it does not interfere with the public welfare, be the supreme consideration in legislation and in other governmental affairs.”

counterattack for the country when a foreign country having a close relation is struck though the country is not attacked. Therefore, even though there is no alternative but to revise the constitution to allow collective-defense, the Abe-cabinet authorized the right to collective-defense based on a fraudulent interpretation of the Constitution. The Cabinet authorization was a negation of constitutionalism because what the Abe-cabinet established by the cabinet meeting ignored the constitutional amendment procedure.

7. The Japanese government forces people to show loyalty to the flag of Hinomaru, Rising Sun, and sing the Kimigayo, the Reign of Your Majesty

In 1999 the flag of Hinomaru, Rising Sun, became the national flag and the Kimigayo, Reign of Your Majesty, was adopted as the national anthem by law despite strong opposition from many in Japan, including Japan Presbytery. Japan Presbytery opposed the moves because the flag of Hinomaru, Rising Sun, was related with the imperial system as a symbol of colonial domination and wars of aggression, and the Kimigayo, the Reign of Your Majesty, was the song for praising the emperor. The people who intended to build the nation centered on the emperor made this law even though they promised not to obligate citizens to honor the flag and anthem or compel them to participate in honoring them. However, after the law's establishment, the government compelled elementary, junior high, and high schools to hoist the flag of Hinomaru, Rising Sun, and sing the Kimigayo, the Reign of Your Majesty. By doing so, lawmakers threaten freedom of thought, belief, and conscience for Japan's citizens and children.

RECOMMENDATION 11: That the Resolution from Japan Presbytery be accepted as information and be referred to the Permanent Committee on Theology and Social Concerns for study and clarification.

F. RESOLUTION OF REPENTANCE, APOLOGY, AND RESOLVE

The Committee prayerfully discussed and sought counsel from CPC and CPCA denominational representatives, as well as the sponsor of the resolution, the "Resolution of Repentance, Apology, and Resolve." We strongly support the spirit of the resolution.

Resolution of Repentance, Apology and Resolve

Whereas, we Cumberland Presbyterians are considering the call of God to "Go" during this 186th meeting of the General Assembly; and

Whereas, Jesus sent the twelve with these instructions: "As you go, proclaim the good news. The kingdom of heaven has come near. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons." (Matthew 10:7-8); and

Whereas, we seek the healing of our divisions as Cumberland Presbyterians; and

Whereas, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was founded in 1810 in Dickson County, Tennessee, USA, and grew rapidly in a nation that endorsed, participated in, and benefited from the practice of enslaving African men, women and children who were brought to this nation through the brutal trans-Atlantic slave trade; and

Whereas, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was inconsistent in its condemnation of American slavery as an institution -- an institution that condoned the buying and selling of persons made in the image of God; an institution in which African American families were often separated, and individuals were beaten and abused in body and mind; and

Whereas, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church often condoned the segregation of its African American members into separate balconies, congregations, and classes because of the influence of cultural ideas of racial superiority and inferiority;

and

Whereas, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church refused to allow its African American members full and equal membership following emancipation and the end of slavery; organizing instead separate congregations, presbyteries, and other judicatories that were denied representation in the General Assembly, and

Whereas, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church encouraged and supported the organization of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (originally the Colored Cumberland Presbyterian Church) in 1874 in order to avoid the difficult work of integration, and to avoid offending its members who continued to hold fast to ideas of racial superiority; and

Whereas, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was complicit in accepting Jim Crow segregation, lynching as a means of social control, economic oppression of freed slaves, and denial of educational opportunities; and

Whereas, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America have both suffered from their separation, a separation that is harmful to the witness of the Church and a denial of our oneness in Christ; and

Whereas, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church laments the loss of friendship, gifts and graces from which our life, worship, witness and service would have been enriched had we not been separated all these years; and

Whereas, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church affirms the providence of God, whose purpose it is “that the whole creation be set free from its bondage to sin and death, and be renewed in Jesus Christ” (COF, 1.15); and

Whereas, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church acknowledges our ongoing need for repentance, so that “In response to God’s initiative to restore relationships, (we) make honest confession of sin against God, (our) brothers and sisters, and all of creation, and amend the past so far as is in (our) power.” (COF, 4.07); therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Cumberland Presbyterian Church repent and seek God’s forgiveness for the many ways we have benefitted from, participated in, condoned, and been blind to our role in racism, oppression of our African American brothers and sisters, and all forms of brutality; and be it further

Resolved, that the Cumberland Presbyterian Church apologize to our African American brothers and sisters, seek their forgiveness, and work to restore the broken relationships our sin has caused; and be it further

Resolved, that the Cumberland Presbyterian Church commit itself to preach the Word of God without compromise, and that we resolve to “oppose, resist, and seek to change all circumstances of oppression -- political, economic, cultural, racial, by which persons are denied the essential dignity God intends for them in the work of creation (COF, 6.30). We seek to promote reconciliation, love and justice among all persons, classes, races, and nations: (COF, 6.32). (Quoted in the Resolution Marking the 50th year since the end of World War II, by Japan Presbytery of the CPC)

RECOMMENDATION 12: With great respect to the magnitude of this resolution, the Committee, under conviction of the Holy Spirit and after a period of seeking direction from the Holy Spirit in prayer, in order for us as the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to enter into a time of faithful and continual prayer, and for a time for deeper reflection, and to give the Holy Spirit time to work in the hearts of every member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, recommend that the Resolution of Repentance, Apology, and Resolve, be referred to the Unification Task Force to examine thoroughly the language of this resolution, to assess its intended and perceived meanings, and bathe their efforts in prayer.

We humbly urge that all members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to read, study, and digest the book One Family Under God: A Story of Cumberland Presbyterians in Black and White by Thomas D. Campbell in order to better understand the history of the relationship of the CPC and CPCA.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee on Theology and Social Concerns/

Unification Task Force

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; The Report Number One of the Ministry Council, item III, 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; and The Line Item Budgets Submitted by General Assembly Agencies.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Reverend Robert Heflin, Mr. Randy Davidson, and Mr. Mark Duck (Board of Stewardship); Reverend Cliff Hudson and Mr. Ron Gardner (Our United Outreach Committee); Reverend Michael Sharpe, Stated Clerk; and Moderator of the 185th General Assembly, Reverend Michele Gentry.

We wish to express our appreciation to the persons of counsel for their presentations.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

A. REPORT OF THE MODERATOR

We commend the Moderator, Reverend Michele Gentry, for her compassionate and insightful leadership. After listening to the Moderator share her encouraging observations as well as points of concern regarding the need for individuals to serve on the Ministry Council, the committee shares the Moderator's positive expression and genuine concerns.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Suggestion 1 of the Report of the Moderator, "that both presbyteries and local churches actively recruit and encourage qualified leaders to prayerfully consider opportunities to serve as members of the Ministry Council and the Ministry Teams, submitting their information and recommendation forms in a timely manner to the Nominations Committee," be denied.

The General Assembly communicates, directs and instructs the presbyteries which then pass along that information to the congregations, therefore:

RECOMMENDATION 2: That presbyteries actively recruit and encourage qualified leaders to prayerfully consider opportunities to serve as members of the ministry council and the ministry teams, submitting their information and recommendation forms in a timely manner to the nominations committee.

B. REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK.

We commend the excellent work of the Stated Clerk, Reverend Michael Sharpe. The Report of the Stated Clerk was received and the following recommendations are made:

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Stated Clerk, "that the appointment of the Evaluation Committee be postponed until 2017," be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Stated Clerk, "that the 186th General Assembly approve the following dates for the 2016-2017 Church Calendar:

July-2016

9 Program of Alternate Studies Graduation

9-23 PAS Summer Extension School, Bethel, McKenzie, TN

19-23 Presbyterian Youth Triennium, Purdue University, Lafayette, IN

August-2016

6 BU Commencement
 20 MTS Fall Semester Begins
 21 Seminary/PAS Sunday
 22 BU Fall Semester Begins
 28-Sept 25 Christian Education Season
 30 BU Spring Convocation

September-2016

3 MTS Opening convocation
 11 Senior Adult Sunday
 18 Christian Service Recognition Sunday
 18 International Day of Prayer and Action for Human Habitat

October-2016

Clergy Appreciation Month
 2 Worldwide Communion Sunday
 9 Pastor Appreciation Sunday
 23 Native American Sunday

November-2016

Any Sunday Loaves and Fishes Program
 1 All Saints Day
 4 World Community Day (Church Women United)
 6 Stewardship Sunday
 6-9 The Forum
 13 Day of Prayer for People with Aids and Other Life-Threatening Illnesses
 13 Bible Sunday
 20 Christ the King Sunday
 27-Dec 25 Advent in Church and Home

December-2016

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

January-2017

6 Epiphany
 9 BU Spring Semester Begins
 9-10 Stated Clerks' Conference
 11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day
 13-16 Faith in 3D
 15 Deadline for receipt of 2016 Our United Outreach Contributions
 18-20 Ministers Conference, St Columba Conference Center, Bartlett, Tennessee

February-2017

Black History Month
 1 Annual congregational reports due in General Assembly office
 4 Denomination Day
 5 Historical Foundation Offering
 5 Our United Outreach Sunday
 5 Souper Bowl Sunday
 12 Youth Sunday
 24-25 30-Hour Famine

March-2017

Women's History Month (USA)
1 Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent
1-April 16 Lent to Easter
19 Children's Home Sunday
26-April 1 National Farm Workers Awareness Week

April-2017

2-8 Family Week
9 One Great Hour of Sharing
9 Palm/Passion Sunday
13 Maundy Thursday
14 Good Friday
16 Easter
28-29 30-Hour Famine

May-2017

5 Friendship Day (Church Women United)
6 BU Commencement
13 MTS Closing Convocation & Graduation
28 Memorial Day Offering for Military Chaplains & Personnel for USA churches

June-2017

4 Pentecost
4 Stott-Wallace Missionary Fund Offering/World Mission Sunday
19-23 General Assembly
20-22 CPWM Convention
25-30 Cumberland Presbyterian Youth Conference, Bethel University, McKenzie, Tennessee

July-2017

8 Children's Fest
8 Program of Alternate Studies Graduation
8-22 PAS Summer Extension School, Bethel, McKenzie, Tennessee

August-2017

1-Sept 30 Christian Education Season
5 BU Commencement
19 MTS Fall Semester Begins
20 Seminary/PAS Sunday
21 BU Fall Semester Begins
29 BU Spring Convocation
30 MTS Opening convocation

September-2017

10 Senior Adult Sunday
17 Christian Service Recognition Sunday
17 International Day of Prayer and Action for Human Habitat

October-2017

Clergy Appreciation Month
1 Worldwide Communion Sunday
15 Pastor Appreciation Sunday
22 Native American Sunday

November-2017

Any Sunday Loaves and Fishes Program

1 All Saints Day

3 World Community Day (Church Women United)

5 Stewardship Sunday

8-11 The Forum

12 Day of Prayer for People with Aids and Other Life-Threatening Illnesses

12 Bible Sunday

26 Christ the King Sunday

December-2017

Any Sunday Gift to the King Offering

3-25 Advent in Church and Home

9 BU Commencement

24 Christmas Eve

25 Christmas Day," **be adopted.****C. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP, FOUNDATION AND BENEFITS**

We commend the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits for their diligent work. After a time of discussion between the committee members and the representatives, the committee makes the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION 5: That the Report of the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits be concurred in.

D. REPORT OF THE OUR UNITED OUTREACH COMMITTEE

We commend the Our United Outreach committee for their diligent work. We affirm the new regional representatives program to increase promotion of Our United Outreach across the denomination.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Our United Outreach Committee, "that General Assembly adopt the following Our United Outreach allocations for 2017:

The allocation is to be as follows:	\$2,800,000.00	
Development Coordinator		92,044.00
Legal Fees		25,000.00
Unification Task Force		<u>35,000.00</u>
	Sub-total	152,044.00
(Amount to be allocated)	\$2,647,956.00	
Ministry Council	\$1,323,978.00	50%
Bethel University	132,398.00	5%
Children's Home	79,439.00	3%
Stewardship	159,877.00	6%
General Assembly Office	211,836.00	8%
Memphis Theological Seminary/ Program of Alternate Studies	185,357.00	7%
Historical Foundation	79,439.00	3%
Shared Services	436,913.00	16.5%
Contingency	13,240.00	5%
(Next four items total 1%)		
Comm. on Chaplains	10,247.00	.387%
Judiciary Committee	9,665.00	.365%
Theology/Social Concerns	3,601.00	.136%
Nominating Committee	<u>2,966.00</u>	.112%
	\$ 2,67,956.00	
Our United Outreach Goal	\$2,800,000.00," be adopted.	

RECOMMENDATION 7: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Our United Outreach Committee, “that the following statement be added to the By-Laws of the General Assembly, Article 10.02 Election and Tenure: 03. No person shall be elected to any board whose church does not support Our United Outreach; however, an individual may directly give financial support to Our United Outreach and be eligible to serve on boards and agencies and that the remaining numbers under that Article be re-numbered accordingly, be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 8: That the following statement be added to the By-laws of the General Assembly, Article 10.02 Election and Tenure: 03. No person shall be elected to any board whose church does not support Our United Outreach and that the remaining numbers under that article be re-numbered accordingly.

E. REPORT OF THE PLACE OF MEETING COMMITTEE

We commend the work of the Place of Meeting Committee.

RECOMMENDATION 9: The Report of the Place of Meeting Committee be concurred in.

F. LINE ITEM BUDGETS SUBMITTED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENCIES

The committee discussed the line item budgetary items. No action was required of this committee.

G. REPORT ONE OF THE MINISTRY COUNCIL SECTION III

RECOMMENDATION 10: That Recommendation 11 of the Report One of the Ministry Council, “that as many churches do not consider giving to Our United Outreach as a tithe as it was envisioned, and that a number of churches do not contribute anything to Our United Outreach, that General Assembly prayerfully consider and recommend opportunities to significantly revitalize Our United Outreach. Opportunities might include but not be limited to setting the deadline for Our United Outreach contributions “to be postmarked by December 31”,” be adopted.

Respectfully submitted:
The Committee on Stewardship/
Elected Officers

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS AND MINISTRY

I. REFERRALS

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report One of the Ministry Council, the shaded areas only; and The Report Two of the Ministry Council, the shaded areas only.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Reverend Milton Ortiz, Missions Ministry Team Leader; Reverend T. J. Malinoski, Evangelism and New Church Development; Reverend Johan Daza, Cross Culture Ministry; Reverend Lynn Thomas, Director Global Cross-Culture Missions Program; and Reverend Charles R. Brown, Pastoral Development Ministry Team.

We wish to express our thanks for the information provided by these persons of counsel.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

A. THE REPORT ONE OF THE MINISTRY COUNCIL, THE SHADED AREAS ONLY

1. ON GOING MINISTRIES

We commend the Ministry Council for the supplement provided that explains the ongoing ministries in detail. We also commend the Pastoral Development Ministry team and MTS for developing the program for the Certificate in CP Studies and providing a Spanish interpreter for the group of students.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 3 of the Report One of the Ministry Council, “that the 186th General Assembly urge each presbytery to budget funds in both 2017 and 2018 to send one participant to the Certificate in CP Studies program,” be adopted

2. NEW MINISTRIES

We commend the Missions Ministry Team for its commitment to starting new churches and for assisting with 19 NCDs in the United States (9 Cross-Culture) and 3 overseas.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 4 of the Report One of the Ministry Council, “that the 186th General Assembly urge each presbytery to budget funds in 2017 for current and potential new church development leaders to attend a Church Starters Conference hosted by the MMT in fall 2017,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 5 of the Report One of the Ministry Council, “that, in an effort to broaden Cumberland Presbyterian ministry within the United States, the 186th General Assembly encourage presbyteries to invite and welcome churches interested in assimilation into the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and to seek guidance from Missions Ministry Team for information and counsel,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That Recommendation 6 of the Report One of the Ministry Council, “that the 186th General Assembly recommend that presbyteries encourage local churches within their bounds to invite Missions Ministry Team to hold evangelism training for the local church and groups of churches for the purpose of encouraging and equipping church leaders and members in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others and providing empowering methods and means that people can apply in their context,” be denied.

We recognize the expertise of the Missions Ministry Team but there may be other resources that the churches want to utilize to help them learn to promote evangelistic development and growth.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That the 186th General Assembly recommend that presbyteries encourage local churches within their bounds to invite the Missions Ministry Team and/or other resources to hold evangelism training for the local church and groups of churches for the purpose of encouraging and equipping church leaders and members in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others and providing empowering methods and means that people can apply in their context.

We commend the Missions Ministry Team for recognizing the need to involve young women in Women's Ministry and for developing a retreat format to encourage their participation.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That Recommendation 7 of the Report One of the Ministry Council, "that the 186th General Assembly recommend that each presbytery appoint a young woman to represent their presbytery at one of these events and serve as a point of contact between the Young Women Planning Team and the presbytery," be adopted.

We commend the Missions Ministry Team for realizing the importance of partnering with the Presbyterian Board of Missions and developing new ways to provide training to the Presbyterian Board of Missions to assist them in providing support and guidance to local churches.

RECOMMENDATION 7: That Recommendation 8 of the Report One of the Ministry Council, "that the 186th General Assembly recommend that each presbytery include a line item in their 2017 budget to send two or more representatives from their Board of Missions to the event. Cost per person is approximately \$100," be denied.

Presbyteries each have their own unique budgeting process and financial record keeping and it is not appropriate to tell them a line item is needed for this specific request. The cost per person listed does not take into account costs for travel and we are unsure if it provides for any hotel or meal cost.

RECOMMENDATION 8: That the 186th General Assembly recommend that each presbytery budget to send two or more representatives from their Board of Missions to the Listening to the Spirit-Serving with Conviction event.

We appreciate the work of the Office of Evangelism and New Church Development in making renewed efforts to assist Choctaw Presbytery in meeting needs in that Presbytery, recognizing the importance of the ministry that dates back to 1819.

RECOMMENDATION 9: That Recommendation 9 of the Report One of the Ministry Council, "that the 186th General Assembly encourage churches, presbyteries and synods to be in prayer and become actively involved in the mission to and with Choctaw Cumberland Presbyterians to address immediate needs and future planning," be adopted.

We commend the Missions Ministry Team for recognizing and sharing the diverse challenges that are inherent in developing successful cross culture ministry

RECOMMENDATION 10: That Recommendation 10 of the Report One of the Ministry Council, "that the 186th General Assembly encourage Boards of Mission (or their equivalent) in United States presbyteries to fund intercultural internship opportunities among probationers, ordained ministers or lay persons within those presbyteries who might be interested in participating in one of the cross-culture ministries in the United States," be denied.

Presbyteries may not be able to afford the cost of funding the internship but may provide support in many ways that could include financial support, prayer support, encouragement, etc.

RECOMMENDATION 11: That the 186th General Assembly encourage Boards of Mission (or their equivalent) in United States presbyteries to support intercultural internship opportunities among probationers, ordained ministers or lay persons within those presbyteries who might be interested in participating in one of the cross-culture ministries in the United States.

B. THE REPORT TWO OF THE MINISTRY COUNCIL, THE SHADED AREAS ONLY

1. LEADERSHIP REFERRAL SERVICES

We commend the Missions Ministry Team on the work assisting ministers and congregations, as they navigate the search and hiring process.

RECOMMENDATION 12: That Recommendation 1 of the Report Two of the Ministry Council, "that the 186th General Assembly approve shifting primary responsibility for the Leadership Referral Services (LRS) from the

Missions Ministry Team to the Pastoral Development Ministry Team effective August 1, 2016,” be adopted.

2. GUIDELINES FOR CONGREGATIONS CONSIDERING MERGER

We thank the Office of Evangelism and New Church Development for recognizing the challenges that occur when there is a need or desire to merge congregations.

RECOMMENDATION 13: That Recommendation 2 of the Report Two of the Ministry Council, “that the 186th General Assembly adopt the manual entitled Guidelines for Congregations Considering Merger to assist churches and presbyteries interested in merging Cumberland Presbyterian churches to strengthen their worship, study and witness to the gospel,” be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,
Committee on Missions and Ministry

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

In the spirit of doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God, the Judiciary Committee approached its deliberations of those items referred to it for this meeting of the 186th General Assembly.

I. REFERRALS

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report Number Two of the Ministry Council, item C; The Report of the Permanent Committee on Judiciary; and The Memorial from Missouri Presbytery Regarding Ministers of Other Denominations Serving Communion.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Elder Mary Lyn Hunter, Missouri Presbytery; Reverend Robert Rush, Permanent Judiciary Committee; Reverend Milton Ortiz, Missions Ministry Team Leader; Reverend Lynn Thomas, Missions Ministry Team; Troy Green, Ministry Council; Johan Daza, Missions Ministry Team; and Stated Clerk Mike Sharpe appeared before the committee to broaden understanding of referred items. Jamie Jordan, legal advisor for the denomination, consulted by way of email.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

A. REPORT TWO OF THE MINISTRY COUNCIL, ITEM C

The committee rejoices in the ministry and mission being done outside of the United States and encourages reports and displays regarding the valuable leadership and resources provided by schools and institutions in South America and Asia. The Ministry Council is absolutely correct in the need to be ever mindful of the global nature of the work of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. However, also keeping in mind that laws are not the same everywhere, it is legally inappropriate to act as a body upon such reports.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 3 of the Report Two of the Ministry Council, “that the 186th General Assembly give institutions that have a direct relationship (legal and/or expected to report) to a presbytery outside the USA the privilege of sending reports and/or representatives to General Assembly and that these institution’s reports and/or representatives be assigned to a Committee of General Assembly,” be denied.

B. REPORT OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

1. REFERRAL

The committee wishes to confirm that any Cumberland Presbyterian congregation or presbytery can always establish mission points anywhere God so leads. The committee also wishes to affirm that working with the Missions Ministry Team can highly enhance any mission effort, especially outside the bounds of the United States where laws are different.

In light of Recommendation 4, the committee makes the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Permanent Committee on Judiciary,” That contingent upon ratification of the proposed constitutional amendment, the General Assembly designate the Missions Ministry Team as the mission entity authorized to function as a presbytery in accordance with the proposed constitutional amendment,” be adopted.

The strength of the Presbyterian form of government is its connectional nature and its layers of accountability. Although the argument could be made that it would be appropriate to attach the Missions Ministry Team to a synod when it functions as a presbytery in ordaining ministers and other ecclesiastical decisions, the committee agrees with the Permanent Committee on Judiciary that, with synods meeting less frequently than the Permanent Judiciary Committee and with the fact that the Permanent Judiciary Committee already reviews all synod records, it is logical to assign oversight and review of a body acting in the place of a presbytery with respect to mission work and mission fields. Therefore, the committee makes the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Permanent Committee on Judiciary, “that the General Assembly Bylaw 11.05, which refers to the Judiciary Committee, be amended by inserting “11.05 The committee shall have oversight of and responsibility for ecclesiastical decisions made by a body acting in the place of a presbytery with respect to mission work and mission fields. The oversight and responsibility exercised by the committee shall be the same as that exercised by a synod with respect to a presbytery under its care. The committee shall have oversight of and responsibility for ecclesiastical decisions made by a body acting in the place of a presbytery with respect to mission work and mission fields. The oversight and responsibility exercised by the committee shall be the same as that exercised by a synod with respect to a presbytery under its care. When the committee is performing this role, the Stated Clerk may appoint up to two temporary members from the applicable mission field to serve for the limited purpose of oversight and review. The current 11.05 will then become 11.06,” be adopted.

2. SAFE SANCTUARY

RECOMMENDATION 4: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the Permanent Committee on Judiciary, “that the stated clerk’s office of each presbytery, rather than the Office of the General Assembly, be designated as the repository for the Safe Sanctuary plans for churches within that presbytery,” be adopted.

C. REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON AMENDMENTS

The committee spoke at length with members of the Missions Ministry Team, Ministry Council, the Permanent Judiciary Committee, and the Stated Clerk. Sadly, there seemed to be a lack of sufficient communication between these parties and no meaningful communication between the Missions Ministry Team and the Joint Committee on Amendments. Thus, it seemed to the committee some disagreement and misunderstanding could have been avoided.

For the past three General Assembly meetings, attempts have been made to address the role of the Missions Ministry Team as it establishes churches and leadership beyond the bounds of any existing presbytery or synod. The 185th General Assembly directed the development of this amendment to address this concern. The broad language of this proposal was somewhat worrisome; however, the language was designed to include the various agencies of both the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. The broad language is also an effort to account for future changes and possible reorganizations of both denominations.

Because this is a proposed amendment to the *Constitution of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America*, no words may be changed. The only available actions to this committee are to accept, refer, or deny.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Joint Committee on Amendments, “that current Constitution 9.5 be renumbered as 9.6 and the following be inserted as 9.5: : “*The General Assembly, in order to promote the mission work of the Church and the development of new churches outside the United States, may authorize its mission entity, a judicatory, or a commission to act in the place of a presbytery with respect to persons, ministers, and churches lying outside the bounds of the United States and outside the bounds of any existing presbytery. In such a case, the body so designated shall have with respect to the persons, ministers, and churches under its care the same jurisdiction, authority, and responsibilities which are otherwise granted to a presbytery, and the General Assembly rather than a synod shall provide for the oversight and responsibility of the body’s ecclesiastical actions.*” be adopted.

D. THE MEMORIAL FROM MISSOURI PRESBYTERY REGARDING MINISTERS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS SERVING COMMUNION

The committee agrees with the sentiment of the memorial; however, the committee felt the need for strengthening and clarification.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That the Memorial from Missouri Presbytery regarding Ministers of other denominations serving communion, that states:

“WHEREAS, we concur with the permanent committee on Judiciary, in that we affirm that the communion table in any particular Cumberland Presbyterian Church is the Lord’s Table and that not that of our denomination or any local church.

WHEREAS, the committee acknowledged that allowing ministers of other denominations always and only with Presbyterian approval to serve communion in a Cumberland Presbyterian Church, has produced as many blessings as problems.

WHEREAS, if abuse occurred or some Presbyteries failed to provide proper oversight, then according to Cumberland Presbyterian Constitution 8.5/b. A Synod has the oversight and responsibility to review the records of the Presbyteries, redress whatever they may have done contrary to order

WHEREAS, we believe that rather than Presbyteries being empowered to provide leadership and care of local congregations just the opposite has occurred.

WHEREAS, we believe in an open table.

WHEREAS, our own Seminary trains candidates from other denominations, who, when ordained, will serve Communion.

WHEREAS, we believe a very high percentage of Cumberland Presbyterians would partake of the Lord's Supper if offered in a non-Cumberland Presbyterian setting administered by a non-Cumberland Presbyterian minister.

THEREFORE, we ask that the 2013 General Assembly ruling rescinding the 1987 ruling be overturned and be replaced with the original ruling. "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, presbytery) of the church."

Missouri Presbytery at its Spring Meeting of Presbytery on March 19, 2016, passed this memorial to be forwarded to the General Assembly headquarters for consideration at the 2016 General Assembly.

Signed Larry Nottingham, Stated Clerk, Missouri Presbytery," be denied.

The committee affirms the Memorial's rationale as compelling, in addition to the fact that, even though errors do occur, not trusting presbyteries to carry out their responsibilities is contrary to Cumberland Presbyterian government. Also, ordained Cumberland Presbyterian ministers are often invited in non-Cumberland Presbyterian churches to officiate over the Sacrament of Holy Communion, so we recommend the following:

RECOMMENDATION 7: An ordained minister, although of another denomination, may serve the Lord's Supper in a Cumberland Presbyterian church, PROVIDED this minister has submitted to the appropriate training in Cumberland Presbyterian theology and conducting of the Sacrament, AS WELL AS having been approved by presbytery and PROVIDED the presbytery continues oversight of this non-Cumberland Presbyterian minister serving one of its churches.

Respectfully submitted,
The Committee on Judiciary

**The
 Proceedings
 of the**

**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIXTH
 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

of the

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

session held in

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
June 20 - 24, 2016

At Nashville, Tennessee and within the facilities of the Sheraton Music City Hotel, there the twentieth day of June in the year of our Lord, two thousand sixteen, at the appointed hour of eight-thirty o'clock in the morning, Minister and Elder Commissioners from the various presbyteries, youth advisory delegates and visitors assembled for Concurrent meetings of the General Assemblies of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America.

FIRST DAY – MONDAY – JUNE 20, 2016

OPENING WORSHIP

In Ballroom A-E of the Sheraton Music City Hotel, the one hundred eighty-sixth General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the one hundred forty-first General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, the Convention of Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry, and visitors gathered for worship at 8:00 a.m. Liturgists for the service were Ms. Yvonne Frierson, National Missionary Society President (CPCA), Elder L. Leon Cole, Jr., Moderator (CPCA), Ms. Athala Jaramillo, Women's Ministry Convention President (CPC). The combined presbyterial choir from Elk River Presbytery (CPCA) and Nashville Presbytery (CPC) was led by Reverend Paula Louder, Nashville Presbytery. The Pianist was Ms. Janice Bane, Nashville Presbytery.

The Reverend Michele Gentry de Correal, Andes Presbytery, Retiring Moderator (CPC) presented the sermon, "Called to Serve, Sent to Proclaim," taken from 2 Peter 1:10-11. The Sacrament of Holy Communion was led by Co-Celebrants Reverend Gloria Villa Diaz, Trinity Presbytery (CPC Unification Task Force member), and Reverend Mitchell Walker, Huntsville Presbytery (CPCA Unification Task Force member). Assisting with Communion were: CPCA – Rev. Kay Ward Creer – East Texas, Rev. Tramaine Snodgrass – Huntsville Presbytery, Rev. Dr. Nancy Fuqua – Florence Presbytery, Elder Frank Anderson – Birmingham Presbytery, Elder Joy Wallace – Brazos River Presbytery, Rev. Rick E. White – Brazos River Presbytery, Rev. Barbara Clemons – Huntsville Presbytery, Elder Thomas Ward – East Texas Presbytery, Elder Justina Johnson – Ohio Valley Presbytery, Elder Glee Thompson – Tuscaloosa Presbytery; CPC – Rev. Randy Jacob – Choctaw Presbytery, Elder Lola John – Choctaw Presbytery, Rev. Johnny Montano – Cauca Valley Presbytery, Rev. Nobuko Seki – Japan Presbytery, Elder Takeshi Yohena – Japan Presbytery, Rev. Josephina Sanchez – Presbytery of East Tennessee, Rev. Douglas Park – Cumberland East Coast Presbytery, Rev. Seungno Kim - Cumberland East Coast Presbytery, Elder Robin Hughes – Red River Presbytery, Elder Christy Miller – Tennessee Georgia Presbytery. Ushers were Kay Street, Larry Street, Susie Rolman, Mary Rolman, Jacky Clifton, Raymond Clifton, Rob Truitt, Judi Truitt, Luann Barber, Nathaniel Matthews.

JOINT EVANGELISM CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

Joint Evangelism Conference Workshops, led by the Reverend T.J. Malinoski, were held at 10:30

a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in Ballroom A-D.

THE ASSEMBLY IS CONSTITUTED

The Moderator, the Reverend Michele Gentry, called the assembly to order at 3:30 p.m. Her first order of business was to introduce “Commissioners in Training,” the children attending General Assembly. Following the introduction, the Reverend Linda Glenn, West Tennessee Presbytery, presented the Report of the Credentials Committee. There were forty-four (44) ministers, forty (40) elders, for a total of eighty-four (84) commissioners present at 3:30 p.m. There were twenty-five (25) Youth Advisory Delegates present. On motion, the report of the Credentials Committee was received, marked Appendix “A” and filed.

Reverend Perryn Rice, Red River Presbytery, prayed the constituting prayer.

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

On motion, the program was adopted as changed.

Moderator Gentry declared the floor open for nominations for the Office of Moderator of the one hundred eighty-sixth General Assembly. The Reverend Dwayne Tyus, previously endorsed by Nashville Presbytery, was nominated by Elder Carol Warren, Nashville Presbytery. Elder Warren then gave testimony to his qualifications and endorsed Reverend Tyus as Moderator of the one hundred eighty-sixth General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

There being no further nominations, a motion was made that nominations cease and that the body move to elect by acclamation. Following unanimous vote, Moderator Gentry declared that the Reverend Dwayne Tyus, Nashville Presbytery, to be the Moderator of the one hundred eighty-sixth General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Elder Warren escorted Moderator Tyus to the podium. Retiring Moderator Reverend Michele Gentry placed the Moderator’s cross on Reverend Tyus, and presented him with the gavel.

Retiring Moderator Gentry presented a new Moderator’s stole that she commissioned which was made of Guatemalan materials and Mexican workmanship to newly elected Moderator Tyus. This stole, a gift to the General Assembly from Retiring Moderator Gentry is to replace the Moderator’s stole.

Moderator Tyus opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Moderator. The Reverend Don Wilson, Presbytery del Cristo, nominated the Reverend Nobuko Seki, Japan Presbytery, to serve as Vice-Moderator of the one hundred eighty-sixth General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

There being no further nominations, a motion was made that nominations cease and the body move to elect. By election, the Reverend Nobuko Seki, Japan Presbytery, was elected as Vice-Moderator of the one hundred eighty-sixth General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

PRESENTATION BY THE STATED CLERK

The Stated Clerk, Michael Sharpe, invited retiring Moderator, Michele Gentry, to the podium and presented her with a replica of the Moderator’s cross and gavel representing the one used in the one hundred eighty-fifth General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

GREETINGS FROM THE HOST COMMITTEE

Greeting were expressed by the Reverend Don Tabor, Nashville Presbytery, on behalf of the Host Committee. The Reverend Rosemary Herron, CPCA co-chair of Host Committee, brought greetings to the body. Both told of the sights and amenities of the area.

Reverend Tabor read letters of greeting to the body from Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam and Nashville Mayor Megan Barry.

Reverend. Tabor recognized the Planning Committee members by having them stand.

On a personal note, Rev. Tabor asked for prayers for his family on the tragic drive-by shooting of his stepson who has been in critical care for 2 weeks.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Stated Clerk announced that there were no communications.

COMMISSIONER RESOLUTIONS

Reverend Bryon Forester, minister delegate from West Tennessee Presbytery presented a resolution to the body for consideration. The Resolution was referred to the Theology & Social Concerns/Unification Task Force Committee.

CORRECTIONS TO THE PRELIMINARY MINUTES

The Stated Clerk reported that a copy of all corrections to the preliminary minutes were handed out to all commissioners during orientation and would be reflected in the final printing of the minutes. There is one Committee change: Commissioner Reverend Josephina Sanchez will serve on the Theology and Social Concerns/Unification Task Force Committee.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND REFERRALS

The Stated Clerk reported that all referrals to the committees will be printed in the minutes as presented in the preliminary minutes with the changes handed out during orientation. A booklet provided by the Ministry Council was distributed to commissioners as supplemental information.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD/AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

The Stated introduced the following Board/Agency Representatives:

Bethel University	Robert Truitt
Commission on Chaplains	Mary McCaskey Benedict
Children's Home	Richard Dean
Historical Foundation	Lisa Oliver
Judiciary	Robert Rush
Memphis Theological Seminary	Susan Parker
Ministry Council	Troy Green
Our United Outreach	Ron Gardner
Stewardship	Randy Davidson
Theology & Social Concerns	Sheila O'Mara
Unification Task Force	Joy Warren (CPC)
	Mitchell Walker (CPCA)

A presentation was made by the Our United Outreach Committee by Reverend Cliff Hudson, Development Director. He introduced the Regional OUO Directors: Calotta Edsell – Arkansas and West Tennessee, Carolyn Harmon – Presbytery of East Tennessee, Jeff McMichael – Covenant, Cumberland and North Central Presbyteries, Susan Parker – Grace and Hope Presbyteries.

A presentation by Troy Green, Chairperson of the Ministry Council, introduced new staff members: Nathan Wheeler - Youth & Young Adult Ministry and Chuck Brown –Pastoral Development Ministry Team Leader.

Moderator Tyus introduced his wife, Gwen, to the body as well as her brother the Reverend Jesse Freeman, Nashville Presbytery.

RECESS

Moderator Tyus declared the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in recess at 4:25 p.m. until Thursday at 9:00 a.m.

THE EVENING PROGRAM

A Joint Worship Service led by Young Adults and Youth of the CPCA and CPC was experienced by the Assemblies. With uplifting music and youth led messages, the participants were encouraged to participate at worship stations at the close of worship.

In the lobby of the Sheraton Music City Hotel, the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, the Convention of Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry and visitors participated in a reception to honor the Dwayne Tyus, Moderator (CPC) and spouse, Gwen; Retiring Moderator Michele Gentry, Elder L. Leon Cole, Jr.,

Moderator (CPCA), Ms. Yvonne Frierson, National Missionary Society President (CPCA); Ms. Athala Jaramillo, Women's Ministry Convention President (CPC).

SECOND DAY – TUESDAY – JUNE 21, 2016

The General Assembly began their day with Committees meeting at 8:30 a.m. Each committee held their own devotional in their meeting rooms. The day was devoted to committee work. Attendance for the day: thirty-six (36) Minister Commissioners, thirty-four (34) Elder Commissioners and twenty (20) Youth Advisory Delegates.

At 7:30 p.m., the Discipleship Ministry Team sponsored "Joint Celebration of Generations: Interacting Together." Those who gathered had an enjoyable time of interaction through various activities.

At 8:30 p.m. the annual Reception Honoring Women in Ministry was held. Attendees enjoyed rich fellowship as they celebrated Women in Ministry. Many shared that Ordination Anniversary cards that had been received were so meaningful and uplifting. All agreed that this celebration was a highlight of the celebration.