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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

I. REFERRALS

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report of the Permanent Committee on Judiciary, The Report of the Joint Committee on Amendments, and The Memorial from Andes Presbytery Regarding Gender Diversity.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Reverend Andy McClung, Permanent Judiciary Committee; Reverend Elinor Brown, Discipleship Ministry Team; and Stated Clerk Mike Sharpe appeared before the committee.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

A. REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON AMENDMENTS

Rules of Order 12.5 bars members of a judicatory from voting on matters in which they have a conflict of interest, but it does not limit their ability to participate in debate on those matters. Recognizing that influence can be wielded in debate or discussion which may impact the vote on that issue, the Committee offers the following:

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Joint Committee on Amendments, “that Rules of Order 12.5 be amended to read “No member of a judicatory shall participate in debate or vote on a matter in which the member has a pecuniary interest, a personal interest, or other conflict of interest not common to other members of the judicatory. A member of a judicatory has such a conflict of interest when the member also belongs to a lower judicatory whose action is the subject of an appeal to or review by the higher judicatory. In such a case, the member may participate as a representative of the lower judicatory but may not participate as a member of the higher judicatory. Members are not prevented from voting for themselves for an office or other position to which members generally are eligible (see Robert’s Rules of Order, Section 45).”,” be adopted.

Note that revisions to Robert’s Rules of Order necessitate the change from “Section 44” to “Section 45.”

We note with joy the expansion of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church into new mission fields across the globe. While we celebrate this growth, it seems to have out-paced our rules. In order to provide the best possible support to these new churches and their pastors, we offer the following:

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Joint Committee on Amendments, “that Constitution 9.5 be renumbered as 9.6 and a new 9.5 be inserted, reading as follows: “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 a synod or its missions entity (utilizing ordained personnel) to act in place of a presbytery with respect to persons, ministers, and churches outside the United States and outside the bounds of any existing presbytery. The missions entity or synod may attach mission work to an existing presbytery, with the presbytery’s approval. The General Assembly shall provide for the oversight and responsibility of the body’s ecclesiastical actions.”,” be adopted.

B. REPORT OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Should Recommendation 2 be adopted by the General Assembly and ratified by Presbyteries, that change in structure requires a companion change in our Bylaws. We commend the Permanent Judiciary Committee for bringing this to our attention in a timely manner, and offer the following:

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 1 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 11.05.06. “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, specifically Constitution 8.5, a, b and c.” be adopted.

C. THE MEMORIAL FROM ANDES PRESBYTERY REGARDING GENDER DIVERSITY

The Committee discussed the Memorial from Andes Presbytery, and its request that the General Assembly closely review and monitor programs and institutions that may unduly influence the doctrine and work of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and thus prevent an infiltration of concepts that are foreign to our doctrine and practice.”

We heard from Reverends Elinor Brown and Michael Sharpe, and considered past actions and current policies of the General Assembly and its agencies regarding our relationship with outside “programs and institutions.” Specifically, we direct your attention to the following:

- Cumberland Presbyterian Digest 9.4n INTERPRETIVE, 1951, which states that “if membership in or affiliation with such organization outside the denomination involves a change in doctrine of the church or the commitment of the church board or agency to some matter of doctrine contrary to our Confession of Faith, prior approval must be had from three-fourths of the presbyteries of the church as well as the prior approval of not less than 75 percent of the full membership of the General Assembly.”

- 2015 Minutes of the General Assembly (page 41) “Referrals from General Assembly” to the Ministry Council, Section C.1: Presbyterian Church USA Evaluation: “The Ministry Council and Discipleship Ministry Team in particular have been and will continue to be vigilant to ensure any content or program in association with the PCUSA does not run counter to CP beliefs as articulated in the Confession of Faith.”

We are satisfied that our past commitment to “review and monitor” all joint ministry efforts is still being honored.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That the Memorial from Andes Presbytery, “REGARDING GENDER DIVERSITY” which states:

“On April 10, 2017, in a duly convened called meeting, Andes Presbytery approved this Memorial to be submitted for consideration by the 187th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

WHEREAS the church in Colombia has been pressured by [the politics of] gender ideology that in our context involves promoting a diversity of genders that is openly contrary to the Bible;

WHEREAS our source of authority is from the Bible, and the Bible teaches:

That in Genesis 1:26 God created humankind as man and woman.

That according to Leviticus 18:22 homosexuality is an aberration before God.

“Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.” (NIV)

That according to Romans 1:26-27 homosexuality is contrary to God’s original design.

“Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural 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 indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.” (NIV)

That according to 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, practicing homosexuals will not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

“Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”

(NIV);

WHEREAS we are Cumberland Presbyterians and take our doctrinal and practical framework from biblical principles;

WHEREAS we note with concern influences from other denominations and groups that are contrary to our doctrine and historical practice;

WHEREAS some of those influences, especially with reference to the Youth Triennium, have already negatively impacted some of our youth;

WHEREAS we wish to prevent those same influences from permeating our educational material and the development and experiential practice of the church’s ministries;

BE IT RESOLVES, that Andes Presbytery requests the General Assembly to closely review and monitor programs and institutions that may unduly influence the doctrine and work of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and thus prevent an infiltration of concepts that are foreign to our doctrine and practice, with

special reference to any ideology that promotes a multiplicity of genders [besides man and woman].

I certify that this copy is true to the Memorial approved by Andes Presbytery on April 10, 2017.

Respectfully,

Rev. Diana Maria Valdez,” be denied.

Spanish version

El 10 de abril de 2017, en reunión extraordinaria debidamente convocada, el Presbiterio de los aprobó este Memorial para ser sometido para la consideración de la Asamblea General de la Iglesia Presbiteriana Cumberland en su reunión ordinaria en 2017.

MEMORIAL DEL PRESBITERIO DE LOS ANDES PARA LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL #187 DE 2017

Por cuanto la iglesia en Colombia ha sufrido influencias de la ideología de género. Que en nuestro contexto implica promover una diversidad de géneros que es abiertamente contraria a la Biblia, Por cuanto nuestra única fuente de autoridad es la Biblia.
La Biblia enseña:

Que Dios creó un hombre y una mujer, en Génesis 1:26

Que la homosexualidad es una aberración delante de Dios: Lv. 18:22

“No te acostarás con varón como los que se acuestan con mujer; es una abominación.”

Que la homosexualidad quebranta el diseño original de Dios: Ro 1:26,27

“26 Por esta razón Dios los entregó a pasiones degradantes; porque sus mujeres cambiaron la función natural por la que es contra la naturaleza; 27 y de la misma manera también los hombres, abandonando el uso natural de la mujer, se encendieron en su lujuria unos con otros, cometiendo hechos vergonzosos hombres con hombres, y recibiendo en sí mismos el castigo correspondiente a su extravío.”

Que los homosexuales practicantes no entrarán en el Reino de los Cielos: 1Co 6:9,10

“9 ¿O no sabéis que los injustos no heredarán el reino de Dios? No os dejéis engañar: ni los inmorales, ni los idólatras, ni los adúlteros, ni los afeminados, ni los homosexuales, 10 ni los ladrones, ni los avaros, ni los borrachos, ni los difamadores, ni los estafadores heredarán el reino de Dios.”

Por cuanto somos Presbiterianos Cumberland y tomamos nuestro marco doctrinal y de práctica de los principios bíblicos.

Por cuanto percibimos con preocupación influencias de otras denominaciones y grupos que son contrarias a nuestra doctrina y práctica histórica.

Por cuanto algunas de esas influencias, especialmente en el trienio juvenil, ya han causado impacto negativo en algunos de nuestros jóvenes.

Por cuanto quisiéramos prevenir que esas mismas influencias llegaran a permear nuestro material educativo y el desarrollo y práctica vivencial de los ministerios

Entonces el Presbiterio de los Andes, solicita a la Asamblea General que revise y vigile muy de cerca los programas e instituciones que puedan influir en el pensamiento doctrina y trabajo de la Iglesia Presbiteriana Cumberland, y así impedir infiltraciones de pensamientos ajenos a nuestra doctrina y práctica, especialmente con referencia a la ideología de género.

Certifico que es copia fiel del Memorial aprobado por el Presbiterio de los Andes el 10 de abril de 2017.

Respetuosamente,

Rev. Diana María Valdez, Secretaria, Presbiterio de los Andes,” ser negado.

Respectfully submitted,
The Committee on Judiciary

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, the Board of Trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home, The Report of the Joint Committee on the Covenant Relationship between the General Assembly Corporation and Bethel University, and The Report of the Joint Committee on the Covenant Relationship between the General Assembly Corporation and Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Reverend Duane Dougherty, member of the Board of Trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home and Jennifer Livings and Debby Garrett also from the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home; Reverend Jay Earheart-Brown, President Memphis Theological Seminary; Reverend Linda Howell, Member of the Board of Trustees for Memphis Theological Seminary; and Reverend Michael Qualls, Director of Program of Alternate Studies; Dr. Walter Butler, President of Bethel University, and his wife, Jennifer Butler; Nancy McSpadden, Elton Hall, Nancy Bean, and Robert Truitt.

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

For 157 years Memphis Theological Seminary has witnessed to the importance of an educated ministry. MTS continues to minister in an ever changing world. The mission of the seminary is to be kept before the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in thought and prayer and in such tangible ways as Seminary/PAS Sunday on August 20, 2017.

We are grateful for the vital work of Memphis Theological Seminary and especially its trustees who have served with honor.

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 trustees Marble, Ward, Wharton, and Coombs for their faithful service to Memphis Theological Seminary and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church," be adopted.

The Ministry for the Real World campaign is a vital strategy to insure that Memphis Theological Seminary continues to fulfill its calling. Having secured around \$14 million in gifts and pledges toward its goal of \$25 million, the campaign is moving ahead of schedule and hopes to continue raising needed support and funds. The committee agrees in principle with the Board of Trustees recommendation noting only that the General Assembly's role is to work first through presbyteries who in turn work through churches and other groups.

RECOMMENDATION 2: 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 denied.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That the General Assembly encourage presbyteries who in turn encourage churches, groups, and individuals across the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to consider investing in the development of future leaders through the "Ministry for the Real World" campaign."

The committee notes the retirement of Reverend Stan Wood, D.Min. after long years of diligent service to MTS in a variety of roles, most recently as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That the General Assembly express its gratitude to Reverend R. Stan Wood, D.Min. for his faithful service to Memphis Theological Seminary as well as the Cumberland Presbyterian Church/Cumberland Church in America.

We pray that God will continue to call women and men to the office of ministry, and that they will be well prepared to fulfill their calling. We encourage those God calls to find Memphis Theological Seminary as a priority in their educational journey of faith. The committee agrees in principle with the recommendation of the Board of Trustees noting that presbyterial probationary care committees are central to encouraging probationers to attend MTS.

RECOMMENDATION 5: 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 denied.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That the General Assembly urge presbyteries through their probationary care committees to guide probationers toward considering Memphis Theological Seminary and the Program of Alternate Studies as their first options for meeting educational requirements for ordained ministry.

The committee agrees in principle with the Board of Trustees recommendation concerning Seminary/PAS Sunday and simply directs encouragement first through the presbytery.

RECOMMENDATION 7: That Recommendation 5 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary, “that the third Sunday in August, (August 20, 2017 and August 19, 2018) 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 on a more convenient day of the session’s choosing,” be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 8: That the third Sunday in August, (August 20, 2017 and August 19, 2018) be included in the General Assembly Calendar as Seminary/PAS Sunday, and that the General Assembly encourage all presbyteries who in turn encourage churches to share information about MTS and PAS and receive a special offering on that day, or on a more convenient day of the session’s choosing.

(Note: August 20, 2017 and August 19, 2018 as the date of Seminary/PAS Sunday are included in the Stated Clerk’s Report under Church Calendar 2017-2018)

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

Bethel University for 175 years has lived out its educational calling. The University continues to grow and reach students in an ever changing world. The mission of Bethel University is to be kept before the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in thought and prayer and in such tangible ways as Bethel University Sunday on November 5, 2017. Every five years Bethel’s covenant relationship is reviewed. Only minor changes in wording of the mission relative to the online aspect of education were made from the last review.

V. THE REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE COVENANT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CORPORATION AND BETHEL UNIVERSITY

RECOMMENDATION 9: That Recommendation 1 of The Joint Committee on the Covenant Relationship Between GAC/Bethel University, “that the Joint Committee on the Covenant Relationship Recommends the Adoption of the Following Document:

THE COVENANT BETWEEN BETHEL UNIVERSITY AND CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

I. HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BETHEL UNIVERSITY AND THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bethel University was established in McLemoresville, Tennessee in 1842 as a Cumberland Presbyterian School, under the auspices of the Synod of West Tennessee. The initial purpose was the education and training of ministers, but the school was open to anyone who wanted an education in a moral and religious environment. The school was chartered under the laws of the State of Tennessee in 1847. Bethel College came into being in 1850 under

a new state charter granting the college all the rights and privileges of a full collegiate institution.

The Civil War brought hard times to Bethel College and McLemoresville. The area was equally divided between Union and Confederate forces and the college was occasionally occupied by each army. The structures and equipment were damaged, but the greater loss was, the student body who served on both sides of the conflict. Bethel College was re-organized at McLemoresville after the Civil War and in 1872 it was relocated to McKenzie, Tennessee, to take advantage of the crossroads between North Carolina and St. Louis and the L&N Railways. J.M. McKenzie deeded the land for Bethel to the Bethel Board of Trustees on February 2, 1872.

The Synod of West Tennessee ceded Bethel College to the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1919. McKenzie, Tennessee was voted as the permanent location for the college at the General Assembly of 1922 in Greenville, Tennessee. Bethel College was thoroughly re-organized and standardized in 1923. Bethel College became a four-year Liberal Arts college, chartered by the State of Tennessee and accredited by the Commission on Colleges of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In light of Bethel's growth, complexity and impact, the Board of Trustees recognized the need for Bethel College to become Bethel University which occurred in 2009. The University is chartered by the State of Tennessee and accredited by the Commission on Colleges of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

II. NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE COVENANT RELATIONSHIP

The relationship that exists between Bethel University and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church is defined and characterized by the word "covenant." The term "covenant" is rooted in biblical and theological understanding and has found its highest expression among God's people. Thus, covenant within the family of God implies the deepest level of trust between covenanting parties and of commitment to one another. A Christian covenant is a living agreement that offers both parties opportunities for creative adaptation to meet the ever-changing conditions of our world. This covenant, moreover, frees each party from being controlled or ultimately responsible for or to each other, but unites the two parties through their common vision and missions. It seeks to honor the legal independence of each party while retaining and ongoing, mutual moral responsibility. This covenant relationship does not preclude the university from forming other covenant relationships with other Church bodies.

III. THE ONGOING MISSION OF EACH COVENANT PARTY

A. THE MISSION OF BETHEL UNIVERSITY

Bethel University's mission is to create opportunities for members of the learning community to develop in a Christian environment their highest intellectual, spiritual and social potential. This includes synchronous and asynchronous modes of education.

B. THE MISSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CORPORATION

Vision of Ministry of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church Biblically based and Christ-centered Born out of specific sense of mission, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church strives to be true to its heritage: To be open to God's reforming Spirit, To work cooperatively with the larger Body of Christ, and to nurture the connectional bonds that make us one,

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church seeks to be the hands and feet of Christ in witness and service to the world and above all the Cumberland Presbyterian Church lives out the love of God to the glory of Jesus Christ.

IV. THE CORPORATE INTEGRITY OF EACH COVENANT PARTY

A. Bethel University and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church are separate, legally independent and individually responsible entities.

B. Bethel University will be governed by a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees, with no less than a majority of its total membership as active members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

C. Neither the General Assembly Corporation nor any of the General Assembly's councils, boards, agents, officers, or employees shall be liable for any of the debts of Bethel University. In similar fashion, Bethel University is not liable for any of the debts of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church or its agencies, nor does it have a claim on any of the assets of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church or its agencies.

V. COMMITMENT OF EACH PARTY TO THE COVENANT

Both Bethel University and the General Assembly Corporation will demonstrate mutual concern and support for one another. The primary expression of mutual concern and support will involve relationships between the two parties that provide services for each other.

A. THE COMMITMENTS OF BETHEL UNIVERSITY

Bethel University will be a resource to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and its constituencies for educational purposes related to the Church's mission. Bethel University is free to solicit funds for both capital and operating expenses from individual and Cumberland Presbyterian and other persons, congregations, presbyteries, trustees, foundations, estates, and any other sources. Any major capital campaign initiated by Bethel University with targets primarily Presbyteries, Synods, and Congregations of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church will be scheduled by mutual consent of Bethel University and the General Assembly Corporation through the Office of the Stated Clerk.

B. The General Assembly Corporation will provide financial support for the university by regular benevolent giving in accordance with an objective funding formula developed by the General Assembly Corporation.

The General Assembly Corporation will encourage support of Bethel University by Synods, Presbyteries, sessions and individual Cumberland Presbyterians through planned giving programs. The General Assembly Corporation pledges programmatic support to the university by encouraging use of personnel and facilities of the university for denominational events, emphasizing the opportunities afforded by church-related higher education in its youth ministry programs, and providing the specialized services of the denominational Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits.

VI. REVIEW AND REAFFIRMATION OF THE COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIP

There will be a review, and if necessary, revision of the covenant relationship every five years. The General Assembly Corporation and the Board of Trustees of Bethel University will see that such a review is accomplished through appropriate committees. These committees will be appointed by the respective entities.

The review process will be initiated by the administration of the university and the review/ reaffirmation process shall consist of an in-depth review of all aspects of the university. The review process will be designed by the administration of the university and a review committee elected by the General Assembly Corporation. The review shall include consideration of changes and/or amendments to the Covenant relationship, as well as any suggestions to the university and the General Assembly resulting from the review. The administration of the university and the General Assembly Corporation committee shall produce a joint written report of the review process to be signed by the General Assembly Corporation Committee and the President of the university and submitted to both the Bethel Board of Trustees and the General Assembly Corporation.

Responsibility for approval of any change in the covenant resides with the Board of Trustees of Bethel University and the General Assembly Corporation. This agreement may be modified or altered prior to the reaffirmation process only with the consent of both parties.

VII. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COVENANT PARTNERS

Bethel University and the Church will communicate concerning the affairs of the university and the strength of the relationship at least every five years during the reaffirmation and renewal of the covenant. However, Bethel University is encouraged to submit information-only reports through the Stated Clerk to any meeting of the General Assembly Corporation.

VIII. APPROVAL OF THE COVENANT

This document establishes and contains the terms of the covenant relationship between the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Bethel University. By formal action, the Board of Trustees of Bethel University and the

**General Assembly Corporation adopt this Covenant and pledge themselves to carry out its provisions.
Approved by the Board of Trustees Bethel University**

**President, Bethel University
Board of Trustees**

**President, Bethel University
Approved by the 187th General Assembly Of the Cumberland Presbyterian**

General Assembly Stated Clerk

**Date
Respectfully Submitted,
The Bethel University Covenant Review Committee,” be adopted.**

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

The Children’s Home continues to be the arm of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church reaching out to broken families in crises. For 113 years, the Children’s Home has fulfilled its calling to serve children and families offering healing and hope. The mission of the Children’s Home is to be kept before the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in thought and prayer and in such tangible ways as Children’s Home Sunday on March 18, 2018. Every five years the Children’s Home’s covenant relationship is reviewed. Renewal of the Covenant with updated revisions is recommended.

The Children’s Home continues to need our help, our financial gifts and volunteer efforts are concrete ways that we can participate.

RECOMMENDATION 10: That the General Assembly urge presbyteries and in turn churches and other groups to support the Children’s Home with volunteer help, financial assistance, as well as celebrating Children’s Home Sunday on March 18, 2018.

VII. THE REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE COVENANT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CORPORATION AND CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN’S HOME

RECOMMENDATION 11: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Covenant Relationship Between the General Assembly Corporation and Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home, “that the Joint Committee on the Covenant Relationship Recommends the Adoption of the Following Document:

**The Addendum Number One
22 April 2017**

I. HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN’S HOME AND THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Mission Statement of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home has been revised to read. “In response to Christ’s love and example, we serve children and families by providing healing and hope.” The Children’s Home is in its 113th year of operation as a ministry of the General Assembly. As the Children’s Home entered the 21st Century, it maintained its core values while updating its delivery of services to fulfill its ministry. Today, CPCH is one ministry with four interrelated programs -- Long Term Residential Foster Care, Emergency Residential Foster Care, Single Parent Family residential and service program and Cumberland Family Services counseling.

II.

III.

IV. THE LEGAL RELATIONSHIP AND THE CORPORATE INTEGRITY OF EACH COVENANT PARTY

Separate Legal Entities.

a. Governance of CPCH. CPCH’s Certificate of Formation and By-Laws provide that it shall be managed by a Board of Trustees, of which at least 10 of the 18 Trustees must be members of a local Cumberland Presbyterian Church or Presbytery.

VII. APPROVAL OF THE COVENANT

This document and subsequent Addendums establishes and contains the terms of the Covenant relationship between the Board of Trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church General Assembly Corporation.

**This Addendum Number One is signed on the ____ day of _____ 2017.
Cumberland Presbyterian Church Board of Trustees of the
General Assembly Corporation Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home**

The Rev. Michael Sharpe
Stated Clerk

The Rev. Dr. Richard A. Brown
President, CEO & General Counsel

**Respectfully,
The Joint Committee on the Covenant Between the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home
and the General Assembly Corporation,” be adopted.**

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY AND SOCIAL CONCERNS/ UNIFICATION TASK FORCE

I. REFERRAL

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report of the Ministry Council, Section 1.B.6; The Report of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns; and The Report of the Unification Task Force.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Reverend William Robinson (CPCA) and Reverend Joy Warren (CPC), representatives of the Unification Task Force; Elder Joy Wallace and Reverend Nancy Fuqua, representative from the Unified Committee of Theology and Social Concerns; and Ministry Council staff: Mrs. Edith Old, Reverend Milton Ortiz and Reverend Lynn Thomas.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

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

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns, “that the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church commend Japan Presbytery for their diligent theological work in response to the social concerns that face them on a daily basis,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns, “that this paper be distributed to all presbyteries as a study document and that General Assembly direct presbyteries to use the resolution as a model for the work of presbytery committees on theological and social concerns in order that presbyteries might begin to use their declarative authority and speak theologically to the social issues that confront the Church,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns, “that the General Assemblies accept the papers, “*A Question of Hermeneutics*” and “*Identifying and Addressing Elder Abuse-A Social Response*” 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 4: That Recommendation 4 of the Report of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns, “that the Office of the General Assembly of both denominations makes these papers available to churches through the stated clerks of the presbyteries,” be denied.

The Committee offered the following recommendation in its place:

RECOMMENDATION 5: That the office of the General Assembly of both denominations make these papers available to the church (members) through the stated clerks of the presbyteries, denominational publications, all forms of digital media, and directing attention and traffic to www.cumberland.org/uctsc, which is the website for the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That Recommendation 5 of the Report of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns, “that the General Assemblies recommend to presbyteries the book “*America’s Original Sin*” by Jim Wallis as a resource on addressing racism in America,” be denied.

The Committee offered the following recommendation in its place:

RECOMMENDATION 7: The General Assemblies recommends to the presbyteries works such as; but not

limited to *“America’s Original Sin”* by Jim Wallis, *“Race Rules: Navigating the Color Line”* by Michael Eric Dyson, *“Understanding Every Day Racism”* by Philomena Essed, and *“The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness”* by Michele Alexander as resources on addressing racism in America.

B. REPORT OF THE UNIFICATION TASK FORCE

The Committee was in support of the Unification Task Force.

RECOMMENDATION 8: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Unification Task Force, “that the General Assemblies encourage pastors, elders, sessions, churches, presbyteries and synods to continue their study and discussion of the Proposed Plan of Union, and that responses be directed to the UTF through the Office of the Stated Clerk of the CPC or Office of the Executive Director of the CPCA, “be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 9: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Unification Task Force, “that the fourth Sunday in June be set aside in the church calendars as Unification Sunday beginning in 2018,” be adopted.

In light of the discussion on how to improve the process of unification the committee offered suggestions that embrace the global church.

RECOMMENDATION 10: That the General Assemblies encourage pastors, elders, sessions, churches, presbyteries, and synods to be more proactive in creating, diverse, meaningful shared community experiences world wide between CPC and CPCA. Recommended activities include pastor/choir swaps, sporting events, VBS, and revivals, and also more effectively utilize all forms of social media and digital communication to promote unification.

C. REPORT OF THE MINISTRY COUNCIL, SECTION 1.B.6

The CPC Commissioners met with members of the Ministry Council Staff who explained the importance of self-assessment, nature of missions, and expanding dialogue with the Unification Task Force. Unification Task Force representative, Reverend Joy Warren was invited back to speak to the commissioners. She indicated that the Unification Task Force welcomes feedback from all avenues.

RECOMMENDATION 11: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the Ministry Council, Section 1.B.6, “that the Cumberland Presbyterian General Assembly instruct boards and agencies listed in the Unification Task Force’s revised plan to provide a report to the next General Assembly (188th) asking these boards and agencies to provide: 1.) Their ideas with respect to the best ways to implement unification within their board or agency, 2.) Their assessment explaining if their board or agency needs structural changes as part of unification and what those changes should be, and 3.) What the board or agency anticipates will be the approximate costs implementing unification and or restructure of their board or agency,” be adopted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Committee on Theological and Social Concerns/Unification Task Force

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY COUNCIL/COMMUNICATIONS/DISCIPLESHIP

I. REFERRALS

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report of the Ministry Council, except shaded section 1.B.5 which is referred to Stewardship/Elected Officers, section 1.B.6 which is referred to Theology and Social Concerns/Unification Task Force, and section II.C which is referred to Missions/Pastoral Development.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

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

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

A. REPORT OF THE MINISTRY COUNCIL EXCEPT SHADED SECTION 1.B.5 WHICH IS REFERRED TO STEWARDSHIP/ELECTED OFFICERS, SECTION 1.B.6 WHICH IS REFERRED TO THEOLOGY AND SOCIAL CONCERNS/UNIFICATION TASK FORCE, AND SECTION II.C WHICH IS REFERRED TO MISSIONS/PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT.

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, and make the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Ministry Council, that the 187th General Assembly amend the Ministry Council Bylaws, ARTICLE III, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AUTHORITY, AND MEETINGS, Section E., Meetings to add “5. Meetings. A special meeting of the Ministry Council shall be called when requested by five or more Directors. (Bylaws online at <https://cpmc.org/mc/bylaws/>),” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 4 of the Report of the Ministry Council, “that the 187th General Assembly continue to encourage congregations, presbyteries, synods, and denominational groups to adopt and practice a written safe sanctuary plan; encourage presbyteries to maintain a copy of the safe sanctuary plan of every church and denominational entity within its jurisdiction; and encourage the Ministry Council to continue offering training and sample policies to congregations, presbyteries, synods and denominational groups about subjects to consider and include when writing a safe sanctuary plan,” be adopted.

In hearing all the great work and programs being facilitated by the Ministry Council, we desire to hear the voice of the Council, presbyteries, and congregations about their perception and vision of our present and future Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That the following questions be submitted to the Ministry Council to address, sample the local congregations, and report results to the Ministry Council Committee of the 188th General Assembly in 2018 and publish for the denomination to view for visioning on all church levels.

- 1. Where are the greatest opportunities for our congregations to thrive in the future that you see?**
- 2. What do you see as the greatest threat(s) to continued, effective ministry in and through our congregations?**
- 3. What can we do individually, collectively, and institutionally to overcome these dangers?**

Respectfully submitted:

The Committee on Ministry Council/Communication/Discipleship

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS AND PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

I. REFERRALS

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report of the Ministry Council, section II.C.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Reverend Michael Qualls, Director of the Program of Alternate Studies and from the Ministry council: Mrs. Edith Old, Director; Reverend Milton Ortiz, Team Leader, Missions Ministry Team; Reverend T.J. Malinoski, Evangelism and New Church Development; Reverend Johan Daza, Cross Cultural Ministries; Reverend Pam Phillips-Burk, Women's Ministries; Reverend Lynn Thomas, Global Missions; Mrs. Jinger Ellis, Finance and Administration; and Reverend Lanny Johnson, Ministry Council representative.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

A. THE REPORT OF THE MINISTRY COUNCIL, SECTION 11.C

The Committee is grateful for the life and witness of Reverend Harry Boyce Wallace and we ask our denomination to pray for his family as well as future missionaries.

The Committee is grateful for the life and witness of Reverend Randy Jacob and we ask our denomination to pray for his family as well. Our committee was informed that because the life and ministry of Reverend Randy Jacob was chronicled so well in *The Cumberland Presbyterian Magazine*, it will not be duplicated in *The Missionary Messenger* as was reported in the preliminary minutes.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 5 of the Report of the Ministry Council, "that the 187th General Assembly encourages presbyteries in attendance to promote the Stott-Wallace Missionary Support Fund among the churches of their presbytery. That each presbytery stated clerk provides the presbytery with the promotional video to be shown at presbytery and brochures for presbytery delegates to take back to their churches," be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 6 of the Report of the Ministry Council, "that the 187th General Assembly calls the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to be in diligent prayer for new exploration initiatives (formerly known as Mission Probes), and new church development as a means of evangelism and denominational growth in the United States. For individuals, both lay and ordained, to answer the call to church planting and for all judicatories of the Church to emphasize starting new exploration initiatives and/or new churches by identifying individuals and geographical areas where a Cumberland Presbyterian presence is needed and desirable," be adopted.

The committee agrees in principle with the Report of the Ministry Council concerning Recommendation 7, however, the General Assembly's role is to work through presbyteries who in turn work through churches and other groups.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 7 of the Report of the Ministry Council, "that the 187th General Assembly encourages presbyteries, local churches, and individuals to support Intercultural Internship opportunities through praying for the interns, and also through financially support the ongoing internship opportunities throughout the country," be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That the 187th General Assembly encourages presbyteries who in turn encourage churches, group, and individuals across the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to support Intercultural Internship opportunities through praying for the interns, and also through financially supporting the ongoing internship opportunities throughout the country.

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

The committee recognizes that the ordination of ministers is the function of the presbytery. As the presbytery is required to approve preparation for ministry the Alternate Studies route by a vote of two-thirds with the reasons for the

exceptions noted in the minutes, the committee agrees that approval from another body is not necessary.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That Recommendation 4 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary, “that the General Assembly approve discontinuance of the process of requiring PDMT to review exceptions made for candidates to prepare for ministry through the Program of Alternate Studies,” be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,
Committee on Missions and Pastoral Development

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 Chaplains and Military Personnel.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Ms. Susan Knight Gore, Archivist, Historical Foundation; Robin McCaskey Hughes, Representative, Historical Foundation; Ted Acklin, CPCA, Huntsville Presbytery, Olivia Brandon, CPCA, Huntsville Presbytery, Lawrence Greenslit, Director of the Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel, and Reverend Cassandra Thomas, representative to the Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

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

1. HISTORY INTERPRETATION AND PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

a. 1810 Circle - After hearing from Ms. Susan Knight Gore, the committee agreed that the 1810 Circle is a giving program that needs our continued support. After some discussion with our brothers and sisters from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, we concluded that the name of the program would better represent both denominations if it were changed to the 1810/1874 Circle.

Upon further discussion, the committee agreed with the Historical Foundation recommendation concerning the 1810 circle noting that the General Assembly's role is to first work through the presbyteries who in turn work through churches and other groups.

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

RECOMMENDATION 2: That the General Assembly instruct presbyteries to make congregations aware of the 1810 Circle and encourage new members to support this endeavor annually.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That, in solidarity with our brothers and sisters of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, the Board of the Historical Foundation change the name of the 1810 Circle to the 1810/1874 Circle.

b. Denomination Day Offering

The committee agreed with the Historical Foundation recommendation concerning encouraging congregations to have a special offering on the Sunday designated as Denomination Day, noting again that the General Assembly's role is to first work through the presbyteries who in turn encourage the support of their congregations.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation, "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 denied.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That the General Assembly instruct presbyteries to encourage their congregations to have a special offering on the Sunday designated as Denomination Day to help support the special project designated for that year.

2. PUBLICATIONS

Upon further discussion, the committee agreed with the Historical Foundation recommendation concerning the making others aware of the availability of funds to publish books on topics concerning the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, again noting that the General Assembly's role is to first work through

the presbyteries who then inform churches and individuals.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation, “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 denied.

RECOMMENDATION 7: That General Assembly make presbyteries aware that the Historical Foundation is interested and has funds to publish books on topics concerning the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, and instruct them to share this information with the churches and individuals of their presbytery.

3. ACQUISITIONS

Following discussion, the committee agreed with the Historical Foundation, that the preservation of session records are vital to the work and ministry of each congregations. We also noted that there is no place better qualified, or equipped to do the work of preservation than the Historical Foundation. Likewise, we agreed with the recommendation encouraging congregations to preserve their session records through the Historical Foundation, once again only noting that the General Assembly’s role is to first work through the presbyteries who in turn encourage their congregations.

RECOMMENDATION 8: That Recommendation 4 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation, “that the General Assembly encourage all congregations to preserve their session records by depositing them in the Historical Foundation,” be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 9: That the General Assembly instruct presbyteries to encourage all congregations to preserve their session records by depositing them in the Historical Foundation.

The committee agreed with the Historical Foundation’s report that, because the minutes of a body are the legal record of the actions of that body, it is vital that we maintain accurate, up to date records from our synods and presbyteries. The committee agreed that closing churches never an easy thing, but preserving the history of those churches remains essential to understanding who we are as Cumberland Presbyterian.

RECOMMENDATION 10: That Recommendation 5 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation, “that the General Assembly instruct each synod and presbytery to deposit their minutes in a timely fashion with the Historical Foundation,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 11: That Recommendation 6 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation, “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.

4. COMMENDATION OF HISTORICAL FOUNDATION STAFF

The committee was impressed with the passion and diligence with which the staff of the Historical Foundation works in preserving the heritage of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. Their efforts in preserving our historical records and artifacts and in educating our churches and individuals about their heritage should not go unnoticed. For that reason, the committee expresses its gratitude to the staff of the Historical Foundation for their tireless work in preservation of the heritage of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America.

B. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MILITARY CHAPLAINS AND PERSONNEL

Having reviewed the report from the Commission on Military Chaplains and Personnel and having heard from Lawrence Greenslit and Reverend Cassandra Thomas, the committee would like to note that the ongoing support of all of our Military Chaplains and Personnel is a vital part of the ministry of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and we commend those members of the commission for their work representing the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America as a part of the PCCMP.

Respectfully submitted:

The Committee on Chaplains/Historical Foundation

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 of the Ministry Council, section 1.B.5., 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; and Mr. Mark Duck (Board of Stewardship); Reverend Cliff Hudson (Our United Outreach Committee); Reverend Michael Sharpe, Stated Clerk; and Moderator of the 186th General Assembly, Reverend Dwayne Tyus.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

A. REPORT OF THE MODERATOR

We reviewed the Report of the Moderator. There were no recommendations in the report. We would like to thank the moderator of the 186th meeting of General Assembly, Reverend Dwayne Tyus, for his work and love of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Reverend Tyus was able to touch the heart of the denomination as he visited presbyteries and visited with clergy and elders around the world.

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 recommendation is made.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Stated Clerk, “that the 187th General Assembly approve the following dates for the 2017-2018 Church Calendar:

CHURCH CALENDAR 2017-2018

July-2017

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

August-2017

- 1-Sept 30 Christian Education Season
- 5 Bethel University Commencement
- 6-Sept 24 Christian Education Season
- 19 MTS Fall Semester Begins
- 20 Seminary/PAS Sunday
- 21 Bethel University Fall Semester Begins
- 29 Bethel University 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
- 8 Pastor Appreciation Sunday
- 22 Native American Sunday

November-2017

Any Sunday Loaves and Fishes Program
1 All Saints Day
4 World Community Day (Church Women United)
5 Bethel University Sunday
5 Stewardship Sunday
12 Day of Prayer for People with Aids and Other Life-Threatening Illnesses
19 Bible Sunday
26 Christ the King Sunday

December-2017

Any Sunday Gift to the King Offering
3-25 Advent in Church and Home
9 Bethel University Commencement
24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day

January-2018

6 Epiphany
8 BU Spring Semester Begins
8-9 Stated Clerks' Conference
7 Human Trafficking Awareness Day
15 Deadline for receipt of 2017 Our United Outreach Contributions

February-2018

Black History Month
1 Annual congregational reports due in General Assembly office
4 Denomination Day
4 Historical Foundation Offering
4 Souper Bowl Sunday
11 Our United Outreach Sunday
14 Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent
14–March 31 Lent to Easter
18 Youth Sunday

March-2018

Women's History Month (USA)
18 Children's Home Sunday
25 Palm/Passion Sunday
25-31 National Farm Workers Awareness Week
29 Maundy Thursday
30 Good Friday

April-2018

1 Easter
1-7 Family Week
8 One Great Hour of Sharing

May-2018

5 Bethel University Commencement
6 Friendship Day (Church Women United)
12 MTS Closing Convocation & Graduation
20 Pentecost
27 Memorial Day Offering for Military Chaplains & Personnel for USA churches

June-2018

3 Stott-Wallace Missionary Fund Offering/World penMission Sunday
17-21 General Assembly, Norman, Oklahoma
18-20 CPWM Convention, Norman, Oklahoma
24-29 Cumberland Presbyterian Youth Conference, Bethel University, McKenzie, Tennessee

July-2018

14 Children's Fest
7 Program of Alternate Studies Graduation
7-21 PAS Summer Extension School, Bethel, McKenzie, Tennessee

August-2018

4 Bethel University Commencement
5-Sept 30 Christian Education Season

18 MTS Fall Semester Begins (tentative)
 19 Seminary/PAS Sunday
 22 Bethel University Fall Semester Begins
 25 MTS Fall Semester Begins (tentative)
 28 MTS Opening convocation (tentative)
 30 Bethel University Spring Convocation

September-2018

4 MTS Opening convocation (tentative)
 9 Senior Adult Sunday
 16 Christian Service Recognition Sunday
 16 International Day of Prayer and Action for Human Habitat

October-2018

Clergy Appreciation Month
 7 Worldwide Communion Sunday
 7 Pastor Appreciation Sunday
 21 Native American Sunday

November-2018

Any Sunday Loaves and Fishes Program
 1 All Saints Day
 2 World Community Day (Church Women United)
 4 Bethel University Sunday
 4 Stewardship Sunday
 11 Day of Prayer for People with Aids and Other Life-Threatening Illnesses
 18 Bible Sunday
 25 Christ the King Sunday

December-2018

Any Sunday Gift to the King Offering
 2-24 Advent in Church and Home
 8 Bethel University Commencement
 24 Christmas Eve
 25 Christmas Day," be adopted

C. THE REPORT OF THE MINISTRY COUNCIL, SECTION 1.B.5

We are thankful for the work of our Ministry Council and their focus on the future of our denomination and its work around the world.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Ministry Council, "that the 187th General Assembly calls for all future General Assembly sites to have high speed, hard-wired internet access in the main meeting room, and that this condition be included in the contract negotiations with the host venue," be adopted.

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

RECOMMENDATION 3: That the General Assembly instruct the presbyteries to inform the congregations and individuals of our endowment programs and encourage churches to open their own endowment accounts; emphasizing the average return on investments since 1981, has averaged 9.8%.

RECOMMENDATION 4: We request the Board of Stewardship explore opportunities for Cumberland Presbyterians in all states to be able to have a saving account through the Investment Load Program.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That General Assembly direct the Board of Stewardship to instruct the presbyteries to inform the congregations and individuals of the Ministerial Aid Program, in giving aid for retired ministers and surviving spouses.

E. REPORT OF THE OUR UNITED OUTREACH COMMITTEE

We express our thanks to Reverend Cliff Hudson the OUO Development Coordinator, and the Our United Outreach Committee for their council and service to our denomination. We have a problem with the Development Coordinator title in

the allocations report. One would believe that this allowed money was a salary package, which it is not. It is the allotment for several personnel, and office.

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 2018,

The allocation is to be as follows:	\$2,800,000.00		
Development Coordinator	92,044.00		
Legal Fees	25,000.00		
Unification Task Force	35,000.00		
		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	158,877.00	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	2,966.00		.112%
			2,647,956.00

Our United Outreach Goal \$2,800,000.00,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 7: That the General Assembly direct the Our United Outreach Committee to change: “Development Coordinator” to “Development Coordinator Office.” This name change would reflect the reality of the work performed by those who make up the ministry, not just a Director.

RECOMMENDATION 8: That the General Assembly direct Our United Outreach Committee to extend a call to all congregations to pray and “rethink their giving” to Our United Outreach, by giving at least a tithe, if not more, to fund the denomination and its programs and ministries.

F. REPORT OF THE PLACE OF MEETING COMMITTEE

We are thankful for the work of the Place of Meeting Committee, which consists of the Moderator, Stated Clerk, and the representative of the Women’s Ministry. This committee has worked hard to serve the people of our denomination and to ensure they have a wonderful experience at the annual General Assembly meetings. The report of the Place of Meeting Committee was received and concurred in.

F. LINE ITEM BUDGETS SUBMITTED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENCIES

This committee thanks the Reverend Michael Shape, Stated Clerk, for his help in explaining the line item budgets to this committee and answering questions that were a concern to members of the committee. No actions were required by this committee.

Respectfully submitted:
The Committee on Stewardship/
Elected Officers

**The
 Proceedings
 of the**

**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVENTH
 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

of the

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

session held in

PALM HARBOR, FLORIDA

June 18 - 23, 2017

At Palm Harbor, Florida and within the facilities of the Innisbrook Resort, there the eighteenth day of June in the year of our Lord, two thousand seventeen, at the appointed hour of seven o'clock in the evening, 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 – SUNDAY – JUNE 18, 2017

OPENING WORSHIP

In the Inverness Ballroom of the Innisbrook Resort, the one hundred eighty-seventh General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the one hundred forty-second General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, the Convention of Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry, and visitors gathered for worship at 7:00p.m. Liturgists for the service were Ms. Yvonne Frierson, National Missionary Society President (CPCA), Reverend Jennifer Newell, Worship Director, Tennessee-Georgia Presbytery CPC) and Ms. Jamie Kay Berkley, Women's Ministry Convention President (CPC). The Music Director was Reverend Chris Warren, Murfreesboro Presbytery (CPC). The Special Music was sung by Elder John Rainey, Cleveland Ohio Presbytery (CPCA). The Pianist was Reverend Michael Sharpe, Stated Clerk (CPC). Ushers were Reverend Chuck Reed, Reverend Eddie Jenkins, Tom Beckmeyer, Lisa Beckmeyer, Max White, Ginger White, Spiro Cachia, Donna Cachia, and Carol Felicia.

The Reverend Michael Jones, Vice Moderator, Tennessee Valley Presbytery (CPCA) presented the sermon, *"The Evidence of Love,"* taken from Luke 10:29-37. The Sacrament of Holy Communion was led by Co-Celebrants Reverend Dwayne Tyus, Moderator, Nashville Presbytery (CPC) and Reverend Ann Williams Pierre, Hiwassee Presbytery (CPCA). Reverend Kay Ward Creer assisted with Communion.

FIRST DAY – MONDAY – JUNE 19, 2017

MORNING DEVOTIONAL

The morning began at 8:30 a.m. with a Devotional. The service was led by Liturgist Reverend Jennifer Newell, Tennessee-Georgia Presbytery and Music Leader Reverend Chris Warren, Nashville Presbytery. The Devotion was presented by Retiring Moderator, Reverend Dwayne Tyus. His message was taken from Colossians 1:15 – 20.

THE ASSEMBLY IS CONSTITUTED

The Moderator, the Reverend Dwayne Tyus, called the assembly to order at 8:50a.m. The Constituting Prayer was offered Reverend Rickey Page, Nashville Presbytery.

WELCOME

Moderator Tyus introduced Pastor Host, Reverend Eddie Jenkins, Grace Presbytery, who welcomed the General Assembly to Florida. Reverend Jenkins introduced Kelli Snow, Board of Directors of the Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Marketing Director for Chick-fil-a, and co-pastor of World Wide Word of Faith Church. Ms. Snow brought greetings to the body on behalf of the Palm Harbor area. Ms. Snow introduced Ms. Kim Adams, Honorary Mayor of Palm Harbor, who also brought greetings to the body.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

After thanking the Pastor Host and the Host Committee for their hard work, Moderator Tyus asked for a motion that the agenda be adopted. On Motion, the agenda was adopted.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Elder Christy Miller, Tennessee-Georgia Presbytery presented the Report of the Credentials Committee. There were forty-two (42) ministers, thirty-five (35) elders, for a total of seventy-seven (77) commissioners present at 8:30a.m. There were twenty-one (21) Youth Advisory Delegates present. On motion, the report of the Credentials Committee was received, marked Appendix "A" and filed.

VOTE FOR MODERATOR

Moderator Tyus declared the floor open for nominations for the Office of Moderator of the one hundred eighty-seventh General Assembly.

Reverend Tony Janner, West Tennessee Presbytery, nominated Reverend Dr. David Lancaster, West Tennessee Presbytery to be Moderator of the 187th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. There being no other nominations, a Motion was made that nominations cease and we move to elect by acclamation. Motion passed. By vote, Reverend Dr. David Lancaster was elected Moderator of the 187th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Moderator Lancaster was escorted to the podium by Reverend Janner. Former Moderator Tyus presented the Moderator's Cross, gavel and stole to newly elected Moderator Lancaster. A prayer for Moderator Lancaster was offered by Reverend Janner.

Moderator Lancaster assumed the podium and addressed the body, thanking the body for the honor to serve. The Moderator spoke with humility of his walk in faith in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

VOTE FOR VICE-MODERATOR

Moderator Lancaster opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Moderator. Elder Roy Shanks, North Central Presbytery, nominated Reverend Lisa Scott, North Central Presbytery, to be Vice-Moderator of the 187th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. There being no other nominations, a Motion was made that nominations cease and we move to elect by acclamation. Motion passed. By vote, Reverend Lisa Scott was elected Vice-Moderator of the of the 187th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Elder Shanks escorted Reverend Scott to the podium and introduced her to the body. Vice-Moderator Scott addressed the body thanking the body for the humbling honor of serving the church as Vice Moderator.

PRESENTATION BY THE STATED CLERK

The Stated Clerk, Reverend Michael Sharpe, invited retiring Moderator, Dwayne Tyus and his wife, Guin, to the podium. The Stated Clerk thanked the Tyus' for their service to the 186th General Assembly with Guin Tyus serving as "Official Chauffeur." The Stated Clerk presented the Former Moderator with replicas of the Moderator's Cross and gavel, representing the ones used in the 186th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Stated Clerk announced that there were no official communications. An invitation was given for the presentation of resolutions or memorials. There were none.

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.

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.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD/AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

The Stated Clerk introduced the following Board/Agency Representatives:

Bethel University	Walter Butler
Commission on Military Chaplains	Cassandra Thomas
Children's Home	Duane Dougherty
Historical Foundation	Robin McCaskey Hughes/Lisa Oliver
Judiciary	Andy McClung
Memphis Theological Seminary	Susan Parker
Ministry Council	Tom Sanders/Lanny Johnson
Our United Outreach	Cliff Hudson
Stewardship	Boyd Day
Theology & Social Concerns	Nancy Fuqua
Unification Task Force	Joy Warren (CPC)
	William Robinson (CPCA)

RECESS

Moderator Tyus declared the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in recess. The committees will reconvene on Tuesday at 9:00am.

FIELD TRIP TO BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY

The opportunity was made available for all who desired to travel by chartered bus to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry. While there, participants enjoyed a reception for the Moderators and Vice-Moderators of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, Moderator Reverend Dr. David Lancaster (CPC), Vice-Moderator Elder L. Leon Cole, (CPCA), Reverend Lisa Scott (CPC); the Immediate Moderator Reverend Dwayne Tyus (CPC); the Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry President, Ms. Jamie Kay Berkley; the Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry President-Elect, Faith Parra; National Missionary Society President, Ms. Yvonne Frierson. Beth-El Farmworker Ministry provided walking and bus tours of their facilities as well as finger foods and a Mariachi band. This was a very enjoyable outing for General Assembly Commissioners and visitors.

SECOND DAY – TUESDAY – JUNE 20, 2017

The General Assembly began their day with Committees meeting at 9:00a.m. While some committee held their own devotional in their meeting rooms, Joint Devotions were led by the National Missionary Society of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. Participants in the Joint Devotions were Worship Leader, Elder Justina Johnson (CPCA), Reverend Pam Phillips-Burk (CPC) – Invocation, Sister Mamie Hall (CPCA) – Scripture Reading, The Missionary Choir (CPCA) – Special Music, Sister Ann Buchanan (CPCA) – Offertory, Sister Edna Sheridan (CPCA) – Introduction of Speaker, Elder Yvonne Frierson (CPCA) – President's Moments, and Moderator Leon Cole (CPCA) – Benediction.

The speaker was Reverend Endia Scruggs, Pastor of Madkins Chapel CPCA. Reverend Scruggs presented a moving devotional taken from Luke 10:29-39 which conveyed the message that we are all neighbors.

The day was devoted to committee work until 5:00p.m. Attendance for the day: Forty-five (45) Minister Commissioners, thirty-seven (37) Elder Commissioners for a total of 82 Commissioners and twenty-one (21) Youth Advisory Delegates.

EVENING PROGRAM

At 7:30p.m. in Inverness Hall, Commissioners and visitors participated in a Joint Worship Service led by the Unification Task Force. Worship Leadership included Liturgists Reverend William Robinson (CPCA) and Reverend Joy Warren (CPC), Music Director, Melody Dieking (CPCA); Accompanist Patti Needham (CPC) and Special Music Reverend Chris Warren (Cumberland Presbyterian Church). The Message was presented by Reverend Dr. Stan Wood who presented the message, "*The Blending of Two Sticks,*" based upon Ezekiel 37:16-18, 21-22. Dr. Wood presented a moving sermon calling upon the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to join together as one. Reverend Joy Warren led the congregation in two activities: "*Responding To The Message*" and "*Connecting With Our Neighbor.*"

At 8:30p.m. the annual Reception Honoring Women in Ministry was held at Toscana Clubhouse. Attendees enjoyed rich fellowship and refreshments as they celebrated Women in Ministry.

RESOLUTION OF FORGIVENESS, UNITY, AND RESOLVE

WHEREAS, We Cumberland Presbyterians are considering the call of God as we embrace our 2017 Theme of “**Connecting With Our Neighbor**” (Luke 10: 29-37) during the 142nd convening of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA), General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Jesus commands his followers with specific instructions: go, teach, baptize, forgive and make disciples. (Matthew 28:18-20), and

WHEREAS, the *Colored Cumberland Presbyterian Church* was formed in May of 1874 as a result of the racism and segregation practices that existed within the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and directed towards its African-American membership. Where, in defense of Cumberland Presbyterian institutionalized segregation and resulting unequal representation, African American members petitioned the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for assistance in organizing a separate body for African Americans, allowing the African American membership) to become independent and self-reliant, to develop its own clergy and other leaders, and maintain its own church buildings, all with encouragement and financial support from the parent denomination. The resulting predominately African American (black) church was re-named as the *Second Cumberland Presbyterian Church* before assuming its current name; and

WHEREAS, we proudly celebrate the faith and conviction of our early CPCA fathers, our committed African American Presbyterians ancestors. We recognize their witness as fellow pilgrims on the journey of faith and as our spiritual ancestors who “earnestly contended for the faith that was once delivered to the saints” (*Jude 1:3*). We commend them for their vision and proclaim those Church Fathers as our spiritual ancestors who taught us not only to reverence the mystery of God through word, thought, and deed, but also to celebrate the African American heritage of Christianity through witness in the tradition of those few, but brave and faithful men and women of color: and

WHEREAS, we joyfully acknowledge that God is truly the sustainer of us all! We recognize that fact as evident in that the CPCA and CPC entities both are still in existence and are both focused, working to carry out the Great Commission; and, although in many ways working separately in God’s vineyard, both CPC and CPCA congregations have a willingness and desire to live in His heavenly will as is evident in their continued partnership; and

WHEREAS, relations between the two Cumberland Presbyterian Churches have for the most part been very cordial, with many of the CPCA ministers having received training at Memphis Theological Seminary. The two denominations continue to share a Confession of Faith and cooperate in many common ministries; and

WHEREAS, in true Christian fashion the 186th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church does recognize, confess, and condemn and repent of past failures to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires, as well as failures to lovingly confront their brothers and sisters concerning racial sins and personal bigotry, and failing to “learn to do good, seek justice and correct oppression (*Isaiah 1:17*);” and

WHEREAS, the 186th General Assembly of the CPC has resolved to apologize to us, their African American brothers and sisters, and seeks our forgiveness, and has further resolved to work to restore the broken relationships their sin has caused. The CPC has resolved to recommit itself to the gospel task of racial reconciliation, diligently seeking effective courses of action to further that goal, with humility, sincerity and zeal, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, we also seek the healing of our division as Cumberland Presbyterians. We know, not just in our hearts and minds, but where our faith resides, that the path of forgiveness is the direction we are meant to take. “All of this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to him...and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.” (*2 Corinthians 5:18-19*); and have therefore hereby

RESOLVED, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America in its entirety hopes and prays that the Apology will be words of action and sincerity not only in the sanctuary, but in every facet of our daily lives. In the new spirit this Apology has created, let us unite our hearts and minds in the wholeness of life that God has given us. May God grant us strength and vision for the journey towards right relations and wellbeing and see the possibilities and promise of healing; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America accepts the CPC apology and we extend to you our forgiveness in the name of our lord and savior, Jesus Christ. *Ephesians 4: 31-32*, says, “ let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice, and be kind, one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ’s sake, hath forgiven you”; and be it further

RESOLVED, because of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior and His great love toward us, we extend that same love, forgiveness, grace and mercy towards you. We pray that the genuineness of your repentance and our forgiveness will be reflected in the attitudes and actions of all. We forgive you, for Christ’s sake, *amen*.