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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 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 Edmund Cox (CPCA) and Reverend Mitch Boulton (CPC), representatives of Theology and Social Concerns; Reverend Perryn Rice (CPCA) and Reverend Steve Mosley, representatives of the Unification Task Force (CPC); Reverend Mike Wilkinson, president of the Ministry Council; Ms Edith Old, Director of Ministries; Ms. Charelle Webb, representative Ministry Council; and Reverend Jacqueline DeBerry, non-commissioner representing herself.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

A. UNIFIED COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

The committee considered the report, and after consultation with representatives of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns, the committee concurs in the report and makes the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns, “that the UCTSC requests more time to consider other pertinent information from various perspectives in order to set forth a loving, Biblical and theological sound response,” be adopted.

Our Committee acknowledges the diligent work done by the UCTSC on the subject of human sexuality. They have received and studied input from the members of the CPCA and the CPC and are requesting additional feedback. One opportunity for members of the denomination to address the UCTSC, either directly or by teleconference, is on August 24, 2019 (location TBD). Additional study papers may be submitted by October 1, 2019 to the UCTSC. Contact the chair of the UCTSC for further information. (www.cumberland.org/uctsc/)

The Committee adds this additional recommendation to encourage a timely conclusion by the UCTSC.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That the UCTSC return a response to the 190th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

B. UNIFICATION TASK FORCE

The committee considered the report, and after consultation with representatives of the Unification Task Force, the committee concurs in the report and makes the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Unification Task Force, that this Proposed Plan for Union be adopted by the General Assemblies of the CPCA and the CPC; and that upon such approval, it be forwarded to the presbyteries of the CPCA and the CPC for ratification during the 2019-2020 year. Presbyteries will be instructed to submit a report of their vote to their respective General Assembly clerks in time to be announced by the 2020 General Assemblies,” be adopted.

C. FURTHER ACTIONS++

The committee received a communication from the Ministry Council. After discussions with the Ministry Council and the Unification Task Force, action is not needed at this time.

The committee also heard from Reverend Jacqueline DeBerry at her request. She had some clarifying questions. The committee answered her questions to the best of our ability.

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY COUNCIL

I. REFERRALS

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report of the Ministry Council, and The Memorial from Presbytery del Cristo Regarding a Denominational Day of Prayer and Fasting.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Mrs. Edith Old, Director of Ministries; Ms. Charelle Webb, Representative from Ministry Council; Reverend Pam Phillips-Burk, Pastoral Development Ministry Team; Reverend Steven Shelton, Communications Ministry Team; Reverend Elinor Brown, Discipleship Ministry Team; Reverend Milton Ortiz, Missions Ministry Team; Reverend Lynn Thomas, Global Cross-Cultural Ministries; and Reverend T. J. Malinoski, Evangelism and New Church Development Director.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

A. REPORT OF THE MINISTRY COUNCIL

We commend the members of the Ministry Council on their excitement and enthusiasm about their tasks, exceptional stewardship of all their resources, the creation of a cooperative and empowering environment, and the success of their hard work. We make the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Ministry Council, “That the 189th General Assembly request presbyteries to call upon both lay and ordained Cumberland Presbyterians to start new communities of faith in their homes, neighborhoods, towns, cities, and local settings with the encouragement and support of their church session, presbyterial board of missions, presbytery, synod, and MMT for the purpose of extending the Gospel of Jesus Christ,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Ministry Council, “That the 189th General Assembly request presbyteries to promote and encourage all congregations to consider Beth-El Farmworker Ministry as a mission field for Cumberland Presbyterian church groups looking for short mission trip opportunities and experiences,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the Ministry Council, “That the 189th General Assembly be called to pray during the General Assembly for our missionaries. Also, that the General Assembly prays that God continues to call churches and individuals to support these missionaries,” be adopted.

(This prayer is suggested at the end of the commissioning ceremony. Youth Advisory Delegate Chandler Anderson has volunteered to offer this prayer.)

RECOMMENDATION 4: That Recommendation 4 of the Report of the Ministry Council, “That the 189th General Assembly request presbyteries to encourage all congregations to engage, promote, support, and participate in opportunities to grow the Kingdom of God in denominational ministries through the following: Explore denominational resources for Small Group Studies, Children and Youth Ministry, and Adult Bible Study; Pray for and support our missionaries through the Stott-Wallace Missionary Offering Fund; Visit and advocate for our Ministry Partners, Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, Project Vida, Coalition of Appalachian Ministries, and National Farm Workers Ministry; Encourage students to attend Bethel University and Memphis Theological Seminary; Support global and local mission opportunities,” be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That the 189th General Assembly request presbyteries to encourage all congregations to engage, promote, support, and participate in opportunities to grow the Kingdom of God in denominational ministries through the following: explore denominational resources for Small Group Studies, Children and Youth Ministry, and Adult Bible Study; pray for and support our missionaries through the Stott-Wallace Missionary Offering Fund; visit and advocate for our Ministry Partners, Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, Project Vida, Coalition of Appalachian Ministries, and National Farm Workers Ministry; encourage students to attend Bethel University, Memphis Theological Seminary, and the Program of Alternate Studies; and support global and local mission opportunities.

B. DECLARATION FROM HONG KONG PRESBYTERY

The Committee heard a report from our Commissioners from Hong Kong Presbytery on the declaration passed by the Hong Kong Presbytery concerning the increased Chinese pressure on the citizens of Hong Kong concerning the amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance. The Ministry Council Committee supports Hong Kong Presbytery as the presbytery defends the rights of the citizens.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That the 189th General Assembly pray for Hong Kong, China, Hong Kong Presbytery, and the churches in Hong Kong and especially the families of the Hong Kong Commissioners directly involved with this issue.

C. THE MEMORIAL FROM PRESBYTERY DEL CRISTO REGARDING A DENOMINATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING

RECOMMENDATION 7: That the Memorial from Presbytery del Cristo which states: “189th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church,

Believing that God, in creating persons, gives us the capacity and freedom to respond to God’s mighty act of reconciling love accomplished in Jesus and that we are responsible for our choices and actions toward God, one another and the world;

Confessing that we rebel against God, reject our dependence, abuse the gift of freedom, willfully sin, both individually and collectively, and stand in need of God’s redemption;

Rejoicing that God acts to heal the brokenness and alienation caused by our sin to restore us through the reconciliation of Jesus Christ and the outpouring the Holy Spirit calling every person toward repentance and faith;

Responding to God’s acts of saving grace and forgiveness of sin, we make honest confession of sin against God, our brothers and sisters, and all of creation, amending the past so far as in our power through our choices, actions, and prayer;

Recalling that the renewal of believers is solely of God’s grace, that when we trust in the Lord Jesus, we are recreated, born again, renewed in spirit, and made new persons in Christ who are empowered by the illuminating influence of the Holy Spirit to love and glorify God and to love and serve our neighbor;

Reminding all Cumberland Presbyterians that prayer is inseparable from the Christian life and to be a Christian is to pray and to join others in prayer and that we pray not primarily to receive from God but as an expression of our creaturehood and our dependence upon God as our Creator;

Guided by the primary purposes of prayer being to enter the presence of God, to experience anew God’s judgement, grace, and power, to praise God and to invite God into our world and into our lives;

Declaring that the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, being nurtured and sustained by worship, by the proclamation and study of the word, and by the celebration of the sacraments, is commissioned to witness to all persons who have not received Christ as Lord and Savior;

Calls upon the 189th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church who is meeting concurrently with the 144th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America and;

Requests that a denominational day of Prayer and Fasting be set and observed by all members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at every level and in every nation to renew and revitalize us to bear witness to God’s mighty act of reconciling love accomplished in Jesus Christ by which the sins of the world are forgiven.

Submitted by: Karen Avery, Presbytery del Cristo on March 15, 2019,” be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,
The Ministry Council Committee

FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES



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**The declaration made by
the Cumberland Presbyterian Church Hong Kong Presbytery
regarding the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance (the “FOO”)
proposed to be amended by the HKSAR government**

The HKSAR government’s recent proposal to amend the FOO has aroused concerns among different sectors in Hong Kong. On 28 April 2019, rally was held by citizens to express discontent over the proposed amendments of the FOO. The proposal polarises and divides the society, and due to procedural matters of the legislative council, the pro-establishment camp and the pro-democracy camp refused to make concessions which led to conflicts between them. Meeting has not been formally held to allow the lawmakers to rationally discuss the proposed amendments.

We believe that humanity is made in the image of God and it possesses inviolable dignity. Human basic rights and freedom shall be respected and safeguarded. Government is the servant of God and its people, it shall maintain social fairness, righteousness and justice, and safeguard the deserved rights and safety of the citizens.

We now call upon all members of our church and those of the Christian church to pray for Hong Kong and its government that peace and justice be with our society.

We urge the government officials and all members of the legislative council to consider opinions of legal professional bodies and community groups, and seek to resolve the disputes in the manner of respecting each other, seeking truths from facts and careful listening.

The government should adopt a positive and humble attitude to explain the proposed amendments to the citizens, and provide the public with sufficient consultation opportunities. The amendments of the FOO should be suspended before consensus is reached in the society.

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 Nashville Regarding Sacrament of Baptism.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Reverend Geoff Knight, representative of the Permanent Judiciary Committee; Stated Clerk, and Reverend Mike Sharpe appeared before the committee.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

A. REPORT OF THE PERMANENT JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The committee concurs in the Report of the Permanent Judiciary Committee.

B. REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON AMENDMENTS

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Joint Committee on Amendments, “That the Preamble to the Constitution be amended by inserting the following paragraph between the first and second existing paragraphs: “Cumberland Presbyterian congregations are found around the world. While the mission of the church is the same everywhere, the forms and structures of the Constitution and Rules of Discipline do not always fit seamlessly with the cultures, traditions, and legal systems of some countries. In countries other than the United States the provisions of the Constitution and Rules of Discipline should be applied so far as possible, but the Constitution and Rules of Discipline are, at heart, documents which exist to promote spiritual objectives. If there are instances in which the letter of the Constitution and/or Rules of Discipline cannot be applied without compromising the mission of the church and the spiritual objectives identified in the Confession of Faith, it is the spirit of the law, rather than the letter, which must prevail.”

That Constitution 3.03 be amended to read: “The authority of each level of church government is limited by the stated provisions of the Constitution. Although each judicatory exercises exclusive original jurisdiction over all the matters specifically belonging to it, the lower judicatories are subject to the review and appellate authority of the next higher judicatory.”

That Constitution 3.35 be amended to read: “A particular church shall not sell, convey, lease, pledge, mortgage, or encumber its real property used for purposes of worship, nurture, or ministry without the written permission of the presbytery in which the particular church is located, transmitted through the session of the particular church. In granting its permission, the presbytery does not become a party to the church’s agreement, nor a guarantor of any indebtedness.”

That Constitution 7.06, which refers to the relationships of pastor, assistant/ associate pastor, stated supply, and interim pastor, be amended to read “A person shall enter into one of these relationships with a particular church only with the approval of the presbytery in the bounds of which the particular church is located. The church session shall bear responsibility for the selection of the person, and the presbytery’s approval shall relate to the person’s ministerial credentials, commitment to the theology and government of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church/ Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, and standing in his or her current presbytery, if any. The presbytery may authorize its board of missions or equivalent body to act on its behalf in examining the call and to give tentative approval to a relationship between a particular church and a minister, licentiate, or candidate, subject to formal approval at a meeting of the presbytery.”

That Constitution 8.5(f) be amended to read “In general, to order with respect to the presbyteries, sessions, and churches under its care according to the government of the church, whatever pertains to their spiritual welfare and the edification of the church.”

That Constitution 9.4 (d) be amended to read “Institute and review the work of denominational entities.”

That Constitution 9.4(g) be amended to read “Take care that the lower judicatories observe the government of the church and exercise its review and appellate authority to redress what they may have done contrary to order.”

That Constitution 9.4(m) be amended to read “Keep watch over the affairs of the whole church,” be adopted.

C. THE MEMORIAL FROM NASHVILLE PRESBYTERY REGARDING SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

It is the opinion of this committee that this memorial was directed inappropriately to the Permanent Judiciary Committee. Therefore, the Memorial from Nashville Presbytery which states:

“WHEREAS the Confession of Faith, Section 5.18, states that the Sacrament of Baptism “symbolizes the baptism of the Holy Spirit and is the external sign of the covenant which marks membership in the community of faith”, and

WHEREAS the Confession of Faith, Section 5.21, states that “in administering the sacrament the pouring or sprinkling of water on the person by the minister fittingly symbolizes the baptism of the Holy Spirit”, and

WHEREAS the General Assembly in 1968 granted a Memorial which allowed a minister to “perform the sacrament of baptism with the mode best suited to the specific situation” (Digest, page 18, 2.63d “interpretative”), and

WHEREAS the resulting practice of baptism over the years by Cumberland Presbyterian ministers is now so varied so as to have lost seemingly its connection to baptism as defined in the Confession of Faith, and has opened the door for practices not affirmed in the Confession such as “infant dedications” and repeating the sacrament (despite Section 5.19 of the Confession) under the guise of “believer’s baptism”,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Nashville Presbytery memorializes the General Assembly to refer this Memorial to the General Assembly’s Permanent Committee on the Judiciary to report back to the next General Assembly and to provide guidance and direction, particularly to presbyteries, on how to maintain and affirm the Confession of Faith in relation to the Sacrament of Baptism in actual practice.

Respectfully Submitted, Reverend Fred E. Polacek,” be denied.

Respectfully submitted,
The Judiciary Committee

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, The Report of the Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel and The Report of the Evaluation Committee, Part II, Recommendations 7-11.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Ms. Susan Knight Gore, Archivist, Historical Foundation; Ms. Pat Ward, Board Representative, Historical Foundation; Navy Chaplain Lyman M. Smith (CAPT, CHC, USN), Director of the Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel, and Reverend Cassandra Thomas, representative to the Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel; Colonel David Lockhart, Chaplain at Fort Gordon Army Base, Augusta, Georgia; Reverend Tony Janner, retired Air Force Chaplain, member of the PCCMP; and Reverend Rickey Page, representative to the GA Evaluation Committee.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

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

The Committee appreciates the work being done by Archivist, Ms. Susan Knight Gore and the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation, and commends them for their dedication to the preservation of the records of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Church records and session minutes are of profound historical significance and importance. When the records of a congregation are lost, very little of that congregation's story may ever be recovered or recreated for preservation and research. Every effort must be made to secure congregational records before a church closes and the property is sold.

Preservation of materials is a critical issue for the Historical Foundation and the infiltration of water into the Archives makes it difficult to properly store and protect the Church's historical documents.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation, "that the General Assembly instruct presbyteries to obtain the session records of a congregation at the time the church is closed and then deposit them in the Historical Foundation," be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That the Center Interagency Team prioritize a permanent solution to the problem of water incursion into the Center building, especially in the portion of the building occupied by the Historical Foundation.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That presbyteries instruct their congregations to lift up the Denomination Day offering on the first Sunday in February as an important source of funding for the Historical Foundation and their work in preserving our history.

B. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MILITARY CHAPLAINS AND PERSONNEL

The Committee reviewed the Report of the Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel, prepared and presented by members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church who serve on the Council.

The Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel, also known as the Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies, receives its support from four member denominations: Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad, and Presbyterian Church USA.

There are more chaplains today than there are pastors, yet there are still not enough chaplains to meet the needs of those employed by the military, prison system, and federal agencies. The PCCMP is working to make sure Presbyterian chaplains meet the highest standards for ordination and commissioning. As of March 4, 2019, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America had one chaplain on military active duty, and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church had four chaplains on military active duty, three chaplains in the military reserves with one more pending, two chaplain candidates, seven Veteran Affairs chaplains with two more pending, and 13 retired chaplains. The Moderator of the 189th General Assembly, Reverend Shelia O'Mara, is a retired military chaplain and the Vice-Moderator of the 187th General Assembly, Reverend Lisa Scott, recently accepted the position of Supervisory Chaplain at the Kansas City VA Medical Center, Kansas City, Missouri.

Presbyterian Chaplains will be present at Triennium this year, ministering to those in attendance and encouraging them to listen for God's call on their lives.

The Committee is grateful to the Commission on Military Chaplains and Personnel for the encouragement and support they provide to chaplains and to those whom they serve.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Commission on Military Chaplains and Personnel, "that each Cumberland Presbyterian Church provide an opportunity for their congregations to receive an offering on the last Sunday of May, or another special day, to support our ministry through the PCCMP," be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America presbyteries and Cumberland Presbyterian Church presbyteries located in the United States encourage their congregations to provide an opportunity for their congregations to receive an offering on the last Sunday of May, or another special day, to support the ministry through the PCCMP.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Commission on Military Chaplains and Personnel, "that individual congregations of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America determine and designate special days through the year to hold up the chaplains and their families in the service to which they have been endorsed," be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 7: That Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America presbyteries and Cumberland Presbyterian Church presbyteries located in the United States determine and designate special days through the year to hold up the chaplains and their families in the service to which they have been endorsed.

C. REPORT OF THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE, PART II, (RECOMMENDATIONS 7-11)

The Evaluation Committee examined the work of the Historical Foundation and met with the Director of the Historical Foundation to discuss the function of the Foundation, the work that has been assigned to the Foundation, and the long-range plans for fulfilling the directives given to the Foundation by the General Assembly.

Consideration may need to be given to more cost-effective ways of housing the archival collection, while still providing researchers and historians access to church records. Foundational documents need to be reviewed and updated to reflect the Foundation's evolving role in a changing world.

Financial restraints prevent the Foundation from carrying out some of their plans for improving the work and function of the Historical Foundation.

RECOMMENDATION 8: That Recommendation 7 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, "that General Assembly recommend that the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation review and/or revise the charter in light of the issues raised in this evaluation," be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 9: That General Assembly recommend that the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation review and/or revise the charter to make sure it is still accurate to the work of the Foundation.

RECOMMENDATION 10: That Recommendation 8 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, "that the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation develop a long-range strategy to fulfill the requirements outlined in the Charter and include a transition strategy for replacing the Director and part time archivist," be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 11: That Recommendation 9 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, "that the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation engage in leadership training. (It might be possible to partner with MTS who will be providing this training for its board.)," be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 12: That Recommendation 10 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, "that the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation develop a job description for the director and part time archivist", be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 13: That Recommendation 11 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, "that General Assembly revise funding strategies enabling the Historical Foundation to fulfill the requirements of the charter," be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 14: That the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation be encouraged to develop a long-range strategy, to include a succession plan along with updated job descriptions for all staff.

RECOMMENDATION 15: That we commend the Historical Foundation for their creative fundraising and for their excellent stewardship of the funds they receive, and that the General Assembly encourage the Board of Trustee of the Historical Foundation to develop funding strategies for helping the Foundation fulfill its mission.

RECOMMENDATION 16: That the General Assembly encourage individuals, congregations, and presbyteries to visit the Historical Foundation website, make use of the information available, and support the Foundation by donating through the link provided on their webpage. www.cumberland.org/hfcp

Respectfully submitted,
The Committee on Chaplains and Historical Foundation

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STEWARDSHIP/ELECTED OFFICERS/OUO

I. REFERRALS

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report of the Moderator; The Report of the Stated Clerk; 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. Mark Duck, and Board Representative, Mr. Gary Tubb (Board of Stewardship); Reverend Cliff Hudson, and regional representatives: Colatta Edsell, Jeff McMichael and Bruce Hamilton (Our United Outreach Committee); Reverend Michael Sharpe, Stated Clerk; and Moderator of the 188th General Assembly, Reverend Jay Earheart-Brown. We wish to express our appreciation to the persons of counsel for their presentation.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

A. REPORT OF THE MODERATOR

Concurred in the moderator's report and expressed gratitude for Reverend Dr. Jay Earheart-Brown's service as moderator.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Moderator, "that the 189th General Assembly formally express its appreciation for the life, ministry, and service of Reverend Buddy Pope as Vice Moderator of the 188th General Assembly, and that the clerk be instructed to send notice of our appreciation to Buddy's family at his earliest convenience," be adopted.

We agree with the moderator's assertion that our Constitution's description of advisory members is inadequate. The current language, in section 3.07, Judicatories of the Church, reads as follows:

"3.07 Other ministers [who are not members of the body] who are present in a meeting of presbytery or synod may or may not be seated by action of the body as advisory members, which if granted gives them the privilege to speak to any matter before the body. Persons so seated shall be introduced to the presbytery or the synod by the moderator."

We agree with the moderator's proposed constitutional amendment to current section 3.07 above to be replaced as follows:

"3.07 Every judicatory of the church has the prerogative to seat persons as advisory members, with full privilege of speaking to any issue before the judicatory, but no vote. The following persons shall be granted advisory membership in the stated judicatory:

a. Presbytery approved and installed assistant and associate pastors will be advisory members of the session they serve.

b. Elected officers of any judicatory (stated clerk, engrossing clerk, treasurer, etc.) and official representatives from any standing committee or board of the judicatory will be advisory members of that judicatory, if they are not members of the body, without the need to request permission to speak.

The following persons may be approved as advisory members of a judicatory, but are not required to be seated as such. Persons so seated shall be introduced to the judicatory by the moderator:

a. In middle judicatories, visiting ordained Cumberland Presbyterian ministers from other presbyteries/synods.

b. In middle judicatories, visiting elders from other presbyteries/synods.

c. In any judicatory, youth advisory delegates elected to serve.

d. Representatives from higher judicatories.

e. Officers from the Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry or other auxiliaries.

f. Attorneys employed by the judicatory.

g. Visiting ministers or leaders from other denominations with whom the judicatory is in partnership.

No judicatory should feel obligated to seat advisory members, but should grant this privilege in a way that serves the mission and ministry of the church. Persons who are not regular or advisory members of any judicatory may be granted permission to speak to the judicatory on majority vote or consent of the judicatory.”

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Moderator, “that the General Assembly approve the proposed amendment to substitute a new section 3.07 for the existing 3.07 in the Constitution of the CPC/CPA, and that the proposed amendment be forwarded to the Joint Committee on Amendments for their review and counsel,” be adopted.

B. THE REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

We commend the work of the Stated Clerk, Reverend Michael Sharpe, and the thoroughness of the actions described in his submitted report.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Stated Clerk, “that the 189th General Assembly approve (with the changes of the CPYC date to June 21-26, 2020 and General Assembly to June 7-12, 2020 in Louisville, Kentucky) the following dates for the 2019-2020 Church Calendar:

CHURCH CALENDAR 2019-2020

July-2019

6	Children’s Fest/Middle Schooler’s Event, McKenzie, Tennessee
7	Outdoor Ministries Sunday
13	Program of Alternate Studies Graduation
13-27	PAS Summer Extension School, Bethel, McKenzie, Tennessee
16-20	Presbyterian Youth Triennium

August-2019

4	Bethel University Commencement
4-Sept 30	Christian Education Season
7-10	Youth Worker Retreat
18	MTS Fall Semester Begins (tentative)
18	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-2019

4	MTS Opening convocation (tentative)
8	Family Sunday
8	Senior Adult Sunday
12-15	Young Adult Ministry Council
15	Christian Service Recognition Sunday
15	International Day of Prayer and Action for Human Habitat
22	Seminary Sunday

October-2019

	Church Paper Month
	Clergy Appreciation Month
	Domestic Violence Awareness Month
6	Worldwide Communion Sunday
13	Pastor Appreciation Sunday
15	A Day at the Park
20	Native American Sunday

November-2019

	Any Sunday Loaves and Fishes Program
1	All Saints Day
3	World Community Sunday (Church Women United)
3	Bethel University Sunday
3	Stewardship Sunday
7-9	Symposium
10	Day of Prayer for People with Aids and Other Life-Threatening Illnesses
17	Bible Sunday
24	Christ the King Sunday

December-2019

	Any Sunday Gift to the King Offering
2	PAS Advisory Council
2-24	Advent in Church and Home
8	Bethel University Commencement
24	Christmas Eve
25	Christmas Day

January-2020

6	Epiphany
6	MTS Classes Begin
6-7	Stated Clerks' Conference
11	Human Trafficking Awareness Day
13	BU Spring Semester Begins
15	Deadline for receipt of 2019 Our United Outreach Contributions

February-2020

	Black History Month
1	Annual congregational reports due in General Assembly office
2	Denomination Day
2	Historical Foundation Offering
2	Souper Bowl Sunday
9	Our United Outreach Sunday
16	Youth Sunday
26	Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent
26–April 11	Lent to Easter

March-2020

	Women's History Month (USA)
6	World Day of Prayer (CWU)
15	Children's Home Sunday
23-29	National Farm Workers Awareness Week

April-2020

5	Palm/Passion Sunday
9	Maundy Thursday
10	Good Friday
12	Easter
19	Earth Day

16

May-2020

- 1 **Friendship Day (Church Women United)**
- 7 **National Day of Prayer**
- 9 **Bethel University Commencement**
- 16 **MTS Closing Convocation & Graduation**
- 24 **Memorial Day Offering for Military Chaplains & Personnel for USA churches**
- 31 **Pentecost**
- 31 **World Missions Sunday**
- 31 **Stott-Wallace Missionary Offering**

June-2020

- 7-12 **General Assembly**
- 8-12 **CPWM Convention**
- 14 **Cumberland Presbyterian Church Ministries Sunday**
- 21 **Unification Sunday**
- 28-July 3 **Cumberland Presbyterian Youth Conference, Bethel University, McKenzie, Tennessee**

July-2020

- 5 **Outdoor Ministries Sunday**
- 9-12 **Americas Youth Gathering 2020**
- 11 **Children's Fest/Middle Schooler's Event, Cookeville, Tennessee**
- 11 **Program of Alternate Studies Graduation**
- 11-25 **PAS Summer Extension School, Bethel, McKenzie, Tennessee**
- 18 **Children's Fest/Middle Schooler's Event, Cookeville, Tennessee**

August-2020

- 1 **Bethel University Commencement**
- 2-Sept 30 **Christian Education Season**
- 5-10 **Asian Youth Gathering 2020**
- 16 **Seminary/PAS Sunday**
- 17 **Bethel University Fall Semester Begins**
- 25 **Bethel University Convocation**
- 26 **MTS Fall Semester Begins (tentative)**
- 27 **MTS Opening convocation (tentative)**

September-2020

- 13 **Family Sunday**
- 13 **Senior Adult Sunday**
- 20 **Christian Service Recognition Sunday**
- 20 **International Day of Prayer and Action for Human Habitat**

October-2020

- Church Paper Month**
- Clergy Appreciation Month**
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month**
- 4 **Worldwide Communion Sunday**
- 11 **Pastor Appreciation Sunday**
- 18 **Native American Sunday**
- 20 **A Day at the Park**

November-2020

	Any Sunday Loaves and Fishes Program
1	All Saints Day
1	Bethel University Sunday
1	Stewardship Sunday
6	World Community Day (Church Women United)
15	Day of Prayer for People with Aids and Other Life-Threatening Illnesses
15	Bible Sunday
22	Christ the King Sunday
29- Dec 24	Advent in Church and Home

December-2020

	Any Sunday Gift to the King Offering
7	PAS Advisory Council
13	Bethel University Commencement
24	Christmas Eve
25	Christmas Day,” be adopted.

The stated clerk noted that in 2018, 202 congregations failed to submit their annual reports. It is important that statistics are as accurate as possible. Therefore, we recommend:

RECOMMENDATION 4: That all presbyteries remind local congregations of the importance and impact of submitting their annual reports.

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

We commend the work of the Board and appreciate their hard work on behalf of ministers, churches, and all others they serve.

The committee concurred in the Report of the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits.

D. THE REPORT OF THE OUR UNITED OUTREACH COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION 5: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Our United Outreach Committee, “that General Assembly adopt the following Our United Outreach allocations for 2020:

The allocation is to be as follows:	\$2,600,000.00	
Development Coordinator Office and OOU Committee		92,044.00
Unification Task Force		35,000.00
Sub-total	127,044.00	
(Amount to be allocated)	2,472,956.00	
Ministry Council	\$ 1,236,478.00	50%
Bethel University	123,648.00	5%
Children’s Home	74,189.00	3%
Stewardship	148,377.00	6%
General Assembly Office	197,836.00	8%
Memphis Theological Seminary/ Program of Alternate Studies	173,107.00	7%
Historical Foundation	74,189.00	3%
Shared Services	395,672.00	16%
Contingency	12,365.00	.5%

(Next four items total 1.5%)

Comm. on Chaplains	14,356.00	.581%
Judiciary Committee	13,539.00	.548%
Theology/Social Concerns	5,045.00	.204%
Nominating Committee	4,155.00	.168%
	2,472,956.00	

Our United Outreach Goal \$2,600,000.00,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Our United Outreach Committee, “that the OOU Committee request that General Assembly challenge churches to invite an OOU Representative or member of the OOU Committee to speak in their congregations,” be denied.

Although the committee did not necessarily disagree with the OOU Committee’s Recommendation 2, we felt the need to better express the importance for 2-way communication regarding OOU, the judicatories, and local churches and make the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION 7: That the presbyteries encourage churches to invite an OOU Representative or member of the OOU Committee to share a compelling case for OOU participation to the congregations, and encourage members to participate in ministries supported by OOU in order to increase understanding of uses of OOU funds.

E. THE REPORT OF THE PLACE OF MEETING

The committee concurs in the Place of Meeting Committee report.

Not included in the report, but discovered in our conversation with the Stated Clerk, it was communicated that the location of 190th General Assembly will be in Louisville, Kentucky (Cumberland Presbytery) – June 7-12, 2020.

In order to assist the Place of Meeting Committee find adequate facilities at the best rate, the committee makes the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION 8: To encourage presbyteries to extend an invitation to host General Assembly in future years, especially those that have not hosted in recent years.

F. LINE ITEM BUDGETS SUBMITTED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENCIES

The committee recognizes the uncertainty involved in preparing budgets, and expresses appreciation for the hard work of all the agencies that submitted budgets to the 189th General Assembly.

To achieve a better sense of surety, as well as providing better transparency, the committee makes the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION 9: Include, with the proposed Line Item Budget, the previous year’s actuals for income and expenses.

Respectfully submitted,
The Stewardship/Elected Officers/OOU Committee

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,

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Reverend Susan Parker, Interim President of Memphis Theological Seminary; Ms. Vanessa Midgett, member of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary; Reverend Kip Rush, Vice-Moderator of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary; Reverend Gloria Villa Diaz, member of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary; Mr. Michael Allen, member of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary; Reverend Rickey Page, member of the General Assembly Evaluation Committee; Reverend Michael Qualls, Director of the Program of Alternate Studies; Dr. Walter Butler, President of Bethel University; Reverend Mr. Robert Truitt, member of the Board of Trustees at Bethel University; Mrs. Courtney Banatoski, President & CEO of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home; Mr. Sam Suddarth, member of the Board of Trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home; and Mrs. Hillary Castillo, Senior Director of Operations of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

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

1. Future Funding

God has blessed Memphis Theological Seminary over the course of its history with faithful Cumberland Presbyterians who give generously to see future Cumberland Presbyterian leaders receive a quality education. It is vital to the future of Memphis Theological Seminary that General Assembly, synods, presbyteries, churches, and members continue to pray for and financially contribute to continue the vital ministry it is doing.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary, “that the General Assembly encourage Presbyteries to share the mission, vision and passion of MTS to train and sustain men and women for the Christian ministry and ask members to support the seminary with their financial resources and prayers,” be adopted.

2. The Whosoever Will Bridge Program

In 2018, an anonymous donor created the “Whosoever Will Bridge Program.” This program enables Bethel University graduates who then graduate with an M. Div. from Memphis Theological Seminary and then is called to serve full-time at a CP church to receive a stipend of \$12,000 a year. This is a very generous gift meant to help and prepare future leaders in the CP to pursue their call to ministry and attend Bethel University and Memphis Theological Seminary.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary, “that the Presbyteries inform all congregations of the Whosoever Will Bridge program and provide probationers with the necessary information so they will be aware of this program,” be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That the Presbyteries inform all congregations and preparation for the ministry committees of each presbytery of the Whosoever Will Bridge program and provide probationers with the necessary information so they will be aware of this program.

3. Seminary/PAS Sunday

The Program of Alternate Studies has served the Cumberland Presbyterian Church by providing a quality education to ministers who were unable to pursue a seminary degree. This program has ensured that the CP church has educated ministers to lead churches in their respective gospel ministries.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary, “that the third Sunday in August, (August 18, 2019) be included in the General Assembly Calendar as Seminary/PAS Sunday, and that Presbyteries 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 adopted.

4. Recognition of Dr. William “Bill” Rustenhaven, Jr.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church is indebted to the faithfulness and leadership of the first director of the Program of Alternate Studies by the Reverend Dr. William “Bill” Rustenhaven, Jr., who died February 1, 2019. He invested in relationships with the students of PAS and made sure that all students were instructed with diligence and grace, and we are a better denomination for it.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That General Assembly give thanks to God for the life and ministry of Dr. William “Bill” Rustenhaven, Jr., who led the Program of Alternate Studies faithfully by “making a difference for the building of God’s Kingdom and through his responsibility as participants in that Kingdom.”

B. THE REPORT OF THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE, PART 1 (RECOMMENDATIONS 1-6)

1. The Mission of Memphis Theological Seminary

MTS allows the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to partner with the larger Christian community and participate in the ecumenical relationships that make up the body of Christ.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, “that we affirm our need for an ecumenical seminary,” be adopted.

2. Presidential Search

It is critical for MTS to hire the most qualified person for the position of president, regardless of denominational affiliation. However, the seminary needs a strong Cumberland Presbyterian presence in the administration and on the faculty.

RECOMMENDATION 7: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, “that General Assembly encourage Memphis Theological Seminary to strengthen the Cumberland Presbyterian presence in leadership and teaching at the seminary,” be adopted.

3. The Interim President

Dr. Susan Parker has been the Interim President of MTS since August 2018. She is doing an excellent job leading and cultivating a spirit of transparency during this difficult season of change and transition at the seminary. Her experience as a strategic planner and fundraiser has helped bring needed direction to the institution.

RECOMMENDATION 8: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, “that we express our appreciation to Dr. Susan Parker for her leadership at Memphis Theological Seminary during this critical interim period,” be adopted.

4. The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees’ purpose is primarily to focus on the school’s long-term viability and strategic vision. The size of the current board inhibits communication and participation. In an attempt to facilitate engagement and maximize the effectiveness of the Board of Trustees, we are recommending a reduction in the number of board members.

RECOMMENDATION 9: That Recommendation 4 of the Report of the Evaluation Committee, “that the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary reduce the number of trustees from 24 to 14 by 2024 and that after any given trustee election the majority of members must be Cumberland Presbyterian,” be denied.

A question arose regarding the process of reducing the number of trustees serving on the Board of Trustees. CPC Bylaw 10.06 states, “The corporation shall elect the twenty-four (24) directors of Memphis Theological Seminary as provided in its charter. The corporation shall elect the directors in such a manner that immediately following any election, there shall be eleven (11) directors who are members of denominations other than Cumberland Presbyterian Church.” In order to make this reduction, we recommend 10.06 be changed.

RECOMMENDATION 10: That 10.06 of the Bylaws of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church General Assembly Corporation, *“The corporation shall elect the twenty-four (24) directors of Memphis Theological Seminary as provided in its charter. The corporation shall elect the directors in such a manner, that immediately following any election, there shall be eleven (11) directors who are members of denominations other than Cumberland Presbyterian Church”* be changed to *“The corporation shall elect the eighteen (18) directors of Memphis Theological Seminary as provided in its charter. The corporation shall elect the directors in such a manner, that immediately following any election, there shall be six (6) directors who are members of denominations other than Cumberland Presbyterian Church”* to be presented to the 190th General Assembly.

MTS received a grant to help with Board development through a program called “Wise Stewards,” which includes a consultant. This will be a wise use of time by the Board, but it would be helpful to identify and recruit individuals with expertise in fundraising and finances.

RECOMMENDATION 11: That Recommendation 5 of the Evaluation Committee, *“that the Board of Trustees and Memphis Theological Seminary leadership actively identify and recruit individuals with the skill set in fundraising and fiscal responsibility to serve on the Board of Trustees so that the denominational Nominating Committee can recommend candidates from pool of individuals with those skills to serve on the MTS Board,”* be adopted.

SACS is the accrediting agency that placed MTS on “warning” status due to their failure to demonstrate compliance with core requirements and standards of the principles of accreditation pertaining to institutional planning, quality enhancement plan, student outcomes, educational programs, staff for student support services, financial resources, financial documents, and financial responsibility.

RECOMMENDATION 12: That Recommendation 6 of the Evaluation Committee, *“That the Board of Trustees and Memphis Theological Seminary leadership seek to employ a SACS consultant to help develop a strategic plan and move towards compliance in other areas mentioned in the SACS report to MTS,”* be adopted.

5. Assessment of the Relationship between the Seminary and the Presbyteries

For each member of the Committee on the Children’s Home and Higher Education, this was an eye-opening experience. The serious realities of the financial challenges at MTS have caused us to be incredibly concerned for the future of our beloved seminary. In consulting with the president and members of the Board of Trustees, there are currently plans to address some of the problems MTS faces, which is encouraging. We understand that a strategic plan is in process of development, yet there are no action steps have been finalized and could not be presented to the committee. The current leadership should be commended for their work to bring stability to this situation. However, it is clear to the committee that these problems must be acknowledged by the General Assembly, the Board of Trustees, the faculty, and all who are affiliated with the seminary. The time for inaction and ignoring the facts must come to an end. The discussions that we have had during this meeting of General Assembly have shown us all that there are many issues demanding immediate attention and accountability. We believe that many changes must take place at the seminary if it is to remain open and educate future ministers. Student enrollment must increase. Financial resources must be better raised and managed. Transparency must be committed to and maintained. In light of all these things, and many more not mentioned, the committee strongly recommends that the Evaluation Committee continue in their work to help identify and recommend actions to the General Assembly that will give MTS the best possible opportunity to become a viable and healthy institution again.

RECOMMENDATION 13: That Recommendation 7 of the Evaluation Committee, *“that the Evaluation Committee continue to: (1) assess the relationship between Memphis Theological Seminary and the Presbyteries of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church; (2) monitor the financial solvency and stability of Memphis Theological Seminary in light of the concerns of both accrediting agencies. (MTS has until April 2, 2020 to show that their financial resources are adequate for long-term stability.); (3) assess the short and long-term goals of Memphis Theological Seminary. (MTS has until November 1, 2019 to develop a coherent and comprehensive institutional strategic plan.), (4) monitor progress made by MTS towards compliance with findings addressed in the ATS and SACs Report,”* be adopted.

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

Bethel University has experienced a great deal of success and excitement in many aspects of the institution. As mentioned above (in Section A.2), BU has partnered with Memphis Theological Seminary and a private donor in the

“Whosoever Will Ministry Bridge” program. President, Dr. Butler requested that we bring emphasis to this program and make churches and students aware of this program.

RECOMMENDATION 14: That the General Assembly urge the presbyteries and churches to pray for the staff, faculty, and students of Bethel University and encourage their students to consider attending Bethel University during their college search.

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

The Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home continues to serve children who have been removed from their homes as a result of abuse, neglect, various behavioral problems. The committee commends this excellent and crucial work among the most vulnerable in our society. The Children’s Home provides wholistic care toward these children as they receive treatment and enter the foster care system. It is this care that demonstrates the love of Christ to those who have been abused.

RECOMMENDATION 15: That the General Assembly urge the presbyteries and churches to pray for the staff, families, and residents of the Children’s Home and actively talk about the ministry of the Children’s Home in their churches and ministries.

RECOMMENDATION 16: That the General Assembly urge presbyteries and in turn churches and other groups to continue support of the Children’s Home with volunteer help, financial assistance, as well as celebrating Children’s Home Sunday on March 15, 2020.

E. THE MEMORIAL FROM MISSOURI PRESBYTERY REGARDING THE PROGRAM OF ALTERNATE STUDIES

The Program of Alternate Studies has demonstrated great flexibility and concern for their students in the creation of their courses and workloads. Dr. Michael Qualls continues to improve the PAS program with many and evolving options for classes and creating community for future pastors to learn and grow into their pastoral ministries.

RECOMMENDATION 17: That the Memorial from Missouri Presbytery Regarding the Program of Alternate Studies, “WHEREAS the Cumberland Presbyterian Denomination was formed out of the Revival of 1800 resulting in the rapid creation of many churches on the frontier of western territories;

WHEREAS the newly created denomination leadership felt the urgent need to provide ministerial leadership required exceptions be made to educational requirements for ordination;

WHEREAS through the history of the denomination, there have been various routes of alternative education leading to ordination that did not require a traditional seminary educational degree;

WHEREAS those alternative education paths have produced ministers that were effective in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ and serving the needs of the Church;

WHEREAS many called to the ordained ministry have been, and will continue to be bi-vocational pastors needing to maintain full-time employment outside the pulpit;

WHEREAS current educational theories have identified that adult learners respond to a variety of learning styles;

WHEREAS the current Program of Alternate Studies (PAS) is a certificate, non-degree awarding program requiring 35 courses;

WHEREAS the program length has made it difficult for some who attend PAS in response to their call to ministry to maintain their current employment;

WHEREAS many students in PAS are currently ministering to churches; and

WHEREAS it is the goal of PAS to provide an alternative educational pathway to ministry for the preparation of ministers in the Cumberland tradition,

Therefore be it RESOLVED, that alternative methods of education and assessment of learning should continue and be reviewed so that those called to ministry can be prepared in an alternative to seminary attendance;

Therefore be it RESOLVED, that instructors should use a variety of teaching and evaluation of learning methods that are compatible with alternative types of preparation for ministry;

Therefore be it RESOLVED, that PAS should explore granting credit for relevant pastoral experiences as

they do for educational experience, including but not limited to creative expression and application of ministerial principles, alternate measures of assessment, independent study, and assessment of applied ministry activities on-site or through distance learning; and

Therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that it is encouraged that the directors of PAS evaluate the number of courses, consider combining courses and streamlining the curriculum, continue to offer weekend and on-line courses, and create a multi-year schedule of courses to afford ample opportunity for planning a satisfactory completion of the program.

I certify that this is a true copy of a memorial adopted by Missouri Presbytery on March 16, 2019.

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

F. THE MEMORIAL FROM MISSOURI PRESBYTERY REGARDING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOGNITION OF ORDINATION

The current PAS requirements for ministers seeking recognition of their ordinations from other denominations are sufficient and proper. It is important for all those seeking to be Cumberland Presbyterian ministers to understand and know the distinctives of our denomination as well as understand the history, polity, and sacramental practices of the Cumberland Presbyterians.

RECOMMENDATION 18: That the Memorial from Missouri Presbytery Regarding the Requirements for Recognition of Ordination, "WHEREAS there are ministers from another ecclesiastical body that desire to have their ordination recognized and become ministers in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church;

WHEREAS the constitution of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (CP) currently states the following:

6.40 Recognition of Ordination

6.41 A minister of another ecclesiastical body who desires to become a minister in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church/Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America shall appear before the committee on the ministry of the presbytery in which he or she wishes to be received. The committee on the ministry shall investigate the following:

- a. Whether the minister has proper credentials from his or her ecclesiastical body;**
- b. Whether the minister has a degree from a college and graduate school of theology;**
- c. Whether the minister has a knowledge of the history, theology, and government of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church/Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America;**
- d. Whether the minister seems fit for service as a minister in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church/Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America.**

6.42 The committee on the ministry, if satisfied in each of the areas described in Section 6.41 may recommend to presbytery that the minister be received as an ordained minister in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church/Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, upon giving affirmative answer to the questions put to licentiates at their ordination. Such procedure shall not exclude the opportunity for presbytery to examine the minister.

WHEREAS currently the Committee on the Ministry (COM) in Missouri Presbytery has been told that they are not to recommend recognition of the ordination until the minister of another ecclesiastical body has taken classes through the Program of Alternate Studies of CP History, CP Polity, Cumberland Presbyterian Theology I and Cumberland Presbyterian Theology II;

WHEREAS the COM has also been told that the minister must take two (2) of these courses on site at the Program of Alternate Studies (PAS) summer session;

WHEREAS the ministers already have a degree from a college and graduate school of theology and completing four classes at PAS would take a substantial period of time as well as at current fees cost the individual or the presbytery at least \$1,480 in class fees, \$163 in room and board plus travel expenses;

WHEREAS some of those wanting their ordination recognized are nearing or at retirement age;

WHEREAS there are CP churches that want the services of these ministers and want these ministers to provide all the sacraments granted ordained CP ministers;

WHEREAS there are opportunities other than PAS for a minister to experience CP culture and develop friendships throughout the denomination such as attendance at presbytery meetings, presbyterial retreats and denominational retreats or conferences;

Therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the presbyterial COM should be allowed to individualize the program needed for each minister of another ecclesiastical body who is seeking to have their ordination recognized. This would be determined after a review of previous education, interview of the person and review of the individual

circumstances leading to wanting the ordination recognized;

Therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that if formal coursework is needed, PAS should develop a course of study (not 4 courses) specifically for the minister seeking this recognition of ordination. This course of study should be offered as independent study, online study, weekend class, or at PAS summer session;

Therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the presbyterial COM should make the minister, seeking to have their ordination recognized, aware of the various opportunities to experience CP culture and encourage attendance at PAS but that would not be a requirement for the ordination being recognized.

I certify that this is a true copy of a memorial adopted by Missouri Presbytery on March 16, 2019.

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

Respectfully submitted,
The Committee on Children's Home/Higher Education

**The
 Proceedings
 of the**

**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-NINTH
 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

of the

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

session held in

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

June 9 - 14, 2019

At Huntsville, Alabama and within the facilities of the Von Braun Convention Center, there the ninth day of June in the year of our Lord, two thousand nineteenth, at the appointed hour of seven thirty 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 9, 2019

OPENING WORSHIP

At Huntsville, Alabama and within the North Hall of the Von Braun Center, the one hundred eighty-ninth General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the one hundred forty-fourth General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, the Convention of Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry, and visitors gathered for worship at 7:30 p.m. Participants in the service were Ms. Yvonne Frierson, National Missionary Society President (CPCA); Elder Lewis Leon Cole, Jr., Cleveland-Ohio Presbytery, Moderator (CPCA); Ms. Cathy Littlefield, Women's Ministry Convention President (CPC); and Reverend Jay Earheart-Brown, West Tennessee Presbytery, Moderator (CPC). The Music Director was Elder Victor Garth, Mt. Zion (CPCA). Special Music was offered by the Host Choir. The Pianist was Mr. Michael Knotts, Madkins Chapel (CPCA). An offering of \$2,652.61 was taken and will be shared between the Clergy Crisis Fund (CPC) and the North Alabama Sickle Cell Foundation (CPCA).

Reverend Stan Wood, New Hopewell Presbytery (CPCA) presented the sermon, "Walk In Love," taken from the scripture passage Ephesians 5:1-2. The Sacrament of Holy Communion was led by co-celebrants Reverend Joy Warren, Murfreesboro Presbytery (CPC) and Reverend Mitchell Walker, Sr., Huntsville Presbytery (CPCA). Serving communion from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America: Reverend Theoldis Acklin, (Huntsville Presbytery); Reverend Kay Ward Creer, (East Texas Presbytery); Reverend Nancy Fuqua, (Florence Presbytery); Elder John W. Humphrey, (Huntsville Presbytery); Reverend Robert Jefferson (Huntsville Presbytery); Elder Deborah Smith, (Huntsville Presbytery); Elder Brenda Sutherlin, (Tennessee Valley Presbytery), and Elder Thomas Ward (Huntsville Presbytery). Serving communion from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church: Elder Sally Sain, (Columbia Presbytery); Elder Lina Maria Velasquez, (Emaus Presbytery); Elder IP Shun-Tak Andy, (Hong Kong Presbytery); Reverend Tiffany McClung, (West Tennessee Presbytery); Elder Debbie Shanks, (North Central Presbytery); Reverend Alfonzo Marquez, (Presbytery of East Tennessee); Reverend Wilfrido Quinones, (Cauca Valley Presbytery), and Reverend Virginia Espinoza (Choctaw Presbytery).

SECOND DAY – MONDAY – JUNE 18, 2018

The day began with orientation for Commissioners and YAD's at 8:00 a.m. led by Stated Clerk Michael Sharpe. Following the orientation, the YAD's were dismissed with Nathan Wheeler, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The Chairs and Co-Chairs of the GA Committees met with Engrossing Clerk Vernon Sansom for further orientation.

A joint opening devotion was held at 10:30 a.m. in North Hall 2 & 3. Participants in the devotion were: Liturgists Reverend Mitchell Walker, Sr., Huntsville Presbytery (CPCA) and Reverend Joy Warren, Murfreesboro Presbytery (CPC); Pianist Mr. Michael Knotts, Madkins Chapel (CPCA); and Music Director Elder Victor Garth, Mt. Zion (CPCA).

The Unification Task Force presented a very informative and uplifting presentation on the upcoming vote on unification that is before both General Assemblies this week. We heard greetings from both host pastors, Reverend Chris Warren led in the singing of "They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love." Reverend Cardelia Howell-Diamond gave a reflection on Ephesians 5:1-2.

The Unification Task Force presentation answered three questions: Why union?, What Is the plan?, and How do we unify?

Reverend Jay Earheart-Brown (CPC) and Elder Leon Cole, Jr. (CPCA) answered the question "Why Union?"

1. We need each other.
2. Our children are calling us to be one and we need to be an example to the nation.
3. We are more alike than different.

Reverend Gloria Diaz (CPC) answered the question, "What is the Plan?" She discussed the Plan of Union that has been published.

Reverend Steve Mosley (CPC) and Reverend Perryn Rice (CPCA, CPC) answered the question, "How do we unify?"

1. By simple majority on the General Assembly level to send to presbyteries.
2. Each presbytery passes by simple majority.
3. If passed by a simple majority of the presbyteries, the General Assemblies vote on final approval of Bylaws and Standing Rules (2/3 vote of approval necessary) for the General Assembly of the new church. Constitutional amendments will be reviewed and approved by $\frac{3}{4}$ vote and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the presbyteries by simple majority vote. If both assemblies approve the Bylaws, the two assemblies vote to adjourn sine die, and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church United will be organized in 2021.

THE ASSEMBLY IS CONSTITUTED

The Moderator, the Reverend Earheart-Brown, called the assembly to order at 2:00 p.m. with forty-seven (47) ministers, forty-four (44) elders for a total of 91 Commissioners and 25 Youth Advisory Delegates present. The constituting prayer was offered by Reverend Mark Hester, Presbytery of East Tennessee.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Moderator thanked the Commissioners for their service to the 189th General Assembly before asking for a motion that the agenda, as found in the Preliminary Minutes, be adopted. On Motion, the agenda was adopted.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Reverend Virginia Espinoza, Choctaw Presbytery, presented the Report of the Credentials Committee. There were forty-seven (47) ministers, forty-six (46) elders, for a total of ninety-one (91) commissioners and twenty-five (25) youth advisory delegates registered as of 2 p.m. On motion, the report of the Credentials Committee was received, marked Appendix "A" and filed.

ELECTION OF THE MODERATOR

Moderator Earheart-Brown declared the floor open for nominations for the Office of Moderator of the 189th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Reverend Shelia C. O'Mara, Presbytery del Cristo, and Reverend Michael Clark, Murfreesboro Presbytery, were nominated. After asking for further nominations and there being none, the Moderator declared nominations closed and moved

to hear from those speaking on behalf of the nominees.

Reverend Perryn Rice was given permission to address the body on motion to speak on behalf of Reverend Clark by consent.

Reverend Nancy J. Fuqua, (CPCA), was given permission to speak on behalf of Reverend O'Mara.

The Moderator called both nominees to the podium to share with the body their qualifications and visions for holding the office of Moderator. Following the hearing of both nominees, the Moderator called for commissioners to cast their votes. The ballots were collected by the credentials committee who met with the Stated Clerk to count the ballots.

While the ballots were being counted, the Moderator introduced the Ministry Council Team Leaders. Reverend Milton Ortiz, Missions Ministry Team Leader, introduced Reverend Cardelia Howell-Diamond as the new Director of Women's Ministry and Reverend Kristi Lounsbury as the new Director of Congregational Ministry; Reverend Elinor Brown introduced Cindy Martin who has been moved to the position of Resources Distribution Manager, and the new Coordinator of Adult Ministry, Reverend Chris Fleming; Reverend Steven Shelton, Communications Ministry Team Leader, introduced Matt Gore as the new Editor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Magazine.

The Moderator introduced the new Director of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home, Courtney Banatoski, and the Interim President of Memphis Theological Seminary, Dr. Susan Parker.

The Moderator shared the following prayer concerns with the body: Reverend Tom Spence (Red River Presbytery) who had a light stroke, and the family of Jacob Kennemer who passed away suddenly. Jacob was the grandson of Reverend Richard and Marsha Hughes and the nephew of Reverend Darren Kennemer.

Reverend Virginia Espinoza, Credentials Committee chair, announced that by a vote of 57 to 31, Reverend Shelia O'Mara was elected Moderator of the 199th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Reverend Nate Matthews escorted Moderator O'Mara to the podium. Former Moderator Jay Earheart-Brown presented Moderator Shelia O'Mara the Moderator's Cross and gavel.

Moderator O'Mara appointed Reverend Geoff Knight, (Trinity Presbytery) as Parliamentarian.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-MODERATOR

Moderator O'Mara opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Moderator of the 189th General Assembly. Reverend Michael Clark, Murfreesboro Presbytery, was nominated to be Vice-Moderator of the 189th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. There being no other nominations, the Moderator declared Reverend Michael Clark to be Vice-Moderator of the 189th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

PRESENTATION BY THE STATED CLERK

The Stated Clerk, Reverend Michael Sharpe, invited retiring Moderator Jay Earheart-Brown to the podium. The Stated Clerk thanked Moderator Earheart-Brown for his service to the 188th General Assembly. The Stated Clerk presented the former Moderator with replicas of the moderator's cross and gavel used in the 188th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

COMMUNICATIONS

Reverend Jimmy Peyton, Hope Presbytery, made the motion that the Arkansas Petition be accepted as a communication for consideration. The Parliamentarian, Reverend Geoff Knight explained that the communication could not be considered when the same issue is under referral until such time as the referral has been brought back to the General Assembly and dealt with. The Motion was ruled out of order by the Moderator. The ruling of the Moderator was appealed by motion and seconded. The appeal failed and the ruling stands.

The Stated Clerk reported that there were no communications.

CORRECTIONS

The Engrossing Clerk, Reverend Vernon Sansom, called the attention of the body to changes to the Preliminary Minutes: On page 5, Reverend Joy Warren and Elder Pete Miller, Murfreesboro Presbytery, should be deleted as the presbytery is only eligible to have 3 elder and 3 minister commissioners (the Credentials Committee wrote their report with this change in mind). On page 83 in the Preliminary Minutes,

Section VII should read “Financial Concerns and 2020 Budget” instead of 2019.

INTRODUCTIONS

The Stated Clerk introduced the Board/Agency Representatives:

Bethel University	Robert Truitt
Commission on Chaplains	Cassandra Thomas
Children’s Home	Courtney Banatoski
Historical Foundation	Pat Ward
Judiciary	Geoffery Knight
Memphis Theological Seminary	Vanessa Midgett
Ministry Council	Charelle Webb
Our United Outreach	Bruce Hamilton
Stewardship	Gary Tubb
Theology and Social Concerns	Edmund Cox (CPCA)
	Mitch Boulton (CPC)
Unification Task Force	Perryn Rice (CPCA)
	Steve Mosley (CPC)

COMMISSIONER RESOLUTIONS

A resolution was presented by Cauca Valley Presbytery concerning ordinations and marriage. The Moderator ruled that the resolution was out of order because it could not be considered when the same issue is under referral until such time as the referral has been brought back to the General Assembly and dealt with.

A Motion was made that any further papers brought before this body be forwarded to the United Committees on Theology and Social Concerns for their consideration. Motion was seconded. After some discussion, the question was called for and seconded. Motion carried.

It was noted that all resolutions pertaining to the issue of sexuality that were brought to the body for consideration will be distributed to commissioners and the Theology and Social Concerns Committee for information only and to let the sending presbyteries voices be heard.

The Stated Clerk reminded the body that the Bookstore, concessions and displays are in the East Hall #3.

The Moderator asked for prayers during the week for herself as she serves as Moderator.

RECESS

A Recess was announced by the Moderator following prayer at 3:47 p.m. until Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

The Committees met at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

EVENING PROGRAM

There was a joint moderator and women’s ministry reception at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America Center and Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. All in attendance enjoyed fellowship and hors d’oeuvres while greeting Moderators of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America and Cumberland Presbyterian Church as well as honoring the Officers of the Women’s Ministry.

THIRD DAY – TUESDAY – JUNE 11, 2019

The General Assembly began the day with a Joint Fun Run & Walk at 7:00 a.m. at Big Springs International Park. The day was devoted to committee work from 9:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and an evening session at 7:00 p.m. The attendance for the day: forty-five (45) Minister Commissioners, forty-five (45) Elder Commissioners for a total of ninety (90) Commissioners and twenty-five (25) Youth Advisory Delegates.

EVENING PROGRAM

At 8:30 p.m., commissioners and visitors participated in a Joint Reception honoring Women in Ministry in South Hall, Ballroom 1. Attendees enjoyed fellowship, refreshments, and wonderful door prizes. It was noted that 16 years ago at the first reception honoring Women in Ministry there were just enough participants to sit around one table. Sixteen years later, the event was so well attended that there was a full room filled with CP's showing their support for Women in Ministry.