REPORT OF THE MODERATOR

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus our Savior:

I rejoice with you all because of the blessings that God has poured down upon us. As I write this report I am convinced that there is nothing upon this earth nor anything after our death that can rob us of the deep joy that we know because of God’s Christ.

Among the many blessings that God has allowed me to experience is the joy of the office of Moderator of the 171st General Assembly.

I am convinced that my election to the office of General Assembly Moderator was done so with the high intent of honoring the American Indians who have found salvation in Christ Jesus and have served Him because of the serving efforts of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. And how like God to choose one so unqualified to stand in so honorable a place. I count this as another example of God’s grace and Christian grace which takes the least among us to lift in high honor only because that’s how the Love of God is!

I would report to you my personal witness which is: that God of Heaven and Earth did allow me to serve Him, to represent Him, on the morning I found that scripture that said, “But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise...the weak things...And base things...That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.” So even in this year I pray that God has used me to good in spite of or because of the foolishness that I am.

I have drunk deeply from the cup of joy that lives in the Moderator’s office. The larger part of that cup is in the face to face fellowship with beautiful Cumberland Presbyterians, and the prayers of so many that kept our denomination strong toward God during my watch.

I have reported in other communications that I would rather not have been forced to drink the bitterness of September 11, 2001 and then to go from gathering to gathering of Cumberland Presbyterians and report that Jesus of Nazareth said that we are to “love our enemies” and to “pray for those who despitefully use us.” In this I have been faithful to preach the Gospel. I also listened with Christian empathy to the reasoning of our brothers and sisters of the faith who could not hold to such a high standard of Christian Love.

Some of the meetings that I have been a part of as Moderator and have brought official greeting to are listed here:

Presbyteries
- Brazos, Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, Fort Worth, Texas;
- Robert Donnell, First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, Alabama;
- Hope, Mt. Hester Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Cherokee, Alabama;
- Choctaw, Lone Star Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Wardville, Oklahoma;
- Trinity, Faith Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Metarie, Louisiana;
- Murfreesboro, Jerusalem Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro, Tennessee;
- East Tennessee, Oak Ridge Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Oak Ridge, Tennessee;
- North Central, Good Prospect Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Trilla, Illinois;
- Grace, Glencoe Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Glencoe, Alabama;
- Nashville, Camp Ground Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Erin, Tennessee;
- Missouri, White Oak Pond Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Lebanon, Missouri;
- Arkansas, Ft. Smith Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Ft. Smith, Arkansas;
- del Cristo, Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church, San Francisco, California;
- Covenant, Mt. Sterling Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Brookport, Illinois;
- Red River, Mesquite Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Mesquite, Texas;
- Columbia, Hohenwald Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Hohenwald, Tennessee;
- West Tennessee, First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, McKenzie, Tennessee;
| Boards and Agencies | - Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits  
- Board of Christian Education  
- General Assembly Council  
- Board of Missions  
- Board of Trustees, Memphis Theological Seminary  
- Board of Trustees, Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home |
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| Other               | - Cumberland Presbyterian Youth Conference  
- Program of Alternate Studies Graduation  
- Consultant Training Event  
- Welti Cumberland Presbyterian Church 100th Birthday Celebration, Cullman, Alabama  
- St. Luke Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Madison, Tennessee  
- Nashville Presbyterial Unity Celebration at Montgomery Bell State Park, Dickson, Tennessee  
- Mt. Zion Cumberland Presbyterian Church near Columbus, Mississippi  
- Morning Worship, Memphis Theological Seminary  
- Mission Synod General Board, Denton, Texas  
- Sumach Cumberland Presbyterian Church 150th Anniversary Celebration, Chatsworth, Georgia  
- Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church (#1) near Harrodsburg, Kentucky  
- Hope Presbytery Men’s Fellowship, Mt. Hester Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Cherokee, Alabama  
- Program Planning Committee of the General Assembly, Memphis, Tennessee  
- First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Florence, Alabama  
- White Oak Pond Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Lebanon, Missouri  
- First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Cookeville, Tennessee  
- Parish Meeting, Blues Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church near McMinnville, Tennessee  
- Cumberland Presbyterian Church Minister’s Conference, McKenzie, Tennessee  
- Woodlawn Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Paducah, Kentucky  
- Beech Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Henderson, Tennessee, Denomination Day  
- Covenant Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Ada, Oklahoma  
- Marshall Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Marshall, Texas  
- Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church, San Francisco, California  
- First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Missouri  
- Missions Class, Memphis Theological Seminary |

Time and again there have been persons who have spoken to me, in passing, then before they leave me say, as though it were a part of their witness, “I wasn’t always a Cumberland Presbyterian, but when I realized what the beliefs were I thought ‘I’ve always been a Cumberland Presbyterian and just didn’t know it!’” The first two times I heard that I was mildly shocked; that was my line!

I suppose that in each of God’s Churches a like pronouncement is made, which means that we are all needed and that we are all blessed! We offer a way of serving God that is needed. I think that I have seen that in the meetings and in my private thoughts and in the talks around informal tables that this office has allowed me to experience. It’s hard not to be egocentric at this point and I am aware that I HAVE to be to a point. With that in mind I tell you that we have a mission from God: the “whosoever will may come” that we say has a flavor that is worth offering. But don’t believe me, look in the scriptures, then you may even say of me, “Look, it’s true, even a blind hog will find a hick’r nut ever’ once in a while!”

Sure, in too many areas our church is having a hard time, but in those and in all the areas God is with us. Blessed be the name of the Lord!

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Jacob
Moderator