

**The  
Proceedings  
of the**

**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIFTH  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**of the**

**CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**session held in**

**FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE**

**June 27 - July 1, 2005**

*At Franklin, Tennessee, and within the facilities of the Marriott Hotel/Cool Springs Convention Center, there the twenty-seventh day of June in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Five, at the appointed hour of two o'clock in the afternoon, Minister and Elder Commissioners and Youth Advisory delegates from the various presbyteries, and visitors assembled.*

**FIRST DAY – MONDAY – JUNE 27, 2005**

In the Marriott Hotel/Cool Springs Convention Center, Franklin, Tennessee, the one hundred seventy-fifth General Assembly, the Convention of Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry, and visitors shared in worship. The worship director, the Reverend Dwayne Cole, Columbia Presbytery, presided in worship, assisted by Mr. Sam Suddarth, assembly song leader, and Mr. Jeff Quirk, pianist. Special music was presented by the Bethel College choral group "Renaissance." The retiring Moderator, the Reverend Edward G. Sims read Matthew 16: 13-19 and Acts 2: 40-47.

Mr. Tim and Mrs. Terri Sims presented their infant daughter, Darby Renae Sims for baptism. Moderator Sims administered the sacrament of baptism to his granddaughter assisted by the Reverend Terry Maynard, Pastor, Clarksville Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Nashville Presbytery.

Moderator Sims delivered the sermon "Power and Voices of Community." The Reverend Dwayne Cole pronounced the blessing and benediction.

**THE ASSEMBLY IS CONSTITUTED**

The Moderator, the Reverend Edward G. Sims, called the assembly to order. The Reverend Kevin Colvard, Grace Presbytery, prayed the constituting prayer. A quorum was present with forty-seven (47) ministers and forty-four (44) elders, making a total of ninety-one (91) commissioners present at 2:00 p.m. There were also twenty-five (25) youth advisory delegates present.

The Reverend Philip Faris, Hope Presbytery, chairperson of the Credentials Committee, presented the report of the Credentials Committee certifying the list of commissioners. The report was concurred in, marked "Appendix A" and filed.

**ASSEMBLY BUSINESS**

The Moderator, the Reverend Edward G. Sims declared the floor open for nominations for the office of Moderator of the one hundred seventy-fifth General Assembly. The following nominations, previously endorsed by their presbyteries were presented:

The Reverend William Rustenhaven, Jr., Trinity Presbytery, nominated the Reverend Hugh L. Parsons, Trinity Presbytery.

Elder Claudette Pickle, West Tennessee Presbytery, nominated the Reverend Linda H. Glenn, West Tennessee Presbytery.

Nominations were closed. The Reverend William Rustenhaven, Jr., Trinity Presbytery, gave the nominating speech for Reverend Hugh L. Parsons. The Reverend J. David Hester, Presbytery of East Tennessee, gave the nominating speech for Reverend Linda H. Glenn. The nominees were given an opportunity to address the assembly. Ballots were collected and the Credentials Committee was instructed to canvas the vote.

### **WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PASTOR HOST**

Mr. John Koelz, Columbia Presbytery Host Committee, presented the Honorable Roger Anderson, Mayor of Williamson County, who brought greetings and addressed the assembly briefly.

The Stated Clerk, Robert D. Rush, made necessary announcements.

The Reverend Larry Guin, Pastor Host, welcomed the assembly to Columbia Presbytery and made necessary announcements.

### **BOARD AND AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES**

The Stated Clerk, Robert D. Rush, introduced the board and agency representatives as follows:

Christian Education	Darryl Campbell
Commission on Chaplains	Jearl Hunley
Commission on Ministry	Toy Brindley
The Cumberland Presbyterian	Richard Hughes
Children's Home	Olene Rush
General Assembly Council	Jane Jennings
Historical Foundation	Syble Mitchell
Judiciary	Charles Dawson
Memphis Theological Seminary	Jean Richardson
Missions	Rickey Page
Stewardship	Debbie Shelton
Theology and Social Concerns	William Montague

### **A MODERATOR IS ELECTED**

The Reverend Philip Faris, Hope Presbytery, chairperson of the Credentials Committee, reported the ballot vote for the Moderator as follows:

Reverend Linda Glenn	50
Reverend Hugh Parsons	41

The Credentials Committee declared the Reverend Linda H. Glenn, West Tennessee Presbytery, to have been elected Moderator of the one hundred seventy-fifth General Assembly. Retiring Moderator, Edward G. Sims, presented the gavel and the Moderator's cross to the newly elected Moderator.

The Moderator, the Reverend Linda H. Glenn expressed her appreciation to the church and the assembly. She then introduced her husband, Jim and their daughters, Heather and Amber.

The Moderator, the Reverend Linda H. Glenn recognized the Reverend Hugh L. Parsons and his wife Pat.

### **A VICE MODERATOR IS ELECTED**

The Moderator, the Reverend Linda H. Glenn declared the floor open for the position of Vice-Moderator. The Reverend Philip Faris, Hope Presbytery, nominated the Reverend Hugh L. Parsons, Trinity Presbytery. Nominations were closed and the Reverend Hugh L. Parsons was elected by acclamation.

## PRESENTATION

The Stated Clerk, Robert Rush, presented the retiring Moderator, the Reverend Edward G. Sims, a gavel representing the one used in the one hundred seventy-fourth General Assembly and a replica of the Moderator's cross.

## COMMUNICATIONS

A communication from Mission Synod pertaining to the State of Colorado being added to Mission Synod was read and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

The resignations of the Reverend James P. Driskell, General Assembly Council; Mr. Dawl Johnson, Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits; the Reverend Margaret McKee, Trustees of the Historical Foundation; the Reverend Jay Earheart-Brown, the Reverend David Tullock, and the Reverend Scott Sealy, the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns were accepted.

The Stated Clerk announced the addition of the Reverend Durant Axton, North Central Presbytery, to the Nominating Committee Report to fill the one year unexpired term of the Reverend James P. Driskell, on the General Assembly Council.

## PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Judy Keith, Executive Director of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home, expressed her gratitude to the assembly for the church's assistance in meeting the Children's Home's recent capital campaign goal. Dr. Keith introduced Mr. Brian White, Director of Development, and Mr. Randy Spencer, Associate Executive Director of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home.

The Reverend Jean Richardson, Representative for Memphis Theological Seminary, introduced the president-elect of Memphis Theological Seminary, the Reverend Jay Earheart-Brown who addressed the assembly. Family members of Reverend Earheart-Brown present were introduced to the assembly.

The Reverend Toy Brindley, Representative for the Commission on the Ministry, introduced the new executive director of the Commission on the Ministry, the Reverend Stephanie Scudder Brown. Reverend Brown addressed the assembly briefly.

## ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

General Regulation A.11 was set aside to permit the Report of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns to be referred to the Committee on Memphis Theological Seminary/Historical Foundation instead of having a separate Committee on Theology and Social Concerns.

The Stated Clerk, Robert D. Rush, announced changes to committees.

In conformity to General Regulation A.13 an opportunity was given for Commissioners to present resolutions.

## REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

### Referrals to the Committee on Christian Education and Stewardship

Page	Report
59	The Report of the Board of Christian Education Except Section II. E. Recommendation 1 which is referred to the Committee on Program Planning
75	The Report of the United Board for Christian Discipleship
110	The Report of the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits

### Referrals to the Committee on Children's Home and Bethel College

Page	Report
26	The Report of the Stated Clerk, Section X., Recommendations 3
150	The Report of the Board of Trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home Except Section IV. B., Recommendation 2 which is referred to the Committee on Program Planning
206	The Report of the Board of Trustees of Bethel College

**Referrals to the Committee on Judiciary**

**Page Report**

- 26 The Report of the Stated Clerk, Sections V & VI. Recommendations 1 and 2, Section XI. Recommendation 4
- 193 The Report of the Commission on the Ministry, Section II. E.
- 197 The Report of the Permanent Judiciary Committee
- 201 The Report of the Joint committee on Amendments
- 217 The Memorial from Arkansas Presbytery concerning the elimination of synods
- 219 The Memorial from Grace Presbytery concerning guidelines governing the realignment of congregations between presbyteries
- 235 The Report of the Place of Meeting Committee, Section II., Recommendation 1  
A communication from Mission Synod pertaining to the State of Colorado being added to Mission Synod.

**Referrals to the Committee on Memphis Theological Seminary  
and the Historical Foundation and the Theology & Social Concerns**

**Page Report**

- 163 The Report Number One of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary
- 176 The Report of the Board of the Historical Foundation
- 205 The Report of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns
- 233 The Report Number Two of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary

**Referrals to the Committee on Missions, Ministry and Military Chaplains**

**Page Report**

- 79 The Report of the Board of Missions  
Except Section IV. E. which is referred to the Committee on Program Planning
- 191 The Report of the Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel
- 193 The Report of the Commission on the Ministry  
Except Section II. E. which is referred to the Committee on Judiciary
- 220 The Memorial from Missouri Presbytery concerning a relationship with the Presbytery of Sudan

**Referrals to the Committee on Program Planning**

**Page Report**

- 25 The Report of the Moderator
- 27 The Report of the Stated Clerk  
Except Sections V. & VI. Recommendations 1 and 2 and Section XI. Recommendation 4  
which are referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Section X Recommendation 3 which  
is referred to the Committee on the Children's Home and Bethel College
- 32 The Report of the General Assembly Council
- 59 The Report of the Board of Christian Education, Section II. E. Recommendation 1
- 99 The Report of the Board of Missions, Section IV. E.
- 150 The Report of the Board of Trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home, Section IV. B.
- 172 The Report of the Cumberland Presbyterian Board of Publication
- 217 The Memorial from Japan Presbytery concerning appointing a special committee to plan for 2008
- 218 The Memorial from Grace Presbytery concerning the number of joint worship services in 2006
- 221 The Line Item Budgets
- 235 The Report of the Place of Meeting Committee  
Except Section II., Recommendation 1 which is referred to the Committee on Judiciary
- 237 The Supplemental Report of the Board of Stewardship, Foundation & Benefits and Trustees of the  
Historical Foundation
- 249 The Supplemental Report of the Board of Christian Education
- 250 The Supplemental Report of the Board of Missions

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Moderator, the Reverend Linda H. Glenn, declared the assembly adjourned for committee work until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

## THE EVENING PROGRAM

The General Assembly, the Convention of Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry, and visitors participated in a reception at the Jenkins Cumberland Presbyterian Church, to honor the past Moderator, the Reverend Edward G. Sims; the newly elected Moderator, the Reverend Linda H. Glenn; the Vice Moderator, the Reverend Hugh L. Parsons; the President of the Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry, Ms. Pat Smith; and the President-elect of the Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry, Ms. Nancy McClung.

### SECOND DAY – TUESDAY – JUNE 28, 2005

The General Assembly and visitors began their day in worship. Ms. Susan Groce, Columbia Presbytery, presided in worship. The Reverend Dwight Liles, Columbia Presbytery, accompanied the songs on the guitar. Youth Advisory Delegate Bryan Fleming, Arkansas Presbytery, gave the morning devotional entitled "Love" based on John 21: 15-17. Mr. Fleming prayed the benediction.

### ASSEMBLY RECONVENES

The Moderator, the Reverend Linda H. Glenn called the assembly to order at 9:00 a.m. with a quorum present of forty-six (46) ministers and forty-two (42) elders enrolled. There were twenty-three (23) youth advisory delegates present.

### PRESENTATIONS

The Stated Clerk, Robert D. Rush, introduced the Reverend Lynne Herring, Administrative Director of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. Reverend Herring brought greetings and addressed the assembly briefly.

The Board of Missions of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church presented an infomercial on upcoming events.

The Reverend Richard Hughes, Representative of the Cumberland Presbyterian Publication Board, acknowledged the work of the board and presented a special recognition of service and a "Patron of Publication" certificate to retiring board member, the Reverend Bert Owen. Reverend Owen expressed his appreciation to the board and addressed the assembly briefly.

Mr. Charles Dawson and Mr. Ron Thurman, Permanent Committee on Judiciary, gave a presentation on the revised Rules of Discipline. A comparison of current Rules of Discipline and the proposed revision was presented.

The Reverend Jearl Hunley, Representative of the Commission on Chaplains, introduced Chaplain Ed Brogan, Director of the Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel. Chaplain Brogan addressed the assembly and reviewed the list of active duty Cumberland Presbyterian chaplains and their assignments. Reverend Hunley led the assembly in prayer for the chaplains in the military, those serving the Veterans Administration, and those individuals feeling the call to chaplaincy.

### A STATED CLERK IS ELECTED

The Report Number One of the Nominating Committee was presented. Nominations were opened for the office of Stated Clerk. Nominations were closed and the Reverend Robert Rush, West Tennessee Presbytery was elected by acclamation.

### ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator, the Reverend Linda H. Glenn, declared the assembly was adjourned for committee work until 8:30 a.m. Thursday morning.

## THE EVENING PROGRAM

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

gathered in worship. The Reverend Andy McClung, West Tennessee Presbytery, led in worship assisted by assembly song leader, Sam Suddarth. A combined choir of area churches presented the special music "Wonderful Grace of Jesus." The Reverend Hugh Parsons, Trinity Presbytery, delivered a sermon, "One Body, Many Members, Abiding in Love," based on verses from 1 Corinthians 12 and 13. Reverend Parsons prayed the benediction.

### THIRD DAY – WEDNESDAY – JUNE 29, 2005

Committees met and began the day with devotions. There were forty-seven (47) ministers, forty-four (44) elders, and twenty-four (24) youth advisory delegates present. The day was devoted to committee work.

### THE EVENING PROGRAM

The General Assembly, the Convention of Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry, and visitors gathered for worship and to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. The worship service, "One Community - Many Voices," was conducted by the Board of Missions. Cross-cultural elements of worship were:

Pre-service music	Sudanese Choir, Gallatin, TN
Welcome	Reverend Lynn Thomas, Board of Missions
Ballet Preparation for Worship	"Exaltation", Birmingham, AL
Call to Worship	1 Corinthians 10: 16-17
Choctaw/English–Reverend Nathan Scott, Choctaw Presbytery	
Praise Music	Cuban Praise Team, McMinnville, TN
Prayers of Invocation	
Korean–Reverend Yu Pyong San, Nashville Presbytery	
English–Reverend Forest Prosser, Tennessee-Georgia Presbytery	
Apostle's Creed	Reverend Jock Paleak, Nashville Presbytery
In Sudanese (Nuer) and English	
Korean Instruments and Dance	Korean Church of Memphis
Introduced by Reverend Yoong S. Kim, Memphis, TN	
Korean Pastor's Choir	Solo, Candidate Jae Yu
Scripture Reading	2 Corinthians 5: 11-21
English–Elder Stanford Avorkliya, Presbytery of Liberia	
Spanish–Reverend Zenobia Daza, Andes Presbytery	
Sermon "Christ's Ambassadors"	Candidate Iris Straube, Grace Presbytery
Invitation to the Lord's Table	Reverend George Estes, Board of Missions
Words of Institution	1 Corinthians 11: 23-26
Japanese–Reverend Atsushi Suzuki, Japan Presbytery	
Spanish–Reverend Edward Montoya, North Central Presbytery	
Distribution of the Elements	Sudanese Choir Singing
Prayer of Thanks and Benediction	Moderator Linda H. Glenn

#### Servers for Communion:

##### Elders:

Lola M. John, Choctaw Presbytery  
 Jimmy Campbell, Columbia Presbytery  
 Nobuko Seki, Japan Presbytery  
 Diane Sowell, Presbytery del Cristo  
 Mickey Shell, Arkansas Presbytery  
 Nelson Estes, West Tennessee Presbytery  
 Vivian Fessenbeck, North Central Presbytery  
 Stanford Avorkliya, Presbytery of Liberia

##### Ministers:

Louella Lively, Covenant Presbytery  
 Carlton Hatcher, Cumberland Presbytery  
 Fredy Diaz, Cauca Valley Presbytery  
 Charles Hood, Grace Presbytery  
 Nathan Scott, Choctaw Presbytery  
 William Rustenhaven, Jr., Trinity Presbytery  
 Anne Hames, West Tennessee Presbytery  
 Jock Paleak, Nashville Presbytery

**FOURTH DAY – THURSDAY – JUNE 30, 2005**

The General Assembly and visitors began their day in worship. The Reverend Calvin Lunn, Columbia Presbytery, presided in worship assisted by the Reverend Dwight Liles, Columbia Presbytery, song leader and guitarist. Elder Denise Adams, Arkansas Presbytery, read the scripture, 1 Peter 2: 2-10, and delivered the message entitled “Seeing the Divine in the Ordinary.” Reverend Liles pronounced the benediction.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Moderator, the Reverend Linda H. Glenn called the assembly to order at 9:15 a.m. with a quorum present of forty-six (46) ministers and forty-three (43) elders enrolled. There were nineteen (19) youth advisory delegates present. Moderator Glenn led the assembly in prayer.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Reverend Norlan Scudder, Red River Presbytery, announced the death of Ms. Vivian Scales, mother-in-law of the Reverend Leonard Turner, Presbytery of East Tennessee, due to an automobile accident on Monday. The assembly lifted up other prayer concerns and paused for a moment of silence. Moderator Linda H. Glenn closed with prayer.

**PARLIAMENTARIAN APPOINTED**

The Moderator, the Reverend Linda H. Glenn appoint the Reverend Geoff Knight, a member of the Permanent Committee on Judiciary, as parliamentarian.

**MEMBER EXCUSED**

The Reverend Jeff Biggs, Covenant Presbytery, was excused.

**ASSEMBLY BUSINESS**

The Report Number Two of the Nominating Committee was received. Moderator Linda H. Glenn opened the floor for additional nominations for positions on each agency. Having no additional nominations, the slate of nominees presented was elected.

The Report of the Committee on Christian Education/Stewardship was read, concurred in, its recommendations adopted, marked “Appendix B” and filed.

The Report of the Committee on Judiciary was read.

The Report of the Committee on Judiciary was considered. Section F. 3 was referred back to the Permanent Committee on Judiciary. The report was concurred in as amended, its recommendations adopted by a unanimous vote, marked “Appendix C” and filed.

The Report Number One of the Committee on Program Planning was read, the question was divided by considering each recommendation individually. Recommendation One was adopted. Recommendation Two was adopted. Recommendation Three was adopted. Recommendation Four was adopted. Recommendation Five was adopted.

**RECESS DECLARED**

The Moderator, the Reverend Linda H. Glenn declared a recess until 2:00 p.m.

**ASSEMBLY RECONVENES**

The assembly reconvened at the proper time.

### ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

Report Number One of the Committee on Program Planning was continued. Recommendation Six was adopted. Recommendation Seven was adopted. Recommendation Eight was adopted. Recommendation Nine was adopted. Recommendation Ten was adopted. Recommendation Eleven was adopted. Recommendation Twelve was adopted. Recommendation Thirteen was adopted. Recommendation Fourteen was adopted. Recommendation Fifteen was adopted. The report was marked "Appendix D" and filed.

### PRAYER REQUEST

Youth Advisory Delegate Adam Griffin, Missouri Presbytery, shared a prayer concern for victims of a ferry accident in British Columbia.

The Reverend James Lively, Presbytery of East Tennessee, led the assembly in prayer.

### PRESENTATION

The Stated Clerk, Robert D. Rush, introduced the Reverend Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. who brought greetings from the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. and addressed the assembly. Reverend Kirkpatrick presented the book, *Presbyterians, A Spiritual Journey*, to the Moderator Linda Glenn and Stated Clerk Robert Rush.

### ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

The Report of the Committee on Memphis Theological Seminary/Historical Foundation/Theology and Social Concerns was read, concurred in, its recommendations adopted, marked "Appendix E" and filed.

The Reverend Mace Jett, West Tennessee Presbytery, offered a prayer of thanksgiving and guidance.

### RECESS DECLARED

The Moderator, the Reverend Linda H. Glenn declared a fifteen minute recess. The assembly reconvened at the proper time.

### ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

The Report Number Two of the Committee on Program Planning was read. Recommendations four, five, seven, eight, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen and fourteen were amended. The report was concurred in, its recommendations adopted as amended, marked "Appendix F" and filed.

### ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator, the Reverend Linda H. Glenn declared the assembly was adjourned until 8:30 a.m. Friday.

### THE EVENING WORSHIP

The General Assembly and visitors gathered in worship. The Reverend Sherry Ladd, Columbia Presbytery, presided in worship, assisted by Mr. Sam Suddath, assembly song leader, and Mr. Jeff Quirk, pianist. Special music was presented by the combine choir of Columbia Presbytery. The Reverend Larry Moss, Presbytery del Cristo, read Ephesians 2: 11-22, 4: 1 and delivered a sermon entitled "Unity of What?" Reverend Ladd pronounced the benediction.

**FIFTH DAY – FRIDAY – JULY 1, 2005****THE ASSEMBLY WORSHIPS**

The General Assembly and visitors gathered for worship. The Reverend Dwayne Cole, Columbia Presbytery, assembly worship director, presided in worship. The Reverend James Lively, Presbytery of East Tennessee, introduced “Tezæ” singing, a reflective style of singing repetitive verses. The Reverend Charles Brown, West Tennessee Presbytery, led the singing accompanied by the Reverend Dwight Liles, pianist. Reverend Cole delivered the sermon entitled “The Urgency of Our Ministry.” Reverend Cole pronounced the blessing and benediction.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Moderator, the Reverend Linda H. Glenn called the assembly to order at 9:10 a.m. There was a quorum present of forty-four (44) ministers and thirty-eight (38) elders. There were sixteen (16) youth advisory delegates present.

Prayer concerns were shared. The Reverend Jim Hamblin, West Tennessee Presbytery, led the assembly in prayer.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Elder Gregg Gammon, Red River Presbytery; Reverend Edward Montoya, North Central Presbytery; Elder Carolyn Lowe, Red River Presbytery; Youth Advisory Delegates Kaitlyn Brindley, Robert Donnell Presbytery; Kari Wilson, Red River Presbytery; Kirk Michaels, Murfreesboro; and William Franco, North Central Presbytery were excused.

**ASSEMBLY BUSINESS**

The Report of the Committee on Missions, Ministry and Chaplains was read, concurred in, its recommendations adopted, marked “Appendix G” and filed.

**VICE-MODERATOR ASSUMES THE CHAIR**

The Vice-Moderator, the Reverend Hugh L. Parsons, assumed the chair to allow the Moderator to join her committee for their report.

**ASSEMBLY BUSINESS**

The Report of the Committee on the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home/Bethel College was read, concurred in, its recommendations adopted, marked “Appendix H” and filed. Youth Advisory Delegate Kaitlin Middleton, Tennessee-Georgia Presbytery, led the assembly in “The Prayer of Gratitude” for the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home recent successful capital campaign.

The Vice-Moderator, the Reverend Hugh L. Parsons expressed his gratitude and that of Trinity Presbytery for his election as Vice-Moderator.

**MODERATOR ASSUMES THE CHAIR**

The Moderator, the Reverend Linda H. Glenn assumed the chair.

**ASSEMBLY BUSINESS**

The Report Number Two of the Committee on Program Planning was amended by changing the word commission to task force, which will report to the General Assembly Council any item requiring action prior to the 176<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, and the task force will report to the 176<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The vote to

amend was unanimous.

The following persons were named to the task force on relocation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Center: The Reverend J. David Hester, Knoxville, TN, Chair; Ms. Cathy Jahr, Martin, TN; Mr. Bob Rutledge, McKenzie, TN; Mr. Tom Craig, Memphis, TN; and Mr. Charles Dawson, Scottsboro, AL.

The Committee on Program Planning distributed a form pertaining to commitments and involvement in the upcoming capital campaign for the center's relocation. The Reverend Don Tabor announced initial pledges from the committee totaled \$6,600.00.

### **RECESS DECLARED**

The Moderator, the Reverend Linda H. Glenn declared a 10 minute recess. The assembly reconvened at the appropriate time.

### **ASSEMBLY BUSINESS**

An offering was received for the relocation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Center. The Reverend Randy Hardisty, Red River Presbytery, offered the following resolution of thanks:

The General Assembly wishes to express thanks and gratitude to God for all of the blessings of life and for the opportunity and joy of serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The entire body of the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Franklin, Tennessee offer thanks to Columbia Presbytery for their warm hospitality in hosting this assembly, to pastor host, the Reverend Larry Guinn; to all of the local congregations for their assistance with a special thanks to Jenkins Cumberland Presbyterian Church for hosting the Moderator's Reception... To Moderator Linda Glenn for her leadership and guidance in the deliberations, Vice-Moderator Hugh Parsons for the message Tuesday evening. We are thankful to the General Assembly Office staff not only for their service at this assembly but also for all they do throughout the year, Stated Clerk Robert Rush, Engrossing Clerk Dr. Tommy Craig, and Assistant to the Clerk Elizabeth Vaughn...to the Reverend Dwayne Cole for his planning and leading in worship, Music Director Sam Suddarth, pianist Jeff Quirk, Guitarist Reverend Dwight Liles...to all who shared in the message of life in worship and devotionals, Retiring Moderator Reverend E. G. Sims, Susan Groce of Columbia Presbytery, Arkansas Presbytery Youth Advisory Delegate Brian Fleming, Reverend Andy McClung, Grace Presbytery Candidate Iris Straube, Reverend Nathan Scott, Reverend Yu Pyong San, Reverend Forrest Prosser, Reverend Jock Paleak, Reverend Yoong S. Kim, Elder Stanford Avorkliya, Reverend Zenobia Daza, Reverend George Estes, Reverend Atsushi Suzuki, Reverend Edward Montoya, Arkansas Elder Commissioner Denise Adams, Reverend Larry Moss...to all who shared the beautiful and uplifting special music in worship, Cuban Praise Team, Korean Church of Memphis, Candidate Jae Yu, Sudanese Choir... Special thanks are extended to those serving on the Program Planning Committee for their prayerful and dedicated service in helping to guide this Assembly through difficult decisions.

The minutes of the first four days were corrected. The minutes of the fifth day were read. The minutes were approved as a whole.

A total of \$22,282.00 was announced as initial gifts and pledges to the campaign to relocate the Cumberland Presbyterian Center.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:35 a.m. the General Assembly adjourned to meet in Birmingham, Alabama, June 19-23, 2006. The Moderator, the Reverend Linda Glenn, prayed the closing prayer.

## APPENDICES

### REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (Appendix A)

The Credentials Committee certifies the list of commissioners on pages 3 and 4 of the *Preliminary Minutes* with the following changes:

On the part of the ministers - Reverend Nathan Scott, Choctaw Presbytery, was certified as alternate commissioner via telephone to serve in place of Reverend Randy Jacob.

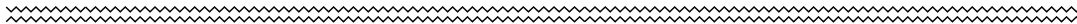
On the part of the elders - Elder Bill Wallace, Tennessee-Georgia Presbytery, will serve in place of Elder Pat Eaker. Elder Prince Porte, Presbytery of Liberia will not be attending.

On the part of the youth advisory delegates - Michelle Bishop, Hope Presbytery, will not be attending.

Enrollment as of 2:00 p.m. is certified as forty-seven (47) ministers, forty-four (44) elders, and twenty-five (25) youth advisory delegates.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Faris, Chair  
Charles Bond  
Diane Sowell



### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP (Appendix B)

#### I. REFERRALS

The Committee on Christian Education/Stewardship had the following items referred for consideration: The Report of the Board of Christian Education, except Section II.E.; The Report of the Unified Board for Christian Discipleship; The Report of the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits.

#### II. PEOPLE OF COUNCIL

The Committee met with Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits member Ms. Debbie Shelton, Representative and staff as follows: the Reverend Richard Magrill, Executive Secretary; the Reverend Robert Heflin, Coordinator of Benefits; and the Reverend Elinor Brown, Coordinator of Stewardship. The Committee expressed its appreciation for their work in the past year. The Committee also met with Board of Christian Education member Mr. Darryl Campbell, Vice President and staff as follows: Ms. Claudette Pickle, Executive Director; Ms. Laurie Sharpe, Third Age Ministry/Fundraising; the Reverend Frank Ward, Youth Ministries/Outdoor Christian Education; Ms. Cindy Martin, Children's Ministries/Consultant Programs; and Ms. Brenda Hooks, Manager Cumberland Presbyterian Resource Center who each highlighted different parts of their ministries. The committee shared its appreciation for all of their hard work in the past year.

#### III. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP, FOUNDATIONS AND BENEFITS

The Christian Education/Stewardship Committee received and approved the report of the Board of Stewardship, Foundations and Benefits. Having no recommendations the Committee asks that the General

Assembly receive their report as a matter of information.

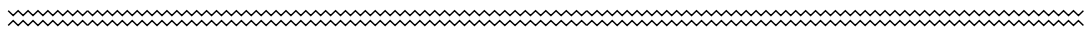
#### IV. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education/Stewardship Committee received the report of the Board of Christian Education and makes the following recommendation:

**RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 2 of the Board of Christian Education, "That presbyterial boards be encouraged to acknowledge a partner relationship with the denominational Board of Christian Education and invite staff to attend one of the presbyterial board meetings biennially," be adopted.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Committee on Christian Education/Stewardship



#### THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY (Appendix C)

##### I. REFERRALS

The Committee on Judiciary has examined the following items referred to it: The Report of the Stated Clerk, Sections V & VI. Recommendations 1 and 2, Section XI. Recommendation 4; The Report of the Commission on the Ministry, Section II. E.; the Report of the Permanent Judiciary Committee; The Report of the Joint Committee on Amendments; The Memorial from Arkansas Presbytery concerning the elimination of synods; The Memorial from Grace Presbytery concerning guidelines governing the realignment of congregations between presbyteries; The Report of the Place of Meeting Committee, Section II., Recommendation 1; Communication concerning synodical boundaries of the Mission Synod.

##### II. PEOPLE OF COUNSEL

The following persons appeared before the committee: the Reverend Robert Rush, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Ms. Lorna Light, Elder from Robert Donnell Presbytery, Mr. Charles Dawson, Permanent Committee on Judiciary, the Reverend Thomas Campbell, Missouri Presbytery; the Reverend Mike Wilkinson, Grace Presbytery.

##### III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

###### A. COMMUNICATION FROM MISSION SYNOD CONCERNING SYNODICAL BOUNDARIES

The communication states **"By order of the General Board of Mission Synod, in a unanimous vote at its meeting on October, 22, 2004, I am writing to inform you that the General Board of Mission Synod officially recognizes the state of Colorado as a logical extension of Mission Synod. (See 2004 Minutes of the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, page 340, Recommendation 13.) Sincerely, Rose Mary Magrill"**

**RECOMMENDATION 1: That the boundaries of Mission Synod be extended to include the state of Colorado.**

###### B. THE REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

### 1. Constitutional Amendment

The constitutional amendment to remove the words “reciprocal agreement” did not receive the necessary 3/4 affirmative votes from the presbyteries.

**RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Stated Clerk, “That the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly affirm the proposed amendment to the Constitution 5. 3 was not approved,” be adopted.**

Since the phrase “reciprocal agreement” in the Confession has been retained by action of the presbyteries, we still have the conditions for reciprocal agreements.

**RECOMMENDATION 3: We recommend that the Permanent Committee on the Judiciary be requested to define how such an agreement be made.**

### 2. Certification Forms/Electronic Methods

**RECOMMENDATION 4: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Stated Clerk, “That the General Regulation A.4 be deleted and that the following wording shall become General Regulation A.4 ‘The Stated Clerks of the various presbyteries may certify commissioners and youth advisory delegates to the General Assembly either by the form provided by the Office of the General Assembly, or via electronic methods’,” be adopted.**

### 3. Corrections to the Minutes of 174<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

**RECOMMENDATION 5: That Recommendation 4 of the Report of the Stated Clerk, “That the Minutes of the 174<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, page 340, be corrected by inserting the proper constitutional reference 9.4.i instead of 8.4.i,” be adopted.**

## C. JOINT COMMITTEE ON AMENDMENTS

### 1. Amend Section 6.36 of the Constitution

**RECOMMENDATION 6: That Recommendation 1 of the Joint Committee on Amendments, “That question three, section 6.36 of the constitution be amended by inserting the words, ‘and promise to uphold’, following words do you approve of, thus making question three to read, ‘Do you approve of and promise to uphold the government of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church/Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America’,” be adopted.**

### 2. Proposed Rules of Discipline

We commend the Permanent Committee on Judiciary for the work done on revising the rules of discipline. The concerns raised by the presentation of the committee are timely and of an urgent nature.

**RECOMMENDATION 7: That Recommendation 2 of the Joint Committee on Amendments, “That presbyteries encourage ministers and representatives of session to attend an area workshop on the Rules of Discipline,” be adopted.**

## D. REPORT OF THE PLACE OF MEETING COMMITTEE

**RECOMMENDATION 8: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Place of Meeting Committee, “That General Regulation A.1 be set aside for 2008 and 2010 and that the place of meeting committee in consultation with the program planning committee be authorized to determine the dates for the General Assembly in those two years,” be adopted.**

## E. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE MINISTRY

**“CHARTER OF THE  
COMMISSION ON THE MINISTRY  
OF THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

The undersigned, acting under the authority granted to them by the 175th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, having capacity to contract and acting as the incorporators of a corporation under the Tennessee General Corporation Act, adopt the following charter for such corporation to be incorporated in the State of Tennessee:

1. The name of the corporation is the COMMISSION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, INC.
2. This corporation is a public benefit corporation.
3. The duration of the corporation is perpetual.
4. Address and Registered Agent:
  - a. The complete address of the corporation's principal office in the State of Tennessee is 1978 Union Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38104, County of Shelby.
  - b. The name of the initial registered agent is Stephanie Scudder Brown whose address is 1978 Union Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38104, County of Shelby.
5. The corporation is not for profit.
6. The purposes for which the corporation is organized are:
  - a. To be an integrated auxiliary and a part of the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and to provide support, encouragement, education, and other vital services to ordained clergy and those preparing for the ministry of word and sacrament in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church;
  - b. To acquire and receive moneys, funds, income, securities, and property, real and personal, of any kind or nature whatsoever, to be held, administered, invested and reinvested;
  - c. To negotiate, enter into, monitor and terminate contracts or other agreements relating to the investment, reinvestment, management, processing and disposal of the assets of the Corporation; and
  - d. To have and to exercise all the general powers and privileges given to corporations by the State of Tennessee, and generally to perform and carry out all acts which may be deemed necessary for the proper and successful prosecution of the purposes for which the Corporation is formed, with full power to enact and repeal all rules, regulations and by-laws which may be desirable.
7. Organization:
  - a. The corporation shall have one member which shall be the Cumberland Presbyterian Church General Assembly Corporation, a Tennessee nonprofit corporation;
  - b. The management and disposition of the affairs and property of the Corporation shall be vested in a Board of Directors all of whom shall be appointed by the member;
  - c. The Board of Directors shall initially consist of the following persons: Toy Brindley, Mark Davenport, William Rolman, James W. Lively, Tommy Thompson, Glenda Melson, Mary Jo Turner, Mark Rackley, and Jo Warren;
  - d. The member may remove any director of the corporation, with or without cause, by giving written notice of the removal to the director and to the president or secretary;
  - e. The corporation shall not, without the prior written consent of the member: (1) merge with another corporation; (2) dissolve; or (3) sell, lease, exchange, or otherwise dispose of all, or substantially all, of its property;

- f. This charter shall not be amended without the prior consent of the member;
- g. A meeting shall be held once a year for organization and the election of officers, and other meetings may be held as determined by the Corporation or at the call of its President;
- h. The Board of Directors of the Corporation shall elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Director of Ministry and it shall appoint all other subordinate officers and agents as the business of the Corporation may require, designating the names of such offices and fixing the compensation of such officers;
- i. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum; and
- j. The Board of Directors shall have full authority to make all by-laws and regulations necessary and deemed expedient for the management of the affairs of the Corporation, such by-laws not to be inconsistent with the laws of the United States, the State of Tennessee and not to be contrary to the constitution, rules and regulations of the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

8. All the properties, moneys and assets of the Corporation are irrevocably dedicated to charitable and religious purposes and shall not inure to the benefit of any private individual. In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the organization will be turned over to one or more organizations described in section 501(c)(3) and 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding sections of any prior or future law, or to the Federal, State or local government for exclusive public purpose.

9. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this Corporation will not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by

- a. a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under sections 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law or
- b. a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or any other corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law.

10. Neither the incorporators nor the members of the Board of Directors shall be individually liable for the Corporation's debts, defaults or other obligations. The Corporation agrees to fully indemnify the incorporators and the members of the Board of Directors including any cost of defense.

Witness our hands this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Toy Brindley, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie W. Lively, Secretary”

**RECOMMENDATION 9: That the charter of the Commission on the Ministry be approved.**

## **F. REPORT OF THE PERMANENT JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

### **1. Position Description of the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church**

“The Retiring Moderator of the 165<sup>th</sup> General Assembly included in his report a job description for the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. (Page 26, 1996 Minutes of the General Assembly) On page 317, 1996 Minutes of the General Assembly states that the Recommendation 14, page 26, of the Report of the Moderator is denied. There is a correction to the Minutes of the 166<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in the Minutes of the 167<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (1997 Minutes of the General Assembly, page 316) as follows: “Recommendation 2: That Recommendation 14 of the

Moderator's Report, page 26, 'That the General Assembly adopt the following position description of the Moderator, be referred to the Permanent Committee on Judiciary with a request to bring a position description to the 167<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.' In researching the Minutes of the 167<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and subsequent years, the Stated Clerk discovered that there was no record of a report on the job description for the position of Moderator of the General Assembly, thus it was called to the attention of the committee this year. The committee reviewed the job description, made some corrections to the job description in light of recent rulings by the General Assembly, and submit the following suggestion for a position description for the Moderator of the General Assembly.

The Moderator of the General Assembly is the titular head of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church during the tenure of the office and has great opportunity for service in the Church. The Moderator receives a precious gift; i.e., the freedom to go anywhere and to listen to the mind, heart, and spirit of the denomination and to speak with and to the Church.

The office of Moderator has great honor and respect, and the person elected to the Office is a priest, prophet, and pastor of the Church at large. The Moderator prays with and for the work of the Spirit of God in the life of the denomination at every opportunity.

The Moderator of the General Assembly is a representative of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church wherever God leads. The Moderator participates in the life and work of the Denomination, as far as possible, and pays particular attention to ecumenical relations, especially with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America.

The Moderator represents the General Assembly as an officer of the Assembly and as an ordained person. The Moderator speaks from knowledge of the actions of General Assembly and may interpret the actions of the Assembly as a responsible representative. The Moderator has authority to speak for the Church only as an ordained representative elected to the office of Moderator for one year.

The Moderator has the privilege of attending every meeting of General Assembly agencies and other judicatories to observe the life and work of the Denomination at every level. The Moderator is an ex-officio member of every agency of the General Assembly. The Moderator is a member of the General Assembly Council for two years; during the tenure in office and for the year following the tenure.

The Moderator is the chair person of the General Assembly Program Planning Committee, a member of the Place of Meeting Committee, and serves wherever the Assembly requests.

The role and functions of the Moderator during the sessions of the General Assembly are described in the Constitution and Rules of Order of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church/ Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America.

The Moderator observes the places and times God is calling the Church to service, assesses the need for a Denominational response to God's call, and reports items that concern the General Assembly for his/her experience of service and capabilities for ministry.

Judicatories, congregations, and others are urged to invite the Moderator to represent the General Assembly and to share in the witness of the Church.

An allowance for part of the expenses of the Moderator is administered by the Stated Clerk. The Moderator and the person issuing an invitation will agree in advance on arrangements to pay travel expenses.

The Moderator wears the official cross and stoles of the office during the term of office. A gavel and a replica of the Moderator's cross is presented to the Moderator upon retirement from the office."

We take note of the statement "An allowance for part of the expenses of the Moderator is administered by the Stated Clerk. The Moderator and the person issuing an invitation will agree in advance on arrangements to pay travel expenses" and encourage that all means be used to financially aid the Moderator in the fulfillment of his/her duties.

**RECOMMENDATION 10: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Permanent Judiciary Committee, "That the General Assembly approve this job description for the Moderator of the General Assembly, and insert it in the General Regulations, as Section C, and that all subsequent sections be re lettered in light of this addition," be adopted.**

## 2. Restoring Ordination to Ministers

“When a minister has voluntarily given up his/her ordination according to Sections 6.53 and 6.54 of the Constitution, and later requests that his/her ordination be restored, the customary practice has been for the presbytery which approved the request to remove the credentials to restore the credentials. In the case of a disciplinary action Rules of Discipline 3.409, only the presbytery which suspended or deposed a minister can restore the ordination; however, when a person voluntarily gives up ordination with no charges pending, the committee is of the opinion that the Rules of Discipline do not apply. It is the opinion of the committee that a person who voluntarily gave up his/her ordination, then asks to be restored would have the same status as a new candidate. The person would have to be an active member of a local congregation, present oneself to the presbytery in which the congregation was located, and the particular presbytery would have to determine the length of time needed prior to the restoration of the ordination. In the case of a disciplinary procedure ordination would be restored by a vote of the presbytery, however, in the case of a person who gave up one’s credentials, the process would be the same as a new ordination.”

**RECOMMENDATION 11: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Permanent Judiciary Committee, “That the General Assembly affirm this opinion,” be adopted.**

## 3. Non-Cumberland Presbyterian Ministers Moderating Sessions, Celebrating the Sacraments

The committee agrees with the interpretation of the Permanent Judiciary Committee.

It is also noted that the presbyteries be more responsive to their individual church’s pastoral needs such as the opportunity for an elder trained by the presbytery to serve communion. In addition presbyteries need to communicate better with the church sessions on the various means by which an ordained minister of another denomination may become qualified for ordination in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

**RECOMMENDATION 12: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the Permanent Judiciary Committee, “That the General Assembly affirm that only ordained Cumberland Presbyterian Ministers may moderate a session or administer the Sacraments in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. (This applies only to ordained ministers of other denominations; and does not take away the right of an elder authorized by presbytery to serve the Sacraments nor serving as moderator pro tem for a session. Nor does it apply to pastors serving union churches.),” be adopted.**

## G. MEMORIAL FROM ARKANSAS PRESBYTERY CONCERNING THE ELIMINATION OF SYNODS

“WHEREAS, in the Cumberland Presbyterian form of government, the synod is a Judicatory whose primary function is that of oversight and review of the Actions of its presbyteries, and WHEREAS, the recent reorganization of presbyteries and synods in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church has created presbyteries that are as large as what previously were synods, and WHEREAS, these larger presbyteries have resources that enable them to render services which formerly were given to synods, and WHEREAS, it is apparent that the Synod of Great Rivers of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church has no more responsibilities than can be discharged in very short order every two years, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church direct the Judiciary Committee of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to prepare a report proposing changes to the Constitution of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church eliminating the synod from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church’s form of government, and THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that proposed changes to the Constitution of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church concerning the elimination of synods from the government of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church include the provision that oversight and review of the

actions of its presbyteries be function of the General Assembly, and,  
**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that said report be submitted to the 177<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for its consideration and approval.

I hereby certify that the above memorial was adopted by Arkansas Presbytery on September 11, 2004.

**Signed: Janie Stamps  
 Stated Clerk  
 Arkansas Presbytery”**

The committee wants to encourage synods to communicate with their presbyteries and other agencies using electronic forms (see Recommendation 4). We re-affirm to the General Assembly the decisions for the need of synods as stated by the 173<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in 2003.

**RECOMMENDATION 13: That the Memorial from Arkansas Presbytery Concerning the Elimination of Synods from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church’s Form of Government be denied.**

**H. MEMORIAL FROM GRACE PRESBYTERY CONCERNING THE GUIDELINES GOVERNING THE REALIGNMENT OF CONGREGATIONS BETWEEN PRESBYTERIES**

**“WHEREAS**, the Synod of Southeast, at its May 2004 meeting, realigned the Elliottsville congregation from Grace Presbytery to Robert Donnell Presbytery; and

**WHEREAS**, this realignment was based on theological/philosophical issues, rather than geographical ones; and

**WHEREAS**, this basis for realignment establishes a precedent for possible additional realignments conceivably affecting every Presbytery and Synod within the Cumberland Presbyterian Church; and

**WHEREAS**, there are currently no clear guidelines for such realignment in either the Constitution or the Digest of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following guidelines governing the realignment of congregations between presbyteries be adopted by the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church:

- (a) that the Session of the congregation seeking realignment call a congregational meeting to both inform the members of the desire to realign and the reasons for doing so, as well as to receive the members’ input into the decision-making process [This guideline recognizes the constitutional right of the Session to make the decision to seek realignment while protecting the right of the members-at-large to be fully informed of such a pivotal decision.];
- (b) that the Session of the congregation seeking realignment, only after holding the abovementioned congregational meeting, notify in writing the Chair of the Board of Missions of the affected presbyteries, prior to a stated meeting of these boards, of both their intention to seek realignment and their rationale for doing so, in order that the issue may be placed on the agendas of the next board meetings [This guideline, as well as the next one, recognizes that constitutionally the ultimate decision to realign a congregation rests solely with Synod while recognizing the need of Synod being fully informed of both presbyteries’ opinions on the matter.];
- (c) that both presbyterial Boards of Missions include the notice of intended realignment of the congregation, along with their written opinion on the matter, in their next report to Presbytery; thus allowing each Presbytery to express its informed opinion to Synod;
- (d) that only after both affected presbyteries have been officially informed of the congregation’s intent to realign by their respective Boards of Missions, may the Session of the congregation seeking realignment officially present its request for realignment to Synod;
- (e) that if Synod approves the requested realignment, all ordained ministers (Pastors, Co-Pastors,

Associate Pastors) that are constitutionally installed to serve the congregation that has been realigned remain members of the Presbytery to which they currently belong until they are lettered out to the other Presbytery under the normal constitutional process [A minister makes the request of the Presbytery in which he/she holds membership to grant his/her letter to the Presbytery to which he/she desires to relocate and both presbyteries vote to take official action on the request (grant and receive the letter). If a minister decides to remain a member of the Presbytery to which he/she belongs, the minister may request Synod to grant him/her permission to serve within the Presbytery that has received the realigned congregation.];

(f) that if Synod approves the requested realignment, all ordained ministers that are attending and/or serving, but are not constitutionally installed (ministers without charge, honorably retired ministers, ministers in transit), the congregation that has been realigned remain members of their respective presbyteries until they are lettered out, if they so desire, to the other Presbytery under the normal constitutional process.;

(g) that if Synod approves the requested realignment, any candidates for the ministry that currently hold membership in the congregation that has been realigned, be given a ninety (90) day window of opportunity to transfer their church membership to a congregation that belongs to the Presbytery under which they are currently under care, and thus remain under that Presbytery's care [At their discretion, candidates may immediately opt to be placed under the care of the receiving Presbytery's Committee on Ministry or appropriate agency; however, if at the end of the ninety (90) day window of opportunity, the candidate's church membership has not been transferred to a congregation that belongs to the Presbytery under which they are currently under care, the candidate will automatically be placed under the care of the receiving Presbytery's Committee on Ministry or appropriate agency;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that since the precedent allowing theological/philosophical issues to take priority over geographical alignment of presbyteries within the same Synod has now been established by the Synod of Southeast, the same guidelines should be applied to congregations seeking realignment with a Presbytery outside the geographical bounds of the same Synod with the additional requirement that both affected Synods approve the realignment;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that a congregation requesting to come under Provision Status with a Presbytery not be restricted by the traditional geographical boundaries of either presbyteries or synods [This practice already exists within the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in regard to Cross-Cultural ministry. Approving this section of this memorial would merely extend this precedent to all congregations regardless of their ethnic makeup.]

I certify that this is a true copy of a memorial adopted by Grace Presbytery on October 15, 2004.

Signed: Howell G. Mims  
Stated Clerk  
Grace Presbytery"

There are issues that need to be dealt with such as the following. When a church joins another presbytery is the minister's membership automatically transferred to the new presbytery? Also, the realignment of presbyteries is mentioned in Section 5.1 in the constitution but does not address philosophical differences. More discussion is needed by the Permanent Committee on Judiciary.

**RECOMMENDATION 14:** That the Memorial from Grace Presbytery Concerning the Guidelines Governing the Realignment of Congregations Between Presbyteries be referred to the Permanent Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee on Judiciary

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**THE REPORT NO. 1 OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM PLANNING  
(Appendix D)**

**I. REFERRALS**

The following items were referred to and considered by the committee: the Report of the Moderator; the Report of the Stated Clerk except Section V. and VI. Recommendations 1 and 2, Section X. Recommendation 3, Section XI. Recommendation 4; the Report of the General Assembly Council; the Report of the Board of Christian Education Section II.E. Recommendation 1; the Report of the Board of Missions Section IV.E.; the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home Section IV.B; the Report of the Cumberland Presbyterian Board of Publication; the Memorial from Japan Presbytery concerning appointing a special committee; the Memorial from Grace Presbytery concerning the number of worship services in 2006; the Line Item Budgets; the Report of the Place of Meeting Committee except II. Recommendation 1; the Supplemental Report of the Board of Stewardship, Foundation & Benefits and Trustees of the Historical Foundation; the Supplemental Report of the Board of Christian Education; and the Report Two of the Board of Missions.

**II. PEOPLE APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

The following persons appeared before the Committee: the Reverend Robert Rush, Mr. Davis Gray, Ms. Jane Jennings, Ms. Pat White, the Reverend Richard Hughes, Ms. Claudette Pickle, Mr. Darryl Campbell, the Reverend Richard Magrill, Ms. Debbie Shelton, the Reverend Michael Sharpe, the Reverend Rickey Page, the Reverend Norlan Scudder, the Reverend Thomas Campbell, the Reverend Kevin Colvard, the Reverend Richard Reid, the Reverend Gay Mims, the Reverend Wayne Wood, Ms. Jan Marshall, Ms. Dale Johnson, Ms. Susan Gore, Ms. Syble Mitchell, the Reverend Cliff Hudson, and the Reverend Robert Prosser.

The committee wishes to express appreciation for each of the agencies, the work they are doing, and the way their representatives reported on their behalf.

**III. THE REPORT OF THE MODERATOR**

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the past Moderator, the Reverend Edward G. Sims, for his inspiring sermon at the opening session of the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, for his travel on behalf of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church during the past year, for his great optimism relating to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and for the other fine ways he has represented the denomination and carried out the work of Moderator.

We note the observations made by the Moderator in his report and urge that each of them be read carefully by every commissioner.

**IV. THE REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK**

The committee expresses appreciation to the Stated Clerk, the Reverend Robert Rush, for the efficient way he carries out the work of the office. We also express appreciation to Mrs. Elizabeth Vaughn for her dedicated work as the Assistant to the Stated Clerk.

The committee further expresses its appreciation as well to Dr. Tommy Craig for the excellent job he does as the Engrossing Clerk of the General Assembly.

**V. THE REPORT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COUNCIL**

**A. TOUCH THE FUTURE**

We call attention to the Touch the Future program.

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** That Recommendation 1 of the Report of General Assembly Council, “That the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly encourage every congregation and presbytery to participate in the *Touch the Future* Discernment Process and Comprehensive Giving Campaign in 2005-2006,” be adopted.

#### **B. BIENNIAL MEETING OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The 174<sup>th</sup> General Assembly referred Recommendation 3 of the Moderator’s Report concerning the frequency of General Assembly to the General Assembly Council for further study and a recommendation to the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:** That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the General Assembly Council, that “The General Assembly Council recommends that the General Assembly begin biennial meetings in 2010,” be denied.

#### **C. OUR UNITED OUTREACH ALLOCATIONS**

**RECOMMENDATION 3:** That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the General Assembly Council, “That the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly reaffirm its directive that congregations give 10% of their annual income to Our United Outreach to support General Assembly Programs through its boards and agencies and reaffirm the need for presbyteries to work with congregations to promote Our United Outreach,” be adopted and we further suggest that the Board of Stewardship contact the presbyterial Boards of Finance and urge them to appeal to churches on a biblical basis to achieve this goal.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:** That Recommendation 4 of the Report of the General Assembly Council, “That the 2006 allocation of Our United Outreach for boards and agencies be as follows:

##### **OUR UNITED OUTREACH ALLOCATION 2006**

\* Denotes guarantee

| <b>Board/Agency</b>                                    | <b>OUO Allocation 2006</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Bethel College *</b>                                | <b>306,685</b>             |
| <b>Children’s Home</b>                                 | <b>84,492</b>              |
| <b>Board of Christian Education</b>                    | <b>319,518</b>             |
| <b>General Assembly Council</b>                        | <b>141,270</b>             |
| <b>Board of Missions</b>                               | <b>751,046</b>             |
| <b>Board of Stewardship, Foundations, and Benefits</b> | <b>280,728</b>             |
| <b>Office of the General Assembly</b>                  | <b>180,563</b>             |
| <b>Commission on Chaplains</b>                         | <b>7,726</b>               |
| <b>Permanent Committee on Judiciary</b>                | <b>7,950</b>               |
| <b>Commission on Theology and Social Concerns</b>      | <b>4,784</b>               |
| <b>Cumberland Presbyterian</b>                         | <b>95,540</b>              |
| <b>Historical Foundation</b>                           | <b>87,907</b>              |
| <b>Memphis Theological Seminary</b>                    | <b>193,373</b>             |
| <b>Program of Alternate Studies</b>                    | <b>40,945</b>              |
| <b>Commission on Ministry</b>                          | <b>106,963</b>             |

|                                                 |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Planned Giving                                  | 29,341             |
| Contingency Fund                                | 10,622             |
| Nominating Committee                            | 6,000              |
| Loan to C. P. Resource Center*                  | 44,170             |
| Denomination Center Property <sup>1</sup>       | 25,000             |
| Maintenance, Center Property <sup>2</sup>       | 28,307             |
| Transition Expense Center Services <sup>3</sup> | 62,493             |
| <b>Total OOU</b>                                | <b>\$2,815,422</b> |

\* These are guaranteed," be adopted.

#### D. CHURCH CALENDAR 2005-2006

**RECOMMENDATION 5: That the Church Calendar for 2005-2006 as below:**

|                       |                   |                                                                                |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>July 2005</b>      | <b>9</b>          | <b>Program of Alternate Studies Graduation</b>                                 |
|                       | <b>9-23</b>       | <b>Program of Alternate Studies Summer Extension School</b>                    |
|                       | <b>27-29</b>      | <b>Christian Education Consultant Training Event</b>                           |
| <b>August 2005</b>    | <b>1-31</b>       | <b>Church Paper Sunday (each Sunday in August)</b>                             |
|                       | <b>28</b>         | <b>Quarterly Missions Emphasis</b>                                             |
|                       | <b>28-9/25</b>    | <b>Christian Education Season</b>                                              |
| <b>September 2005</b> | <b>11</b>         | <b>Senior Adult Sunday</b>                                                     |
|                       | <b>16-18</b>      | <b>Children's Home Board Meeting</b>                                           |
|                       | <b>18</b>         | <b>Christian Service Recognition Sunday</b>                                    |
|                       | <b>18</b>         | <b>International Day of Prayer and Action for Human Habitat</b>                |
| <b>October 2005</b>   | <b>1 - 31</b>     | <b>Clergy Appreciation Month</b>                                               |
|                       | <b>2</b>          | <b>Worldwide Communion Sunday</b>                                              |
|                       | <b>9</b>          | <b>Clergy Appreciation Sunday</b>                                              |
|                       | <b>23</b>         | <b>Native American Sunday</b>                                                  |
| <b>November 2005</b>  | <b>Any Sunday</b> | <b>Love Loaf Offering</b>                                                      |
|                       | <b>Any Sunday</b> | <b>Commitment Sunday</b>                                                       |
|                       | <b>6</b>          | <b>Bethel College Day</b>                                                      |
|                       | <b>6</b>          | <b>Stewardship Day</b>                                                         |
|                       | <b>13</b>         | <b>Seminary Sunday</b>                                                         |
|                       | <b>13</b>         | <b>Day of Prayer for People with AIDS and Other Life-Threatening Illnesses</b> |
|                       | <b>20</b>         | <b>Bible Sunday</b>                                                            |
|                       | <b>27</b>         | <b>Quarterly Missions Emphasis</b>                                             |
|                       | <b>27-12/24</b>   | <b>Advent</b>                                                                  |

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|               |            |                                                                           |
|---------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 2005 | Any Sunday | Gift to the King Offering (11/27-12/24)                                   |
|               | 25         | Christmas Day/Christmastide (through Jan.5)                               |
| January 2006  | 6          | Epiphany                                                                  |
|               | 9-10       | Stated Clerk's Conference                                                 |
|               | 16-18      | Minister's Conference                                                     |
| February 2006 | 5          | Denomination Sunday                                                       |
|               | 5          | Historical Foundation Offering                                            |
|               | 17-19      | Children's Home Board Meeting                                             |
|               | 19         | Youth Sunday                                                              |
|               | 26         | Quarterly Missions Emphasis                                               |
| March 2006    | 1          | Ash Wednesday                                                             |
|               | 1-4/16     | Lent-Easter                                                               |
|               | 3          | World Day of Prayer (Church Women United)                                 |
| April 2006    | 9          | Palm/Passion Sunday                                                       |
|               | 9          | One Great Hour of Sharing                                                 |
|               | 13         | Maundy Thursday                                                           |
|               | 14         | Good Friday                                                               |
|               | 16         | Easter                                                                    |
|               | 16         | March of Missions begins - Easter to Pentecost (through June 4)           |
|               | 23-29      | National Farm Worker Week                                                 |
| May 2006      | 5          | May Fellowship Day (Church Women United)                                  |
|               | 7-14       | Planned Gift Emphasis                                                     |
|               | 7-14       | Family Week                                                               |
|               | 21         | Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home Sunday                            |
|               | 28         | Quarterly Missions Emphasis                                               |
|               | 28         | Memorial Day Offering for Pres. Council on Chaplains & Military Personnel |
| June 2006     | 4          | Pentecost                                                                 |
|               | 4          | World Mission Day                                                         |
|               | 11         | Children's Sunday                                                         |
|               | 17-23      | General Assembly                                                          |
|               | 20-22      | Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry Convention,"                     |

be adopted.

#### E. TOUCH THE FUTURE LOAN LIMIT INCREASE

**RECOMMENDATION 6:** That Recommendation 7, "That the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly increase the loan limit to *Touch the Future* by \$75,000 for up front expenses and authorize the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits to make such loan," be adopted.

### VI. THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

#### Special Days and Seasons

**RECOMMENDATION 7:** That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Board of Christian Education, "That these special days and seasons be affirmed, and entered on the official church calendar for 2006; Lent-Easter, March 1 (Ash Wednesday)-April 16; Youth Sunday, February 19; Family Week, May 7-14; Pentecost, June 4; Children's Sunday, June 11; Christian Education Season, August 27-September 24; Senior Adult Sunday, September 10; Bible Sunday, November 19; Advent-

Christmas in Home and Church, December 3-25," be adopted.

## VII. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONS

### Special Days Calendar 2006

**RECOMMENDATION 8:** That the special days calendar of the Board of Missions as below:

- “1. **Quarterly Missions Emphasis:** the fourth Sunday of the second month in each quarter:  
February 26, May 28, August 27 and November 26
2. **One Great Hour of Sharing:** Palm Sunday - April 9
3. **March of Missions:** Easter to Pentecost - April 16 - June 4
4. **National Farm Worker Week:** last full week of April - April 23-29
5. **World Mission Day:** Pentecost Sunday - June 4
6. **Christian Service Recognition Sunday and International Day of Prayer and Action for Human Habitat:** third Sunday in September - September 17
7. **Native American Sunday:** fourth Sunday in October - October 22
8. **Love Loaf Program:** a Sunday in November
9. **Gift to the King:** a Sunday in Advent,” be adopted.

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

### Children’s Home Sunday

**RECOMMENDATION 9:** That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home, “That May 21, 2006 be designated as Children’s Home Sunday and that the Assembly encourage congregations to emphasize the importance of the Children’s Home Sunday offering as a significant source of revenue for the care of children and families,” be adopted.

## IX. REPORT OF THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATION BOARD

We commend the editor, Ms. Pat White, and her work for the high quality of *The Cumberland Presbyterian* and the THIS WEEK publication. We encourage more to subscribe to each of these publications. We also encourage congregations to take advantage of the opportunity to receive free copies for their members during Church Paper Month in August.

## X. MEMORIALS

The Committee had two memorials referred for consideration.

### A. MEMORIAL FROM JAPAN PRESBYTERY CONCERNING THE 2008 GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JAPAN

**RECOMMENDATION 10:** That the memorial from Japan Presbytery which states, “WHEREAS, the 2008 General Assembly will be the first General Assembly to be held outside the United States of America and an epoch making event in the history of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church that nobody has experienced yet; and WHEREAS, it would be expected that the Assembly shall include special programs to share spiritual experience which shall give impact on the missions of the church, in addition to carrying out the

ordinary business matters of the assembly; and  
 WHEREAS, there would certainly be difficulties because of language barrier and cultural gaps as well as geographical distance, and it is imperative for us to have special preparation different in quality and quantity from the ordinary years, in order to make the Assembly a creative opportunity continuing to the future and a rich harvest to all the participants and the whole church;  
 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly establish the organizing committee for the 2008 General Assembly composed of representatives from the General Assembly Boards and agencies, and from Japan Presbytery, and launch the preparation process as soon as possible.

I certify that this is a true copy of the memorial adopted by Japan Presbytery in its meeting on February 27, 2005.

Signed: Takayoshi Shirai

Stated Clerk

Japan Presbytery," be adopted and

the present planning committees continue to fulfill this work.

**B. MEMORIAL FROM GRACE PRESBYTERY CONCERNING THE 2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE**

**RECOMMENDATION 11:** That the memorial from Grace Presbytery which states,  
 "WHEREAS, the 2006 General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church will be hosted by Grace Presbytery in the city of Birmingham, Alabama, and  
 WHEREAS, the General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America will also be meeting simultaneously in the city of Birmingham, and  
 WHEREAS, 2006 marks the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Presbyterianism in America, and  
 WHEREAS, 2006 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the controversial partial union of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., and  
 WHEREAS, plans have been made and are being made to recognize these significant dates jointly as a part of the activities of our respective General Assemblies, and  
 WHEREAS, plans currently include the intention of no less than four Worship Services, one with joint leadership of the three denominations, and one Worship Service led by each denomination individually, and  
 WHEREAS, the intention of multiple Worship Services may be agreeable to some with a desire to be fair and equal, or with some other worthy intent, and  
 WHEREAS, the original expectations and explanations given to Grace Presbytery when it agreed to host this historic event consisted of a single Worship Service, planned jointly with all three denominations participating in leadership, and  
 WHEREAS, the logistical issues involved are many, not the least being the conservative estimates of 6,000 to 7,000 persons in attendance, and  
 WHEREAS, the simultaneous meetings and the activities of the General Assemblies have been interpreted by some, however misinformed, as movement towards future union of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., and  
 WHEREAS, Grace Presbytery rejoices in the common confession of all churches represented, that Jesus Christ is Lord, and looks forward to the opportunity to extend the right-hand of Christian fellowship, and our hospitality, and  
 WHEREAS, we recognize and affirm our common confession, it, unfortunately and in reality, does not extend to all areas of doctrinal, theological, social, and political issues surrounding our respective denominations, and  
 WHEREAS, the originally planned single joint Worship Service, would give all our denominations a setting to emphasize and celebrate our common confession, and  
 WHEREAS, it is the strong conviction of Grace Presbytery, that multiple Worship Services will:

1. Present a multitude of logistical problems

2. Add to the confusion and misconception concerning denomination union

3. Most importantly, it will put at risk the original purpose of celebrating our common confession,

**WE THEREFORE MEMORIALIZE**, that the General Assembly instruct the Stated Clerk that it is the desire and intent of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to participate in one Worship Service planned jointly by representatives of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, and the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., during the session of the General Assembly when it meets in Birmingham, Alabama in 2006.

I do hereby certify that this is a true copy of a memorial adopted by Grace Presbytery on October 15, 2004.

Signed: Howell G. Mims  
Stated Clerk  
Grace Presbytery," be denied.

### **XI. LINE ITEM BUDGETS SUBMITTED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENCIES**

The committee notes that there are three agencies that are reporting projected deficits.

**RECOMMENDATION 12:** That the line item budgets published in the preliminary minutes be received.

### **XII. THE REPORT OF THE PLACE OF MEETING COMMITTEE**

The committee notes with appreciation those presbyteries and churches that have extended invitations to host future meetings of the General Assembly.

Please note the schedule of future General Assemblies:

|                   |                 |                                       |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 176 <sup>th</sup> | Birmingham, AL  | June 19-23, 2006                      |
| 177 <sup>th</sup> | Hot Springs, AR | June 18-22, 2007                      |
| 178 <sup>th</sup> | Japan           | June, 2008                            |
| 179 <sup>th</sup> | Memphis, TN     | June 15-19, 2009                      |
| 180 <sup>th</sup> | Nashville, TN   | June, 2010 (Bicentennial Celebration) |

### **XIII. REPORT TWO OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONS**

Our United Outreach is primarily for programs and necessary infrastructure. If the church takes more OUO from its programs and ministries to underwrite maintenance needs, the future of the church in terms of fulfilling its purpose will be dismal.

**RECOMMENDATION 13:** That Recommendation 1 of Report Two of the Board of Missions, "That the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly direct the GAC that recommendations concerning future OUO allocations, include at least incremental increases (based on projected income increases for congregations for OUO) to each board and agency in an effort to help offset fixed cost and to insure continuation of the basic services provided by the boards and agencies of the church at large," be adopted.

**RECOMMENDATION 14:** That Recommendation 2 of Report Two of the Board of Missions, "That the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly continue to direct the GAC to identify creative ways of funding (e.g. capital campaign, leasing/sale of unused office space/property on the Center property, etc.) the growing maintenance/property needs of the Center Property other than through OUO and the related impact

it has on the ministry of the church,” be adopted.

**RECOMMENDATION 15: That Recommendation 3 of Report Two of the Board of Missions, “That ministries and programs offered through the boards and agencies directly supporting the three priority goals for this decade (revitalize and equip congregations and presbyteries to fulfill the mission [vision] of the church; establish new congregations; and recruit, educate and nurture clergy and laity for their specific ministries) should be given highest consideration by the GAC when determining OOU allocations,” be adopted.**

Respectfully submitted,

Committee on Program Planning Committee

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**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY/HISTORICAL FOUNDATION/  
THEOLOGY AND SOCIAL CONCERNS  
(Appendix E)**

**I. REFERRALS**

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report Number One of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary, The Report of the Board of the Historical Foundation, The Report of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns, The Report Number Two of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary.

**II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL**

Appearing before this committee was: Reverend W. Jean Richardson, Board Representative, Memphis Theological Seminary; Reverend Jay Earheart-Brown, President-Elect, Memphis Theological Seminary; Reverend Thomas D. Campbell, Director, Program of Alternate Studies; Ms. Syble Mitchell, Board Representative, Historical Foundation; Reverend Cliff Hudson, Board Representative, Historical Foundation; Ms. Susan Gore, Archivist, Historical Foundation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church/Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America; the Reverend William Montague, Representative of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns.

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

**A. REPORT NUMBER ONE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Reverend W. Jean Richardson, representative of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary, addressed this committee with several matters of consideration. The terms of two (2) Board members have reached an end, and recognition is due these servants. Reverend Richardson also pointed out that the resignations of the former President, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, and Vice President for Development of Memphis Theological Seminary could have been detrimental to the well being of the Seminary were it not for the tireless efforts of three (3) other individuals. Reverend David Hilliard, consented to serve as interim Acting President for a second time and continues to serve in part-time work for development. Reverend Clinton Buck came forward following Reverend Hilliard to wear three (3) hats, serving simultaneously as Acting President, interim Vice-President for Academic Affairs, and interim Vice-President for Development; and former President of Bethel College, Doctor Bill Odom, who came out of retirement to offer his temporary service in the Office of Development. As well,

Reverend W. E. Knickerbocker, Jr., Professor of Church History, after completion of thirty-two (32) years of service to the Seminary, announced his resignation effective at the end of the 2004-2005 Academic year. During his tenure, Reverend Knickerbocker's wife, Sandi, has held a variety of part-time positions at the Seminary. The Trustees are greatly indebted to all the aforementioned.

**RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of Report 1 of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary, "That the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly express its gratitude to Reverend Martha Wagley and Mr. Joe Dycus for their faithful service to Memphis Theological Seminary and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church," be adopted.**

**RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 2 of Report 1 of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary, "That the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly express its gratitude to Doctor and Mrs. W. E. Knickerbocker, Jr. for their thirty-two (32) years of faithful service to the ministry of Memphis Theological Seminary," be adopted.**

**RECOMMENDATION 3: That the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly express its gratitude to Reverend David Hilliard for his faithful service to the ministry of Memphis Theological Seminary and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.**

**RECOMMENDATION 4: That the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly express its gratitude to Reverend Clinton Buck for his faithful service to the ministry of Memphis Theological Seminary and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.**

**RECOMMENDATION 5: That the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly express its gratitude to Doctor Bill Odom for his faithful service to the ministry of Memphis Theological Seminary and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.**

#### **B. REPORT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TASK FORCE ON THE PROGRAM OF ALTERNATE STUDIES**

Reverend W. Jean Richardson explained the process which the Task Force followed as outlined by the 174<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to create a job description for the position of Director of the Program of Alternate Studies. Reverend Jay Earheart-Brown and Reverend Thomas D. Campbell shared their thoughts and concerns for the Program of Alternate Studies and Reverend Earheart-Brown assured this committee of his and the Seminary's complete and enthusiastic support of the program. Reverend W. Jean Richardson expressed that the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary believes the Program of Alternate Studies is absolutely essential and important to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. This committee concurs, as amended in Recommendation 6 below, with Report One of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary.

**RECOMMENDATION 6: That the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly approve the Job Description – Director of the Program of Alternate Studies as presented by the General Assembly Task Force on P.A.S with the following amendments: RESPONSIBILITIES: Work cooperatively with Presbyteries and the Commission on Ministry in enrolling and directing the course of studies for students in the program; Work cooperatively with the Board of Missions in training ministers in Cross-Cultural Ministry, EVALUATION: The work and performance of the Director will be evaluated by the Dean of the Seminary who will submit an annual report of the evaluation through the President to the Board of Trustees.**

### **IV. REPORT TWO OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

Reverend Jay Earheart-Brown shared his goals for property purchases to expand opportunities for the Seminary. His goals project that these purchases will not only allow growth opportunities but income support in the future for the Seminary as well. This committee concurs with the Report Two of the Board

of Trustees of the Memphis Theological Seminary.

**RECOMMENDATION 7: That Recommendation 1 of Report 2 of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary, "That the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly authorize the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits through the Investment Loan Program of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to lend Memphis Theological Seminary such funds as are necessary to purchase eight (8) additional properties in the Roberta Drive, St. Agnes Street, and Avery Street blocks and/or properties adjacent to the existing campus," be adopted.**

## V. HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

Ms. Susan Gore, Ms. Syble Mitchell, and Reverend Cliff Hudson gave a presentation of the work to date of the Historical Foundation as well as the needs for the coming years.

### 1. BIRTHPLACE SHRINE

Questions were raised concerning the Birthplace Shrine as to regular maintenance. Ms. Syble Mitchell addressed the issue and assured the committee of works in progress to protect and maintain this site.

### 2. OBSERVANCE OF ANNIVERSARY

Observance of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the organization of the Cumberland Presbyterian will take place in 2010. A joint effort is needed from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America.

### 3. ADAPTING TO A NEW POSSIBILITY

The Historical Foundation requested this committee deny their Recommendation 2. It is a duplicate recommendation covered in the supplemental report of the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits/Trustees of Historical Foundation. The committee concurs with the report of the Historical Foundation.

**RECOMMENDATION 8: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Historical Foundation, "That the Historical Foundation be authorized to recruit and recommend to the 2006 General Assemblies a planning committee of twelve (12) people made up of representatives from across geographic bounds of each church (CP and CPCA) to coordinate with the Stated Clerks and other officials as well as the committees that are responsible for planning the 2010 concurrent assemblies," be adopted.**

**RECOMMENDATION 9: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Historical Foundation, "That the General Assemblies express their appreciation for the Foundation as it seeks to provide a permanent home for the documents and memorabilia which celebrate the heritage of Cumberland Presbyterians of both the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America and that the Cumberland Presbyterian Church General Assembly authorize any needed actions by its General Assembly Council, at the Council's discretion, to allow the Foundation to purchase the Cumberland Presbyterian Church Center property at 44 South Rembert," be denied.**

**RECOMMENDATION 10: That the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly express their appreciation for the Foundation as it seeks to provide a permanent home for the documents and memorabilia which celebrate the heritage of Cumberland Presbyterians of both the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America.**

**RECOMMENDATION 11: That the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly affirm the Historical Foundation on their upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, November 3rd, 2005, and urge all Cumberland Presbyterians to support their continued efforts.**

## VI. REPORT OF THE UNIFIED COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

### 1. ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Reverend William Montague presented a study guide, Capital Punishment A Faith Based Study, by Reverend Hunter P. Mabry along with comments and concerns of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns. The committee has learned during our own discussion of this issue of the great need for not only Cumberland Presbyterians, but Christians as a whole, must have as much information as possible for a comprehensive spiritual understanding of the issue of capital punishment. The committee concurs with this report but offers a substitute recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 12:** That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns, "That the study guide Capital Punishment A Faith Based Study by Reverend Hunter P. Mabry (published by Abingdon Press) be approved as the suggested resource and study guide for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America," be denied.

**RECOMMENDATION 13:** That the study guide Capital Punishment A Faith Based Study, by Reverend Hunter P. Mabry (published by Abingdon Press) be approved as a suggested resource and study guide for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America and further that the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly encourage all congregations to pursue study on this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

The Committee on Memphis Theological Seminary/Historical Foundation/Theology and Social Concerns

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## THE REPORT NO. 2 OF THE COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM PLANNING (Appendix F)

### I. REFERRALS

The Committee on Program Planning had the following items referred for consideration: The Report of the General Assembly Council; the Supplemental Report of the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits & Trustees of the Historical Foundation; the Supplemental Report of the Board of Christian Education; the Report No. 2 of the Board of Missions.

All of these reports have dealt, in one way or another, with the possibility of selling the Denominational Center Properties in Memphis.

This is a very complicated matter, made even more complicated by the announcement of the Board of Missions that they plan to vacate the Center Property by December 31, 2005.

#### Affirmations:

This committee feels that the General Assembly should affirm:

- That we expect all Boards/Agencies of the General Assembly to operate from a denomination center building.
- That there is need to maintain the central accounting system now in place.

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** That General Assembly Council Recommendation 6, "That every denominational board and agency be charged with creating a plan for its own physical location and facilities and that each such board and agency make its recommendations to the 2006 General Assembly," be denied.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:** Board of Stewardship Supplemental Report Recommendation 1, "That the General Assembly approve the enabling actions to retain the church center as detailed in section VI.B. above," be denied.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:** That all Denominational Center Properties at the Union/Rembert location in Memphis be placed on the market for sale. That General Assembly Council Recommendation 5, "That the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly authorize the sale of the Denominational Center Property headquarters in Memphis," be granted.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:** That this sale be supervised by the Task Force named in Recommendation 12.

**RECOMMENDATION 5:** That a new location be obtained on which to establish a new denominational center.

**RECOMMENDATION 6:** That all General Assembly Executive offices be based in this new center.

**RECOMMENDATION 7:** That a location be obtained for the Historical Foundation, to erect a building according to specifications shared with this committee.

**RECOMMENDATION 8:** That a Capital Funds Campaign be launched church-wide for \$3 million. These monies would be used to help relocate the offices, pay off Center indebtedness and move the current offices. This fund would be added to the monies realized from the sale of the Center properties.

**RECOMMENDATION 9:** That this Capital Funds Campaign begin September 1, 2005 with goal projected to be reached by June 1, 2006 (10 months). (The practical effect of this campaign is to have money/pledges in hand before property is secured.)

**RECOMMENDATION 10:** That July, 2006 be projected for beginning of the relocation project.

**RECOMMENDATION 11:** That all Denomination Center offices remain in their current offices until the new facilities are readied. (Any sale would be contingent on our continued occupancy until late 2006.)

**RECOMMENDATION 12:** Create a Task Force of five people to oversee this project and report to the 176<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and anything prior to the 176<sup>th</sup> meeting of the General Assembly requiring action, will be handled through the General Assembly Council.

**RECOMMENDATION 13:** Funding for Task Force and the Capital Funds Campaign will come from the Capital Campaign.

**RECOMMENDATION 14:** Authorize the Board of Stewardship to loan startup money for the Task Force and Capital Campaign Expenses up to \$25,000.

Respectfully submitted,

Your Program Planning Committee

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## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MISSION, MINISTRY AND CHAPLAINS (Appendix G)**

### **I. ITEMS OF REFERRAL**

The following reports were referred to and consider by the committee: The Report of the Board of Missions, except Section IV. E.; The Report of the Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel; The Report of the Commission on the Ministry, except Section II. E.; and the Memorial from Missouri Presbytery concerning a relationship with the Presbytery of Sudan.

### **II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL**

People who appeared before the committee: the Reverend Michael Sharpe, Executive Director of Board of Missions; the Reverend George Estes, Evangelism/Church Development; the Reverend Pam Phillips-Burk, Congregational/Women's Ministry; Ms. Margie Shannon, Administration and Finance of Board of Missions; the Reverend Lynn Thomas, Cross Cultural Ministries; the Reverend Robert Watkins, Global Missions; the Reverend Rickey Page, Board of Missions Representative; the Reverend Jearl Hunley, Representative of Commission on Chaplains; Chaplain Ed Brogan, Representative of Presbyterian Counsel on Chaplains; the Reverend Stephanie Scudder Brown, Director of Commission on Ministry; and the Reverend Toy Brindley, Representative of Commission on Ministry.

### **III. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONS**

The Committee voted to accept the report from the Board of Missions as stated.

We recognize that since 1889 women in our denomination have been called to preach. This recommendation encourages congregations who have not had the benefit of women in the pulpit, to invite women clergy to preach in their congregation.

**RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of Board of Missions, “That each congregation seek to invite a clergy woman to preach and lead worship during the next two years. The Board of Missions office is available to help congregations who are interested to locate a clergy woman in their area,” be adopted.**

As we try to reach as many people as we can for Jesus Christ, the Board of Missions is encouraging us to consider cross-culture outreach as a way of accomplishing this.

**RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of Board of Missions, “That the General Assembly encourage presbyterial boards of missions and local congregations to prayerfully consider cross-culture outreach and evangelism in their area, to promote sensitivity toward immigrant ethnicities, and to alert staff of the General Assembly Board of Missions to opportunities for cross-culture ministry,” be adopted.**

Prayer should be a central part of communicating with God our needs and desires. By praying for new church efforts we strengthen our ability to make this effort successful. We trust God’s goodness in hearing our prayer.

**RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of Board of Missions, “That General Assembly remind presbyteries and congregations of the need for prayer in behalf of our new church efforts, and invite local missions committees to contact pastors of new churches to discuss their work and request information,” be adopted.**

Many of the people in our congregations are not aware of Builders Fellowship and what it is trying to accomplish. By appointing someone to promote this in the local church we increase the effectiveness of the program.

**RECOMMENDATION 4: That Recommendation 4 of the Report of Board of Missions, “That General Assembly encourage presbyteries to promote Builders Fellowship by appointing a presbyterial advocate for the program, and by urging sessions to appoint local advocates of Builders Fellowship, and report the names and addresses of these individuals to the Board of Missions,” be adopted.**

Builders Fellowship has many different financial levels of participation. By sharing the different levels to the presbyteries and churches we can increase the funds raised by this effort.

**RECOMMENDATION 5: That Recommendation 5 of the Report of Board of Missions, “That General Assembly alert presbyteries and congregations to the special opportunities for participating in Builders Fellowship, including the Builders Fellowship Church, Builders Fellowship Sponsor, Builders Fellowship Pioneer, Builders Fellowship Perpetual Member, and Memorial Gifts,” be adopted.**

To promote good stewardship and provide a direct way of individuals in our denomination to get involved we encourage congregations to use Quarter Card program, Second Mile projects and special gifts.

**RECOMMENDATION 6: That Recommendation 6 of the Report of Board of Missions, “That General Assembly urge congregations, groups and individuals to support new church efforts through the matching grant program, Quarter Card program, Second Mile projects and other special gifts,” be adopted.**

#### **IV. MEMORIAL FROM MISSOURI PRESBYTERY CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MUTUAL MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP WITH**

## THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SUDAN

We discussed this memorial in depth and decided we did not have enough information to act on this request so we are referring this to the Board of Missions.

**RECOMMENDATION 7: That the Memorial from Missouri Presbytery which states:**

**“WHEREAS, the Gospel has now been proclaimed in the nation of the Sudan for the first time in history by an ordained Cumberland Presbyterian minister at the invitation and hosted by the Presbyterian Church of Sudan;**

**WHEREAS, that same Gospel proclamation was also delivered for the first time in history in a mass public meeting on the streets of Malakal, Sudan by a Gospel preacher of the white race;**

**WHEREAS, the Presbyterian Church of the Sudan invites the establishment of a ministry partnership with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church;**

**WHEREAS, the Presbyterian Church of the Sudan is compatible with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church both in the areas of doctrine and polity;**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 175<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church seek with all diligence the establishment of a mutual ministry partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Sudan to the end that pastors of either denomination may share fully in ministerial and mission opportunities as they may be identified.**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that missionary activities of a Cumberland Presbyterian minister or a group from a Cumberland Presbyterian church or agency that enjoys the endorsement of their respective Presbytery be recognized as official missionary endeavor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and that official requests to any Cumberland Presbyterian Church or agency for support of these missions be accepted and supported by individuals and churches at their discretion.**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that requests for missionary support and assistance coming from the official office of the Presbyterian Church of Sudan be considered and supported by any individual, church or agency according to their discretion without prior approval of the General Assembly or a Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.**

I certify that this is a true copy of the memorial adopted by Missouri Presbytery on April 2, 2005.

Signed:Karen Guthrie  
Stated Clerk  
Missouri Presbytery,”

be referred to the Board of Missions for further action.

## V. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON CHAPLAINS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL

The Committee voted to accept the report from the Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel as stated.

The duties and responsibilities of chaplains serving in the armed forces were shared with the committee. There was discussion on the need to support them in prayer, personal contact and financial support through the offering received during Memorial Day.

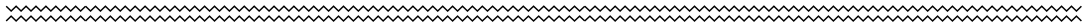
## VI. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE MINISTRY

The Committee voted to accept this report of the Commission on the Ministry as stated.

The Committee was encouraged that Reverend Stephanie Scudder Brown was brought on board and has hit the ground running. We are encouraged with the committee’s work on CEU credits, mentoring program and the ministers conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee on Missions/Ministry/Chaplains



**REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S HOME AND  
BETHEL COLLEGE COMMITTEE  
(Appendix H)**

**I. REFERRALS**

The Committee on Children's Home and Bethel College had the following items referred for consideration: The Report of the Stated Clerk, Section X.; The Report of the Board of Trustees of Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home, except Section IV.B.; The Report of the Trustees of Bethel College.

**II. PEOPLE OF COUNCIL**

The Committee met with Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home staff: Dr. Judy Burroughs Keith, Executive Director and Mr. Randy Spencer, Associate Executive Director and Ms. Olene Rush, Board Representative. The Committee also met with the Stated Clerk, the Reverend Robert Rush; the Reverend Robert Prosser, President of Bethel College and Mr. Bill Dobbins, member of the Board of Trustees of Bethel College.

**III. THE REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK**

**REVIEW OF THE COVENANT RELATIONSHIP WITH BETHEL COLLEGE**

"The 171<sup>st</sup> General Assembly adopted a covenant relationship with Bethel College. The relationship requires that the General Assembly and the Trustees of Bethel College are to name a committee to review the relationship every five years." After meeting with the Stated Clerk and President and Representative of Bethel College, the committee discussed the importance of selecting Cumberland Presbyterians with interest in Bethel College for the committee. Assurance was given that the Board of Trustees will soon select their five representatives for this committee. The Stated Clerk will coordinate logistics.

**RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the Stated Clerk, "That the General Assembly and the Board of Trustees of Bethel College each name five persons to review the covenant relationship and to report to the 176<sup>th</sup> General Assembly," be adopted.**

To follow through with the above Recommendation of the Stated Clerk's Report, we submit the following recommendation:

**RECOMMENDATION 2: That General Assembly approve the following members to that committee: the Reverend Johnny Parish, Chair; the Reverend Robert M. Shelton, Ms. Jade White, the Reverend Rebecca Salisbury, and Ms. Darlene Teague. This committee will review, "reaffirm the covenant relationship and make any desirable changes," and report to the 176<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.**

**IV. THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOME**

**A. CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOME REPORT**

Information was shared about the capital funds campaign, progress of construction of facilities, and new programs. Dr. Keith and the staff were extremely grateful for those who helped meet the goal of six million dollars for the “Building Together... A Partnership for Healing and Hope Centennial Campaign.”

**RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home, “That the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church resolve to praise God and to thank all of its congregations and members, as well as many friends from outside the denomination, for the support that made possible the success of the Children’s Home Building Together...A Partnership for Healing and Hope Centennial Campaign. In gratitude we celebrate the more than \$6 million that will be used to expand the services of this ministry. May we lift up a prayer of thanksgiving and ask God to bless and lead us to be bold servants and good stewards during our second century of service to bring healing and hope to children and their families,” be adopted.**

**RECOMMENDATION 4: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home, “That the Assembly encourage each congregation to set aside one Sunday each month to pray for children and families, especially those who are hurting and hungry, in their communities and throughout the world,” be adopted.**

**RECOMMENDATION 5: That Recommendation 4 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home, “That the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church encourage each presbytery to hear regularly from its Children’s Home Representative,” be adopted.**

**RECOMMENDATION 6: That Recommendation 5 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home, “That Cumberland Presbyterian Churches look for ways to interact with the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home through its Program Sharing and Consultation component to serve children and families in need in their own congregations and communities. Through these partnerships the resources of the denomination and its Children’s Home can be brought together to enrich the lives of children and families and bring healing and hope in more places,” be adopted.**

## **B. HELP AND SUPPORT TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

The committee discussed the importance of congregations identifying ways to help and support children and families “especially those who are hurting and hungry in their communities and throughout the world,” and become involved in such programs as Souper Bowl, local food pantries, soup kitchens, World Vision, or other programs to meet these needs.

**RECOMMENDATION 7: That the General Assembly strongly encourage churches who are not already involved, begin participating in giving to a local or world charity for hungry or hurting children.**

## **C. COMMENDATIONS**

The committee was impressed with the great vision and leadership of Dr. Keith, the enthusiasm of Mr. Spencer, the dedication of staff at the Children’s Home, the development of new programs, and the success in their Centennial Campaign. The leadership has successfully completed the fund-raising campaign, developed new programs to help children and families who live off-site, and in their fine work in serving children through the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home.

**RECOMMENDATION 8: That the General Assembly commend Dr. Judy Burroughs Keith, the Board of the CPCH, and all staff involved in faithful and dedicated service to the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home.**

## **D. PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

The committee wants to call attention to “The Prayer of Gratitude” for reaching the CPCH campaign goal, by Dr. Judy Keith.

“O God, We come before you with praise and thanksgiving as we do each day for all of our blessing. Today we thank you for what it means to reach the financial goal of our Building Together Campaign.

It is one of the high points of this ministry.

You did it.  
 You created us-all your children  
 Red and yellow, black and white  
 Young and old  
 Rich and poor  
 All are precious in your sight.

You have given the inspiration to hearts for over 100 Years  
 To care for your children who are in need.  
 From the dream of Victoria Jackson in Bowling Green, Kentucky  
 Through the dedication and work of so many across the years  
 Manifest in the legacies of faithful supporters.

You gave us the vision for new service  
 Through the Touch the Future discernment Process.  
 Boldly set forth by the Board of Trustees of CPCH  
 You gave us the minds to plan and set goals for this decade.  
 You gave us the teamwork of staff to do the work.  
 You gave us the resources to do what you called us to do.  
 So many friends joined together to meet the challenge.  
 Even by taking our dear ones from their lives among us  
 To your heavenly reward  
 Their legacies came to provide for the Greater Good.

Today you bring joy to our souls – the impulse to celebrate.  
 May we embrace that feeling together  
 Encompassing all who have been a part of this great effort  
 And who will be the beneficiaries of such riches.  
 We know that such blessings bring new challenges.  
 To whom much is given, much will be required.  
 We pray that we will be good stewards  
 That You will continue to give us the faith, hope and love that  
 Has stirred all of our efforts  
 To be courageous in carrying out the visions for the future  
 To reach out to all Your children  
 To bring healing and hope.

To God be the Glory!

**RECOMMENDATION 9: At the conclusion of this report, the committee would like to lead the General Assembly in praying this prayer.**

## **V. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BETHEL COLLEGE**

### **A. BETHEL COLLEGE REPORT**

Significant improvements have been made to meet the needs of the expanding enrollment, to increase the salary of professors and staff, and to add new academic programs. It was reported that the

college is on track to restructure its debt and diversify its financial stream of income and is making plans, to address the identified weaknesses and threats contained in the “Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats” analysis.

The Reverend Prosser reminded the committee that Bethel College is our college and those who support the college through financial gifts and prayers will be blessed. It was further reported that Bethel College continues to be an exciting place that meets the intellectual, spiritual, and social needs of students. The committee wishes that congregations will recognize the improvements in Bethel College’s academic, athletic, and fine arts programs, and continue to support the college through financial gifts and referring Cumberland Presbyterian students to consider a Bethel College education.

The committee recognizes that no great cause has been achieved without enthusiasm and passion. As President of Bethel College, the Reverend Prosser has demonstrated these energetic and enthusiastic qualities in his leadership and teamwork with faculty, staff, and the Board of Trustees of Bethel College.

**RECOMMENDATION 10: That the General assembly recognize and commend the Reverend Dr. Robert Prosser and staff for their faithful and dedicated leadership at Bethel College.**

## **B. COMMENDATIONS**

The committee was made aware of two employees who will be retiring from Bethel College. Even when the future was not bright, these two employees, as well as the faculty and staff of Bethel College, sacrificed much time and effort to serve the college and its students. Dr. Maribeth McGuire has given 20 years of service to the college with the last seven years serving as the Dean of Academic Affairs. Ms. Virginia Claire Edwards has provided many years of volunteer service to the college before serving as a member of the board of trustees and then seventeen years of service as an employee. Both of these individuals have served the college well and will be greatly missed by both staff and students. We hope that they will continue to enthusiastically share their love for the college and encourage others to support Bethel College.

**RECOMMENDATION 11: That the General Assembly recognize and commend Ms. Virginia Claire Edwards and Dr. Maribeth McGuire for their many years of faithful and dedicated service to Bethel College.**

Respectfully submitted,

Committee on Children’s Home/Bethel College