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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STEWARDSHIP/OUR UNITED OUTREACH

I. REFERRALS

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report of the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits; The Report of the Our United Outreach Committee; and the 2022 Line Item Budgets Submitted by General Assembly Boards/Entities.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Reverend Robert Heflin, Executive Secretary, Reverend Alan Butler, Coordinator of Benefits, and Board Representative, Mrs. Debbie Shanks (Board of Stewardship); Reverend Cliff Hudson, Development Director and representative Mikel Davis (Our United Outreach Committee). We wish to express our appreciation to the persons of counsel for their presentation.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

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

The committee met with Reverend Robert Heflin and Debbie Shanks. The report was reviewed and received. We call attention to pages 44-46 in the preliminary minutes concerning endowments and investment programs. There is a need for the church at large to understand opportunities through the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits to invest and endow therefore we offer:

RECOMMENDATION 1: We recommend that Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits create a communication process to educate both our local churches and presbyteries on the endowment and investment programs, especially our overseas churches and presbyteries.

B. THE REPORT OF THE OUR UNITED OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The committee met with the Reverend Cliff Hudson and Mikel Davis. Reverend Hudson explained the importance and function of OUO to the committee. The committee encourages all presbyteries and churches to become more knowledgeable about OUO and its critical function in our denomination. The Report of the Our United Outreach Committee was concurred with the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Our United Outreach Committee, “that General Assembly adopt the following Our United Outreach allocations for 2023:

Amount to be Allocated	2,500,000.00	
Ministry Council	\$1,203,978	48.159%
Bethel University	120,398	4.816%
Children’s Home	72,239	2.890%
Stewardship	144,477	5.779%
General Assembly Office	192,636	7.705%
Memphis Theological Seminary/ Program of Alternate Studies	168,557	6.742%
Historical Foundation	72,239	2.890%
Shared Services	385,273	15.411%
Contingency	12,040	0.482%
OUO Committee	92,044	3.682%
Comm. On Chaplains	13,990	0.560%
Judiciary Committee	13,196	0.528%
Theology/Social Concern	4,912	0.196%
Nominating Committee	4,021	0.161%
Our United Outreach Goal	\$2,500,000	100.000%

(From the entities listed above, all should be self-explanatory except maybe Shared Services. Maintenance, utilities, mowing, trash pick-up, pest extermination, and custodial are all examples of Shared Services for entities housed in the Cumberland Presbyterian Center.),” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Our United Outreach Committee, “that the General Assembly approved the proposed transition to a less than full-time Director and voluntary presbytery advocates for Our United Outreach,” be adopted.

Realizing that there is a day of prayer for O.U.O annually on the church calendar, we make the following recommendation

RECCOMENDATION 4: That the day of prayer for Our United Outreach also be used to include education on O.U.O and giving to O.U.O be encouraged throughout the church.

C. 2022 LINE ITEM BUDGETS SUBMITTED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENTITIES

We reviewed the 2022 line Item Budgets submitted by the General Assembly Entities and we concur.

D. 2023 LINE ITEM BUDGETS SUBMITTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENTITIES

We reviewed the 2023 line item budgets submitted by the General Assembly Entities and we concur.

Respectfully submitted,
The Stewardship/Elected Officers/OUO Committee

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAINS/HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

I. REFERRALS

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

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Mrs. Susan Knight Gore, Archivist, Historical Foundation; Lisa Oliver, Historical Foundation Board Representative; Navy Chaplain Lyman M. Smith (CAPT, CHC, USN, retired), Executive Director of the Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies (PFC), Lt. Col. Ray Santillano and Reverend Shelia O'Mara, representative, General Assembly Commission on Federal Chaplains.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

A. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON FEDERAL CHAPLAINS

The Chaplains/Historical Foundation Committee appreciated the opportunity to speak with Reverend Shelia O'Mara, Chaplain Lyman M. Smith and Lt. Col. Ray Santillano concerning the important work of our military chaplains. Our discussions focused on the important role that chaplains play in providing care to our service men and women. The committee also discussed the need for chaplaincy training program for our presbyteries in Columbia.

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

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Commission on Federal Chaplains, that, "both USA congregations of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America encourage their individual churches and members to designate special days through the year to engage in prayer to hold up the chaplains and their families in the service to which they have been endorsed," be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the Commission on Federal Chaplains, that, "clergy and Presbyterial Committees on Probationer Care, in their discussions of a call for a ministerial candidate, be encouraged to include the call to chaplaincy as a call to pastoral ministry," be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That Recommendation 4 of the Report of the Commission on Federal Chaplains, that, "the Stated Clerk of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church convey the denomination's gratitude to Captain Lyman M. Smith, CHC, USN, Retired, for his outstanding service to the former Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel and currently the Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies. In addition, the Stated Clerk is asked to extend a commendation to Executive Director Smith for his dedicated and faithful service not only as an executive of the agencies but as a Pastor to the Chaplains," be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 5: Recommend to the General Assembly that our Missions Ministry Team, work in conjunction with Cumberland Presbyterian Commission on the Federal Chaplains to work with the three presbyteries in Colombia, South America to develop a chaplaincy training program.

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

The Chaplains/Historical Foundation Committee expresses our appreciation for the ongoing work of archiving our church history. The committee was able to be joined by Susan Knight Gore and Lisa Oliver from the Historical Foundation. Ms. Gore reminded the committee that the Historical Foundation is able to publish books, provide research services, and that the foundation continues to be interested in receiving artifacts from churches, ministers, and elders. The committee is appreciative of the dedication and passion of our Historical Foundation team. The preservation of our history continues to be of critical importance for our denomination.

The report of The Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation was received and concurred.

Respectively submitted,
The Chaplains/Historical Foundation Committee

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY/ELECTED OFFICERS

I. REFERRALS

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report of the Moderator, The Report of the Stated Clerk, The Report of the Permanent Committee on Judiciary and The Report of the Place of Meeting Committee.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before the committee were: Reverend Michael Sharpe, Stated Clerk; Reverend Geoff Knight, representative of the Permanent Judiciary Committee; and Reverend Duawn Mearns, Moderator of the 190th General Assembly..

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

A. REPORT OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee spoke with the Reverend Geoff Knight concerning the Permanent Committee on the Judiciary Report. With no recommendations included, the report was received and concurred in.

B. REPORT OF THE MODERATOR

The Committee spoke with the Reverend Duawn Mearns, Moderator of the 190th General Assembly. Reverend Mearns spoke of how his gratitude and respect for our denomination has grown. We thank Reverend Mearns for his service. The report of the Moderator was received and concurred in.

C. REPORT OF THE PLACE OF MEETING COMMITTEE

The Committee spoke with the Reverend Mike Sharpe, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. After discussion about future places of meeting for General Assembly and how there are no plans yet for beyond next year, the Judiciary Committee encourages presbyteries that haven't hosted General Assembly in many years to consider hosting soon. It is acknowledged that the host presbyteries duties are less than they were years ago, and there is the option to host jointly with a neighboring presbytery. The report was received and concurred in.

D. REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

The Committee spoke with the Reverend Mike Sharpe, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to review the report and its recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Stated Clerk, under Section X. Constitutional Amendments, "That the 191st General Assembly declare that the Constitutional Amendments have been approved," be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Stated Clerk, under Section XI Church Calendar 2022-2023, "That the 191st General Assembly approve the following dates for the 2022-2023 Church Calendar:

CHURCH CALENDAR 2022-2023

July-2022

3 Outdoor Ministries Sunday
9 Program of Alternate Studies Graduation
9-23 PAS Summer Extension School, Bethel, McKenzie, Tennessee
6 Children's Fest, McKenzie, Tennessee

August-2022

1-Sept 30

Christian Education Season

6 Bethel University Commencement
21 Seminary/PAS Sunday
22 MTS Fall Semester Begins
22 Bethel University Fall Semester Begins

September-2022

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

October-2022

Church Paper Month
Clergy Appreciation Month
Domestic Violence Awareness Month

2 Worldwide Communion Sunday
9 Pastor Appreciation Sunday
11 A Day at the Park
16 Native American Sunday

November-2022

Any Sunday Loaves and Fishes Program

1 All Saints Day
3-5 Symposium
4 World Community Day (Church Women United)
6 Bethel University Sunday
6 Stewardship Sunday
13 Day of Prayer for People with Aids and Other Life-Threatening Illnesses
20 Bible Sunday Loaves and Fishes Offering
27-Dec 24 Advent in Church and Home

December-2022

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

January-2023

6 Epiphany
8 Human Trafficking Awareness Day
9-10 Stated Clerks' Conference
9 BU Spring Semester Begins
13 Deadline for receipt of 2020
Our United Outreach Contributions
22 Family Sunday
23 MTS Classes Begin

February-2023

Black History Month

- 1 Annual congregational reports due in General Assembly office
- 5 Denomination Day
- 5 Historical Foundation Offering
- 12 Souper Bowl Sunday
- 12 Our United Outreach Sunday
- 17-20 Youth Evangelism Conference, San Antonio, Texas
- 22 Ash Wednesday
 - Annual Day of Prayer and Fasting for the Global Church

March-2023

Women's History Month (USA)

- 3 World Day of Prayer (CWU)
- 12 Youth & Family Services Sunday (previously CPCH Sunday)
- 31 National Farm Workers Awareness Day

April-2023

- 2 Palm/Passion Sunday
- 6 Maundy Thursday
- 7 Good Friday
- 9 Easter
- 22 Earth Day

May-2023

- 4 National Day of Prayer
- 6 Bethel University Commencement
- 13 MTS Closing Convocation & Graduation
- 28 Memorial Day Offering for Military Chaplains & Personnel for USA churches Pentecost
- Stott-Wallace Missionary Fund Offering
- World Mission Sunday

June-2023

- 18-23 General Assembly, Denton, Texas
- 20-22 CPWM Convention, Denton, Texas," be adopted.

Other points of discussion were had surrounding the "Denomination Visioning Process" as mentioned in "Section IV. The Corporate Board, A, 3." This section outlines the plan to use an outside organization to help with strategic planning. As part of this strategic planning and Visioning Process, the Corporate Board will be sending out a survey to presbyteries and churches to understand deeper the wishes of the denomination in this process. Considering the importance of participation, the Judiciary Committee makes the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 3: That 191st General Assembly request and encourage presbyteries and churches to fill out and return the Visioning Process survey slated to come from the General Assembly office Fall 2022.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That the General Assembly office set aside time at the 192nd General Assembly to finalize the Visioning Process with input from the Commissioners.

Further discussion was made regarding the procedural change implemented experimentally to help with transitions between moderators. This change was implemented in response to Recommendation 7 of the Report of the Moderator to

the 190th General Assembly, which was adopted, which read, "That the General Assembly office review the process of transition of Moderator as to moving the time of election and/or installation of the new moderator to later in the week and consider other ways of improving the transition." The change was part of A, 1, of Section IV. The Corporate Board in the Report of the Stated Clerk labeled "Future GA Meeting Models."

However, after the confusion during the opening session of this General Assembly regarding the installation of the Moderator, and after conversations with each Person of Counsel that came before this committee, the Judiciary committee makes the following recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 5: Considering that Cumberland Presbyterian polity calls for a gathered body to elect a moderator from amongst the convened delegates to serve as the Moderator of the work placed before it, we recommend the following change in the bylaws of the General Assembly: *"That 7.01 Nomination and Election. At the beginning of each annual meeting the General Assembly shall elect a Commissioner to serve as Moderator until the next annual meeting. Nominations for Moderator shall come from the floor. One nominating speech, not to exceed ten minutes, shall be permitted on behalf of each nominee. If there is more than one nominee, the election shall be conducted by written ballot. A committee appointed and supervised by the Stated Clerk shall receive the ballots, count them, and certify the election. If no nominee receives a majority of the votes cast, a run-off election shall be conducted. Only those leading nominees who together received a majority of the votes cast on the preceding ballot shall be included in the run-off election."*

Be amended to read:

"7.01 Nomination and Election. At the beginning of each annual meeting the General Assembly shall elect a Commissioner to serve as Moderator assuming office immediately upon installation during the worship service the evening of the first day until the next annual meeting. Nominations for Moderator shall come from the floor. One nominating speech, not to exceed ten minutes, shall be permitted on behalf of each nominee. If there is more than one nominee, the election shall be conducted by written ballot. A committee appointed and supervised by the Stated Clerk shall receive the ballots, count them, and certify the election. If no nominee receives a majority of the votes cast, a run-off election shall be conducted. Only those leading nominees who together received a majority of the votes cast on the preceding ballot shall be included in the run-off election."

This change is to take effect at the adjournment of 191st General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,
The Judiciary Committee

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

I. REFERRALS

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

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Reverend Jody Hill, President of Memphis Theological Seminary; Reverend Kip Rush, Moderator of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary; Ms. Diane Dickson, member of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary; Reverend Michael Qualls, Director of Cumberland Presbytery House of Studies and Director of the Program of Alternate Studies and visitor, Reverend Daniel Barkley; Dr. Walter Butler, President of Bethel University; Dr. Joe Haymes, Director of Health Sciences of Bethel University; Mr. David Lancaster, faculty member of Bethel University; Mr. Rob Truitt and Mr. Chet Dickson, members of the Board of Trustees at Bethel University; Mrs. Courtney Banatoski, President & CEO of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home; and Mr. Brian Matin, Chairman of the Board of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

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

Upon receiving the report and hearing discussion from representatives from formerly known as the Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home, now known as Cumberland Youth and Family Services, the committee commends the Cumberland Youth and Family Services and staff, and especially Courtney Banatoski, for their continued work in the care, support and transformation of lives of children and families in all walks of life. Their work to enrich the lives of children and families in crisis situations deserves our continued prayers and financial support. In their updated 2022 Covenant Relationship agreement, they are asking the number on the Board of Directors to increase from 18 members to 23 members, with the majority of Board members being Cumberland Presbyterian, and the name change, which has already been approved by their Board of Directors and through state guidelines.

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

Upon receiving the report and hearing discussion from representatives from Bethel University, the committee commends the professionalism and dedication to the higher education provided by Bethel University. Their continued vision and forethought have shown their dedication to keep programs and services relevant to today’s societal educational needs.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of Bethel University, “that the General Assembly share Bethel University’s Mission and ask Presbyteries worldwide to support the university in its prayers, financial offerings and in recommending students,” be adopted.

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

The committee commends President Reverend Doctor Jody Hill, and the MTS staff for making significant improvements in steps to better their financial health, and lift their efforts to establish deeper connections to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, especially the needs of local, smaller, and rural churches through new programs.

The committee commends Dr. Michael Qualls, Director of Alternate Studies and Director of Cumberland House of Studies, for the continued efforts in the PAS program.

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

continue the vital ministry it is doing.

Upon receiving the report and conducting discussion with MTS officials, the committee submits the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary, “that we call on all Cumberland Presbyterians to pray that God will continue to call men and women to the office of ministry, and that they will be well prepared through our educational institutions to lead growing and vibrant congregations in the ministry of Jesus Christ to the world,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Memphis Theological Seminary, “that the third Sunday in August, (August 21, 2022 and August 20, 2023) be included in the General Assembly calendar as Seminary/PAS Sunday, and that the General Assembly encourage all churches to share information about MTS and PAS and receive a special offering on that day, or on a more convenient day of the session’s choosing. MTS leadership has committed to focusing these annual funds on growing the Baird-Buck Endowment for Cumberland Presbyterian Studies until the chair in CP studies is fully funded,” be adopted.

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

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

Memphis Theological Seminary has created a new “Preseminary Program” which allows “students who are 40 years or older, and who have significant church and life experience but no undergraduate degree...to be admitted to either the Mdiv or MACM” program after successful completion of “four pre-determined graduate level course in order to demonstrate their ability to do graduate level theology” (“REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,” section G, “NEW ACADEMIC INITIATIVES”). However, our Constitution 6.202 forbids licensing candidates who have not completed an undergraduate degree. Although 6.202 does allow for exceptions, those exceptions seem to be tied to the Program of Alternate Studies, and do not clearly address the situation posed by the new Preseminary Program.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That the Permanent Committee on the Judiciary review and clarify the constitutionality of the seminary’s Preseminary Program in light of Constitution 6.202.

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY COUNCIL

I. REFERRAL

Referral to this committee was the Report of the Ministry Council.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Mrs. Edith Old, Director of Ministries; Reverend Derek Jacks, Representative from Ministry Council; and Reverend Milton Ortiz, Missions Ministry Team Leader.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRAL

A. REPORT OF THE MINISTRY COUNCIL

1. We commend the Ministry Council for its creativity, flexibility and hard work during and beyond the recent pandemic. Staff members have proven to be exceptionally loyal and persistent in pursuit of the church's mission and ministry under these demanding circumstances. We express special thanks to Edith Old, Director of Ministries, for her many years of faithful service, strong leadership and sincere commitment to the life of the church.

We wish to share with the Assembly the recently developed vision that will guide the work of the Ministry Council in the coming years. The Council hopes to cultivate within the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, "thriving, unified congregations [that] have the resources to proclaim God's word for salvation, the leadership to sustain them, and engaged members, who seek spiritual growth and bring Jesus to their local communities and around the world."

2. We also wish to draw attention to certain aspects of the Council's report to the Assembly that call for celebration and prayerful support.

For many years, the CPWM Convention has run concurrently with General Assembly. In an effort to meet the changing needs of those it serves, the Convention will meet at a time other than Assembly. This change will allow women to serve more easily as commissioners to Assembly while also being free to attend Convention. The length of Convention will be shortened in hopes of increasing attendance among younger age groups. Convention will meet once every two years, which will allow for regional retreats in off years. The last concurrent meeting of General Assembly and Convention will be in 2023.

Global missions continue to expand. A few years ago, there was a Cumberland Presbyterian presence in five countries. Though financial support remains roughly the same, the number has grown to twenty countries. This increase is due in large part to a new model which takes advantage of Cumberland Presbyterians moving to other parts of the world, from Colombia to Spain, from Hong Kong to Scotland and points elsewhere. This model is less dependent on missionaries and church buildings and more focused on forming core groups of worshippers.

Cumberland Presbyterians give generously when disaster strikes. The Council has developed guidelines for sharing information related to such disasters with the church at large. The hope is to provide information that will allow individuals and congregations to connect with local relief efforts when, where and how relief is needed the most, which is often some time after the initial crisis. We pray that this effort will lead to more efficient and effective service to those in need.

The Cumberland Presbyterian magazine has experienced a 41% growth in subscriptions in recent years. We give thanks for this increase and encourage presbyteries and sessions to lift up the magazine as an important resource for celebrating the history and ongoing ministry of the church. We recognize the frustration of some subscribers who don't receive the magazine in a timely manner. We hope the Communications Ministry Team will continue to explore options for improving timely delivery, even as we understand that much of the issue is out of their hands.

These are only a few examples of the programs, resources and events offered through the Ministry Council. We encourage commissioners to visit the Council's website often (cpcmc.org) and to point the larger church toward it as a resource for empowering ministry in and through local congregations.

3. The Cross-Culture Immigrant Ministries USA Program is a collaboration of MMT and stateside CPC judicatories. Historically, the CPC assumed the challenge to share the good news of Christ across cultures in the US. As a result of years of sacrificial love, there are now nearly 60 different immigrant ministries including two Korean presbyteries, one Council of Latino Churches, and a variety of organized congregations, new church developments, new exploration initiatives, and worshipping communities (For clarity, "worshipping communities" refers to groups that meet outside a traditional church building in order to reach persons who might not otherwise be reached. These gatherings might include a combination of worship element, Bible study, prayer, etc.)

In 2015, GA approved ministry to all migrants who live in the places where the CPC is present. That commitment continues in the US and 18 other countries where we are present. In light of that call, we make the following recommendations related to the council's report:

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Ministry Council that, “the 191st General Assembly prays for immigrant ministries in the United States and around the world, giving thanks for the Grace of God reflected in the great cultural diversity of the body of Christ around the world and reflected in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church today,” be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Ministry Council that, “the 191st General Assembly encourages all lower judicatories to step out in faith to share the good news of Christ with immigrant communities by planting new churches and starting worshipping communities among them,” be adopted.

4. Currently, ministers are required to complete 6 continuing education units (CEU) every two years. Ministers report CEUs to their presbyteries' Committees on the Ministry or equivalent. Only those events sponsored by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church or those approved by the local Committee on the Ministry can count toward CEUs. We agree with the Ministry Council Report that current practice may discourage completing the required CEUs. Therefore, we make the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 3: That Recommendation 3 of the Report of the Ministry Council that, “the 191st General Assembly approves that Continuing Education Units (CEUs) can be earned by participating in any event/seminar related to ministry (including degree programs) and approval by presbytery Committee on the Clergy/Care Committee is not necessary,” be denied.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That the 191st General Assembly approve that Continuing Education Units (CEUs) can be earned by participating in any event/seminar related to ministry (including degree programs).

We recognize that some Committees on the Ministry (COM) struggle to uphold the CEU requirement for ministers. The Pastoral Development Ministry Team is renewing their commitment to keep a church wide data base of CEUs. Presbyterial COMs will maintain their authority to oversee the continuing education of ministers, but will be able to rely on the PDMT to keep track of completed units.

We encourage all ministers to comply with the CEU requirements by attending events/seminars related to ministry and to report those hours to their COMs. We also encourage COMs to hold the importance of continuing education before their ministers and to send a record of completed hours to the PDMT.

B. REQUEST FROM PRESBYTERIES IN COLOMBIA

The year 2025 will mark the 100th anniversary of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church's mission work in Colombia. From that initial effort, the church in Colombia has grown to full flower. The committee received a request to honor this anniversary from the presbyteries in Colombia, South America, through the Missions Ministry Team. In light of that request, we make the following recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That the 191st General Assembly join Andes, Cauca Valley, and Emmaus Presbyteries in their celebration of 100 years of missions and commemorate their relationship as part of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church family; that the year 2025 be declared by the 191st General Assembly as the year of celebration of one-hundred years of missions in Colombia; that the General Assembly encourage its boards and agencies during 2025 to find meaningful ways to celebrate and gain inspiration, vision and hope from a century of ministry in Colombia and beyond; that the Cumberland Presbyterian Church around the world be informed and supportive of the celebratory plans being developed in Colombia and in the USA for the 100th anniversary celebration of missions in Colombia; and, that in 2025 Cumberland Presbyterian presbyteries, churches and councils around the world find an appropriate time and place to thank God for the mighty work done throughout these 100 years, from one generation to another, and that we all encourage support of our missionaries and mission programs.

Respectfully submitted,
The Ministry Council Committee

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

I. REFERRAL

Referrals to this committee are as follows: The Report of the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns, The Memorial from Arkansas Presbytery Regarding Marriage, The Memorial from Grace Presbytery Regarding the 1996 General Assembly Statement on Homosexuality as Incompatible with the Christian Lifestyle, Resolution Formally Requesting Congress and President of the United States to Act on Reasonable R firearm Legislation and the Resolution Regarding Marriage in the Confession of Faith presented to the 191st General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church by Elder Commissioner Jeff Parker, Covenant Presbytery.

II. PERSONS OF COUNSEL

Appearing before this committee were: Reverend Mike Sharpe, Stated Clerk; Elder John Talbot, representative of the United Committee on Theology and Social Concerns; Reverend Sheila O'Mara, 2021 chair of Theology and Social Concerns; Reverend Sherrad Hayes representative of Grace Presbytery; Reverend Perryn Rice; and Reverend Chris Todd.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REFERRALS

A. REPORT OF THE UNIFIED COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY AND SOCIAL CONERNS

The report was received and concurred in. This committee wishes to express our thanks for their continued work.

B. MEMORIAL FROM ARKANSAS PRESBYTERY REGARDING MARRIAGE

1. The authority to prepare and ordain ministers lies with the presbytery [5.6a, 6.200, 6.31] and the authority to ordain elders lies with the session [4.5g].
2. The memorial recommends a process for amendment outside that outlined in our constitution.
3. The Memorial from Arkansas Presbytery Regarding Marriage is asking for a change to the Constitution which is unnecessary because guidance already exists in our Confession of Faith and qualifications and responsibilities for elders and ministers are adequately stated in the Constitution [Constitution 2.60 and 2.70) for the discretion of sessions and presbyteries to consider.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That the Memorial from Arkansas Presbytery Regarding Marriage which states,

WHEREAS the Confession of Faith for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America states in Section 6.17:

6.17 Marriage is between a man and a woman for the mutual benefit of each, their children, and society. While marriage is subject to the appropriate civil law, it is primarily a covenant relationship under God. As such, it symbolizes the relationship of Jesus Christ and the church, and is that human relationship in which love and trust are best known.

WHEREAS the Constitution of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America states the following in Sections 2.61 and 2.73:

2.61 The office of minister of word and sacrament is unique in the life of the church as to responsibility and usefulness. God calls persons and sets them apart for this ministry. The persons who fill this office should be sound in the faith, exemplary in conduct, and competent to perform the duties of the ministry. Persons who become ministers of the word and sacrament are due such respect as belongs to their office, but are not by virtue of their office more holy or righteous than other Christians. They share in the same vocation that belongsto allChristiansto bewitnessesto the gospelinword and deed.They differfromother

Christians only with regard to the office to which they are called, which is their station in life.

2.73 Persons who fill the office of elder may be male or female, young or old.

Elders share in the same vocation that belongs to all Christians to be witnesses to the gospel, but the vocation of this office places an additional responsibility of leadership upon them. They should exemplify the gospel by their good character, sound faith, wisdom, maturity of judgment, discretion, conversation, knowledge of the doctrine and government of the church, and competency to perform the duties of the office.

WHEREAS the Constitution has within it the means by which the Presbyteries can decide the direction of doctrine and polity for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. These means are stated clearly in Section 11.0 “Amendments” of the Constitution of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. Section 11.1 through 11.4 are as follows:

11.1 Amendments to the Confession of Faith, Catechism, Constitution, Rules of Discipline, Directory for Worship, and Rules of Order may be proposed to the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church or the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. If received favorably by either General Assembly, all proposed amendments shall be referred to a Joint Committee on Amendments composed of the five members of the Permanent Committee on Judiciary of each General Assembly for preparation for the two assemblies for action.

11.2 When a proposed amendment to the Confession of Faith, Catechism, Constitution, or Rules of Discipline is presented by the Joint Committee on Amendments to the General Assembly of each church, on recommendation of each assembly the amendment may be transmitted to its presbyteries by three-fourths vote of the members thereof voting thereon, provided there is present and voting not less than 75% of the full membership of the assembly based on the complete representation of all its presbyteries.

11.3 An amendment to the Confession of Faith, Catechism, or Rules of Discipline shall have been adopted when, on its transmission by both assemblies to their presbyteries, a three-fourths majority of the presbyteries of each General Assembly shall have approved it and such approval is declared by each General Assembly to have been given. The vote of a presbytery shall be by simple majority.

11.4 An amendment to the Constitution shall have been adopted:

- a. For both churches, when a three-fourths majority of the presbyteries of each General Assembly shall have approved it and such approval is declared by each General Assembly to have been given; each presbytery voting by simple majority, and,
- b. For either church when a three-fourths majority of its presbyteries shall have approved it and such approval is declared by its General Assembly to have been given; each presbytery voting by simple majority. In such instances the amendment shall be identified as applicable to the Constitution of the church adopting it, and the original section to which the amendment was applied shall remain a part of the Constitution of the church rejecting it.
- c. Presbyteries shall act upon an amendment referred by the General Assembly within the first year of the referral and report their vote no later than the next meeting of the General Assembly after the amendment was transmitted to the presbyteries.

WHEREAS the Constitution instructs all sessions and presbyteries to observe and carry out the injunctions and the decisions of the higher judicatories:**4.5n** Observe and carry out the injunctions of the higher judicatories.**5.6h** See that the injunctions of the higher judicatories are obeyed.

THEREFORE, Arkansas Presbytery proposes that the following amendment to the Constitution be placed before Presbyteries of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America as directed by Section 11.1 and 11.2 of the Constitution. The Amendment to be placed before the Presbyteries of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America are that the following paragraphs be added to the Constitution as 2.92, 4.2, 6.35, and 7.02 and the numbering of the Sections 2.90, 4.0, 6.30, and 7.0 be renumbered to include their insertion.

2.92 When a person is in a sexual relationship that is outside the boundaries of marriage as described in the Confession of Faith 6.17, then such

a situation makes that person ineligible to be ordained to the office of elder.

4.2 When a person is in a sexual relationship that is outside the boundaries of marriage as described in the Confession of Faith 6.17, then such a situation makes that person ineligible to serve as an elder on the session of a church.

6.35 No licentiate shall be ordained that is in a sexual relationship that is outside the boundaries of marriage as described in the Confession of Faith 6.17. Such a situation makes that person ineligible to be ordained as a minister in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

7.02 When a person is in a sexual relationship that is outside the boundaries of marriage as described in the Confession of Faith 6.17, then such a situation makes that person ineligible to serve a church in any of the relationships stated in 7.01,” be denied.

C. MEMORIAL FROM GRACE PRESBYTERY REGARDING THE 1996 GENERAL ASSEMBLY STATEMENT ON HOMOSEXUALITY AS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE

The 1996 statement on homosexuality, reconfirmed in 2016, still stands - emphasizing its closing statement which says, “This statement is to be understood as a theological and social statement and not to be understood as a rule or principle for ordination but never to usurp the authority of presbytery or session to ordain,”

RECOMMENDATION 2: That the Memorial from Grace Presbytery Regarding the 1996 General Assembly Statement on Homosexuality as Incompatible with the Christian Lifestyle which states:

WHEREAS the General Assembly approved a resolution in 1996 on “Homosexuality” as a theological and social practice statement to guide the lower judicatories (sessions, presbyteries, synods), and

WHEREAS this 1996 resolution stated that homosexuality is incompatible with the Christian lifestyle and that the Cumberland Presbyterian Church should not condone the ordination of practicing homosexuals as deacons, elders or ministers of Word and Sacrament (1996 GA minutes, page 313 -link below), and

WHEREAS at the end of the 1996 statement, the resolution paraphrases the CP constitution stating that only presbyteries (ministers CF 6.30) and church sessions (elders and deacons CF 2.91) conduct ordinations, and

WHEREAS the Confession of Faith states the responsibility of the General Assembly is to “bear testimony against error in doctrine and immorality in practice, injuriously affecting the church” (CF 9.4.b), and give oversight to lower judicatories (CF 9.4. g), and resolve divisive issues (CF 9.4.k), and

WHEREAS the 1996 statement on homosexuality has been posted on the homepage of the General Assembly office’s website for many years (<https://www.cumberland.org/gao> see “General Assembly Statement on Homosexuality”), leaving the impression that this is the position of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and

WHEREAS some ministers, church leaders, presbyteries and sessions interpret the General Assembly’s statement on homosexuality to be nonbinding on church sessions and presbyteries, because the 1996 statement says it is “Not to be understood as a rule or principle for ordination,” then the statement explains General Assembly cannot constitutionally “usurp the authority of presbytery or session to ordain,” and

WHEREAS there are ministers, church leaders, presbyteries and sessions who are advocates and promoters of the ordination of LBGTQ+ persons, which does include homosexual practices, and

WHEREAS other ministers, church leaders, presbyteries and sessions interpret the 1996 General Assembly statement as clear guidance (oversight CF 9.4) for lower judicatories not to ordain practicing homosexuals, and

WHEREAS in the light of different views expressed about accepting or not accepting LBGTQ+ ordinations in presbyteries and church sessions, and in the light of different opinions about the meaning of the 1996 statement, and considering the possibility of ordinations that some and not others would accept, the General Assembly must assume its constitutional responsibility and give lower judicatories guidance on LBGTQ+ ordinations, and

WHEREAS the General Assembly can quickly bring clarity to this issue by simply accepting or denying this memorial, thus affirming or rescinding the 1996 statement about homosexuality as the position of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that: Consistent with the 1996 General Assembly statement on homosexuality,

the position of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church is that homosexuality as a practice is not in keeping with Christian lifestyle and that the ordination of church leaders who are practicing homosexuals is not compatible with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church's theology and moral values," be denied.

D. RESOLUTION FORMALLY REQUESTING CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO ACT ON REASONABLE FIREARM LEGISLATION

The committee recognizes that gun violence is a tragic concern in our country, and our confession of faith calls for us "to advocate for all victims of violence [6.31]".

The committee recognizes the complexity of this issue and the limited amount of time to fully explore it.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That "The Resolution Formally Requesting Congress and the President of the United States to Act on Reasonable Firearm Legislation which states:

Whereas, Scripture teaches about the sanctity of life (Genesis 1:27, Psalm 8: 4-5; Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:4-5) and,

Whereas, the Confession of Faith holds that all forms of life are sacred to God, and Humans are made in God's own image (COF 1.11) and,

Whereas, the Confession of Faith teaches that God desires relationship with all persons (COF 3.01) and,

Whereas, the Confession of Faith teaches that "all life and creation is a trust from God" (COF 6.10) and,

Whereas, The Confession of Faith calls on believers to change all "circumstances of oppression...by which persons are denied essential dignity God intends for them in the work of creation (COF 6.30) and,

Whereas, The Confession of Faith calls on believers to be advocates for all victims of violence and to work to change laws that allow for such violence (COF 6.31) and,

Whereas, The United States has endured over 270 mass shootings already in 2022. Most recently in Uvalde (TX) Buffalo (NY) Tulsa (OK) and Philadelphia (PA) accounting for 38 fatalities (Gun Violence Archive), and

Whereas, The United States has, since 1999 suffered over 550 separate school shooting incidents with at least 185 fatalities and over 311,000 children exposed to gun violence at school during that time (Washington Post)

Now, therefore be it resolved, we, the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church call upon Congress and the President of the United States to act on reasonable firearm legislation. These measures include:

- Mandatory background checks for all gun sales, including gun shows and private sales
- The Implementation of red flag laws
- The Extension of waiting periods for all firearm sales
- Major investments in Mental health and telehealth
- Closing the "boyfriend loophole"
- The establishment of a minimum age of 21 to purchase a firearm
- The prohibition of further sales of "assault weapons"
- The prohibition of high-capacity magazines

This Resolution is to be sent to the following persons upon approval:

- Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi
- House Majority Leader Stney Hoyer
- House Minority Leader Keven McCarthy
- House Majority Whip James Clyburn
- House Minority Whip Steve Scalise
- Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer
- Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
- Senate Majority Whip Richard Durbin
- Senate Minority Whip John Thune
- President Pro Tempore Patrick Leahy
- Vice President of the United States Kamala Harris
- President of the United States Joseph R. Biden,"

be referred to the Permanent Unified Theology and Social Concerns Committee for an in-depth response to be reported back to the 192nd General Assembly.

E. RESOLUTION REGARDING MARRIAGE IN THE CONFESSION OF FAITH PRESENTED TO THE 191ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BY ELDER COMMISSIONER JEFF PARKER, COVENANT PRESBYTERY

The authority to prepare and ordain ministers lies with the presbytery [5.6a, 6.200, 6.31] and the authority to ordain elders lies with the session [4.5g].

The resolution recommends a process for amendment outside that outlined in our constitution. The Resolution from Elder Commissioner Jeff Parker to the 2022 Meeting of the General Assembly is asking for a change to the Constitution which is unnecessary because guidance already exists in our Confession of Faith. Therefore, the committee makes the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION 4: That the Resolution from Elder Commissioner Jeff Parker to the 191st Meeting of the General Assembly, which states:

WHEREAS the Confession of Faith for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America states in Section 6.17:

6.17 Marriage is between a man and a woman for the mutual benefit of each, their children, and society. While marriage is subject to the appropriate civil law, it is primarily a covenant relationship under God. As such, it symbolizes the relationship of Jesus Christ and the church, and is that human relationship in which love, and trust are best known.

WHEREAS the Constitution of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America states the following in Sections 2.61 and 2.73:

2.61 The office of minister of word and sacrament is unique in the life of the church as to responsibility and usefulness. God calls persons and sets them apart for this ministry. The persons who fill this office should be sound in the faith, exemplary in conduct, and competent to perform the duties of the ministry. Persons who become ministers of the word and sacrament are due such respect as belongs to their office but are not by virtue of their office more holy or righteous than other Christians. They share in the same vocation that belongs to all Christians to be witnesses to the gospel in word and deed. They differ from other Christians only with regard to the office to which they are called, which is their station in life.

2.73 Persons who fill the office of elder may be male or female, young or old. Elders share in the same vocation that belongs to all Christians to be witnesses to the gospel, but the vocation of this office places an additional responsibility of leadership upon them. They should exemplify the gospel by their good character, sound faith, wisdom, maturity of judgment, discretion, conversation, knowledge of the doctrine and government of the church, and competency to perform the duties of the office.

WHEREAS the Constitution has within it the means by which the Presbyteries can decide the direction of doctrine and polity for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. These means are stated clearly in Section 11.0 "Amendments" of the Constitution of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. Section 11.1 through 11.4 are as follows:

11.1 Amendments to the Confession of Faith, Catechism, Constitution, Rules of Discipline, Directory for Worship, and Rules of Order may be proposed to the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church or the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. If received favorably by either General Assembly, all proposed amendments shall be referred to a Joint Committee on Amendments composed of the five members of the Permanent Committee on Judiciary of each General Assembly for preparation for the two assemblies for action.

11.2 When a proposed amendment to the Confession of Faith, Catechism, Constitution, or Rules of Discipline is presented by the Joint Committee on Amendments to the General Assembly of each church, on recommendation of each assembly the

amendment may be transmitted to its presbyteries by three-fourths vote of the members thereof voting thereon, provided there is present and voting not less than 75% of the full membership of the assembly based on the complete representation of all its presbyteries.

11.3 An amendment to the Confession of Faith, Catechism, or Rules of Discipline shall have been adopted when, on its transmission by both assemblies to their presbyteries, a three-fourths majority of the presbyteries of each General Assembly shall have approved it and such approval is declared by each General Assembly to have been given. The vote of a presbytery shall be by simple majority.

11.4 An amendment to the Constitution shall have been adopted:

a. For both churches, when a three-fourths majority of the presbyteries of each General Assembly shall have approved it and such approval is declared by each General Assembly to have been given; each presbytery voting by simple majority, and,

b. For either church when a three-fourths majority of its presbyteries shall have approved it and such approval is declared by its General Assembly to have been given; each presbytery voting by simple majority. In such instances the amendment shall be identified as applicable to the Constitution of the church adopting it, and the original section to which the amendment was applied shall remain a part of the Constitution of the church rejecting it.

c. Presbyteries shall act upon an amendment referred by the General Assembly within the first year of the referral and report their vote no later than the next meeting of the General Assembly after the amendment was transmitted to the presbyteries.

WHEREAS the Constitution instructs all sessions and presbyteries to observe and carry out the injunctions and the decisions of the higher judicatories:

4.5n Observe and carry out the injunctions of the higher judicatories.

5.6h See that the injunctions of the higher judicatories are obeyed: Therefore be it

RESOLVED,

That the following amendment to the Constitution be placed before Presbyteries of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America as directed by Section 11.1 and 11.2 of the Constitution. The Amendment to be placed before the Presbyteries of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America are that the following paragraphs be added to the Constitution as 2.92, 4.2, 6.35, and 7.02 and the numbering of the Sections 2.90, 4.0, 6.30, and 7.0 be renumbered to include their insertion.

2.92 When a person is in a sexual relationship that is outside the boundaries of marriage as described in the Confession of Faith 6.17, then such a situation makes that person ineligible to be ordained to the office of elder.

4.2 When a person is in a sexual relationship that is outside the boundaries of marriage as described in the Confession of Faith 6.17, then such a situation makes that person ineligible to serve as an elder on the session of a church.

6.35 No licentiate shall be ordained that is in a sexual relationship that is outside the boundaries of marriage as described in the Confession of Faith 6.17. Such a situation makes that person ineligible to be ordained as a minister in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

7.02 When a person is in a sexual relationship that is outside the boundaries of marriage as described in the Confession of Faith 6.17, then such a situation makes that person ineligible to serve a church in any of the relationships stated in 7.01," be denied.

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

**The
Proceedings
of the**

**ONE HUNDRED NINETY FIRST
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

of the

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

session held in

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

June 19 - 24, 2022

At Albuquerque, New Mexico and within the facilities of the Embassy Suites Hotel, there the nineteenth day of June in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-two, at the appointed hour of two o'clock in the afternoon, Minister and Elder Commissioners from the various presbyteries, youth advisory delegates and visitors assembled.

Prior to the start of General Assembly, the Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico hosted an outdoor concert and fellowship time on the church grounds on Sunday evening, June 19. The concert featured the talents of Lara Manzanares who performed delightful music, both traditional and New Mexican songs and stories.

FIRST DAY – MONDAY – JUNE 20, 2022

The day began with orientation for Commissioners and YAD's at 9:30 a.m. with prayer offered by Moderator Duawn Mearns. Stated Clerk Michael Sharpe led the orientation. Following his remarks Reverend Sharpe invited Reverend Marsahiro Matsumoto, Japan Presbytery, to recognize the late Reverend Michinobu Ikushima, former pastor at Koza Church, who died on June 14, 2022. Reverend Matsumoto then lead the Commissioners in prayer for Reverend Ikushima's family. Once the orientation was concluded, the YADs were dismissed to meet with Reverend Chris Fleming, Adult Ministry, Discipleship Ministry Team. The Chairs and Co-Chairs of the General Assembly Committees met with Engrossing Clerk Reverend Lisa A. Scott for further orientation.

THE ASSEMBLY IS CONSTITUTED

The Moderator, the Reverend Duawn Mearns, called the assembly to order at 2:08 p.m. He made preliminary announcements to the General Assembly, offering words of appreciation and welcome to those present.

WELCOME, PASTOR HOSTS, LOCAL OFFICIALS

The Moderator asked Justin Richter, Moderator, Presbytery of del Cristo to speak. He brought greetings from the Presbytery, highlighting its uniqueness due to the geographical breath of the presbytery and its cultural diversity. Pastor Hosts Reverend Lyle Reece and Reverend Harry Chapman, Presbytery del Cristo, came forward to bring greetings to the Assembly. Pastor Host Reece brought opening greetings and then asked Pastor Host Chapman who introduced, Mayor Gregg Hull of Rio Rancho, New Mexico, where Westside Cumberland Presbyterian meets. Mayor Hull brought greetings on behalf of the city to those assembled and well wishes for the General Assembly to accomplish its work. Host Pastor Reece

also brought general information related to safety, the worship service, protecting valuables in vehicles and signing up for transportation to the airport at the conclusion of business. Pastor Host Reece introduced Council Member Trudy Jones, Albuquerque City Council Member, District 8. She also brought warm regards to the Commissioners and those in attendance.

CONSTITUTING PRAYER

The Reverend Jeff Gehle, Red River Presbytery prayed the constituting prayer.

Moderator Mearns asked that the Commissioners and Youth Advisory Delegates be seated in the first four rows of seats with guests taking the seats behind them.

PARLIAMENTARIAN APPOINTED

He appointed the parliamentarian, Reverend Geoff Knight of the Judiciary Committee.

THE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The motion was made to adopt the agenda. A point of order was raised concerning the timing as to when the newly elected Moderator would assume his or her office and duties. Reverend Mike Sharpe, the Stated Clerk, explained that in response to the One Hundred Ninetieth General Assembly's request to find ways to aid in the transition between the Moderators, this year's newly elected Moderator will assume the duties of Moderator at the conclusion of business and preside through the business sessions next year. The General Assembly Bylaws, Article 7-Moderator and Vice-Moderator, paragraph 7.01 Nomination and Election require the election of the Moderator on the first day, however, it does not specify that duties are assumed immediately upon election. The Stated Clerk will seek input from the Moderators and Commissioners at the close of this week's meeting to gauge the usefulness of this new process.

The Youth Advisory Delegates were asked by the Moderator if they wanted to adopt the agenda. The body voted to adopt the agenda. However, there was a point of order made regarding the timing of when the newly elected Moderator's term would begin. Moderator Mearns overruled the point of order. The Moderator's ruling was challenged by a commissioner. The Moderator then called for the division of the house by standing vote. Those upholding the ruling sixty (60) in favor and twenty-six (26) opposed. The Moderator stated that ruling stands. The agenda was adopted.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Elder George Ladd, Columbia Presbytery, presented the Report of the Credentials Committee. There were forty-eight (48) ministers, forty-four (44) elders, making a total of ninety-two (92) commissioners present at 2:00 p.m. There were seventeen (17) Youth Advisory Delegates present. The Moderator asked the Youth Advisory Delegates whether they wanted to receive and concur in the report. They were in favor of receiving the report. On motion the report was concurred in, marked appendix "A" and filed.

ELECTION OF THE MODERATOR

Moderator Reverend Duawn Mearns opened the floor to nominations. declared the floor open for nominations for the office of Moderator of the one hundred ninety-first General Assembly. The following nomination of Reverend Mike Wilkinson, previously endorsed by his presbytery, was presented. Elder Peter Carter, Presbytery of East Tennessee, nominated the Reverend Mike Wilkinson, from the Presbytery of East Tennessee Presbytery. Youth Advisory Delegates voted in favor of placing the name of the Reverend Wilkinson into nomination. The body voted to place his name into nomination.

Because Reverend Lynn Thomas, Director of Global Missions was not a member of the General Assembly consent was granted by the body for him to make the nominating speech in favor of Reverend Wilkinson's nomination.

The Moderator invited Reverend Mike Wilkinson to come forward to make remarks. He expressed thanks for comments shared by Reverend Lynn Thomas. He expressed thanks for the opportunity to serve the Church, counting it an honor.

Moderator Mearns entertained a motion to elect Reverend Wilkinson by acclamation. Motion was made and seconded. Reverend Mearns asked the Youth Advisory Delegates their opinion and they were in

favor of the motion. The General Assembly voted to elect Reverend Mike Wilkinson as Moderator of the one hundred ninety-first General Assembly.

Moderator Mearns opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Moderator of the one hundred ninety-first General Assembly. Elder Don Chmura (Arkansas Presbytery) nominated Reverend Steve Mosley (Arkansas Presbytery) for Vice-Moderator and Reverend Virginia Espinoza (Choctaw Presbytery) nominated Reverend Joe Butler, Murfreesboro Presbytery. The Moderator asked the Youth Advisory Delegates if nominations should be closed. They were in favor of that action. The body voted to close nominations and proceed with the election by written ballot.

While the ballots were being counted, the Moderator invited Reverend Sheila O'Mara, Board Representative for the Commission on Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies to make a special presentation to the Reverend Chaplain Lyman Smith, (US Navy, Retired), who is retiring after five years of service as Executive Director, of the Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies. Reverend O'Mara presented Chaplain Smith with a recognition of service plaque. He then spoke about the important roles Cumberland Presbyterian Chaplains serve in federal agencies, that is, military, prisons and Veterans healthcare. He thanked the General Assembly for its support of chaplains and stated his hope that presbyteries and churches will encourage ministerial candidates to pursue chaplaincy as a venue for Christian witness and service.

At this point in the program, Moderator Mearns invited Edith Old, Director of Ministry Council to introduce a new member of the Ministry Council staff. She introduced Reverend Rebecca Zahrte, Director of Women's Ministry. The General Assembly offered warm applause.

ELECTION OF THE VICE MODERATOR

The Credentials Committee collected the ballots and counted them. The Moderator asked for the results. Elder Lana Moore, Co-Chair, Credentials Committee, Missouri Presbytery, reported the results of the Election of the Vice-Moderator fifty-four (54) votes were cast for Reverend Joe Butler and twenty-eight (28) votes were cast for Reverend Steve Mosley. Moderator Mearns declared the Reverend Joe Butler, Vice-Moderator of the one hundred ninety-first General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Moderator Mearns stated that the newly elected Moderator and Vice-Moderator would be installed during the evening worship service.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Stated Clerk announced there are no communications. The Moderator made mention of two items: first acknowledging the gracious and generous gift of audio/visual/production equipment provided to the General Assembly by an anonymous donor. He also commented that during the Commissioner orientation special honor was paid to the late Reverend Michinobu Ikushima who passed away and that his family should be remembered in prayer.

CORRECTIONS TO PRELIMINARY MINUTES

Updated preliminary minutes were provided to the Commissioners prior to the start of business. It was noted that there are no additional updates.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD/AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

The Stated Clerk announced that committees would be visited by board/agency representatives. As he announced the name of the committees, he asked the representatives to stand.

Bethel University	Walter Butler/Linda Ingram
Commission on Federal Chaplains	Sheila O'Mara/Lyman Smith
Children's Home	Courtney Banatoski
Historical Foundation	Susan Gore/Lisa Oliver
Judiciary	Geoff Knight/Duawn Mearns/Mike Sharpe
Memphis Theological Seminary	Jody Hill/Kip Rush
Ministry Council	Edith Old/Derek Jacks
Our United Outreach	Cliff Hudson/Mikel Davis
Stewardship/Elected Officers	Robert Heflin/Debbie Shanks
Theology and Social Concerns	John Talbot/Mike Sharpe

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

Elder Jeff Parker from Covenant Presbytery presented a resolution, “Regarding Marriage in the Confession of Faith.” It was referred to the Committee on Theology and Social Concerns.

Reverend Chris Todd, West Tennessee Presbytery, presented a resolution, “Resolution Formally Requesting Congress and President of the United States to Act on Reasonable Firearm Legislation.” It was referred to the Committee on Theology and Social Concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3:50 p.m. recess was declared by Moderator Mearns until Thursday Morning at 9:30 a.m. Committees met briefly following the adjournment to organize.

RECEPTION

Following the business meeting, a “come and go” reception to honor the newly elected Moderator, Vice Moderator and Cumberland Presbyterian Women’s Ministry Officers was held in the foyer near Sandia IV-V. Those in attendance were the newly elected Moderator, Reverend Mike Wilkinson and his wife Joanna Wilkinson; the newly elected Vice-Moderator, the Reverend Joe Butler; Mrs. Judy Miller-McGee, the past President of the Cumberland Presbyterian Women’s Ministry; and Mrs. Veronica Ent, newly-elected President of the Cumberland Presbyterian Women’s Ministry. In addition, Mrs. Judy Miller-McGee’s family was also present: her sister Melissa Ferrell, niece Julie Pugh, and great-nieces Alyssa Pugh and Sarah Pugh.

THE EVENING PROGRAM

The General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Convention of Cumberland Presbyterian Women’s Ministry and visitors met at 7:00 p.m. at the Embassy Suite House Hotel for a Worship/Communion Service under the direction of General Assembly Worship Director Reverend Mary Anna Townsend, Missouri Presbytery, who served as Worship Leader. The Music Director was Mr. Victor Garcia, Presbytery of Del Cristo. The accompanist was Mrs. Jennifer Stull, Presbytery of del Cristo. Following the prelude, “Revive Us Again,” Reverend Townsend read the Scripture, Psalm 85:1-9.

Reverend Rebecca Zahrt, Director of Women’s Ministry offered the Call to Worship. The Opening Hymn was “O Breath of Life. Hymns for congregational singing also included “Revive Us Again,” and “For the Bread Which You Have Broken.”

The Host Presbytery Choir brought special music, “A Heavenly Celebration,” by Mark Hayes. Members of the Host Presbytery Choir included: Atulya Alexander, Swapna Alexander, Sharon Davis, Mike DeWitte, Judy Fosnes, Rita Garcia, Cheryl Goehring, Rick Heckes, Beverly Hill, Daton Hill, Johanna Jimenez, Tammy Johnson, Christopher Keihl, Matt Keihl, Nancy Kesatie, Char McCahon, Emma Mitchell, Ida Mitchell, Peggy Murtagh, Dora Coville Olson, Hee Ja Park, Amy Reece, Gary Rensner, Lori Robb, Marty Robideau, Nancy Stewart, Nick Stull, Carol Tulenko, Doug Whitaker, and Patty Whitaker.

Reverend Duawn Mearns and Mrs. Judy Miller-McGee, CPWM President, read the Memorial Roll of the Ministers and Elders who have died during 2021 and early 2022.

Reverend Mary Anna Townsend led the “Apostle’s Creed” as the Affirmation of Faith. After reading the Scripture, Revelation 2:1-4. Reverend Duawn Mearns brought the sermon, “First Love.”

Reverend Mearns officiated the installation of Moderator Mike Wilkinson and Vice-Moderator Joe Butler, first outlining the duties and responsibilities of the Moderator and then asking them if they would carry out those duties to the glory of God, while relying on the grace of God to carry out those duties. Each answered in the affirmative. Moderator Mearns then asked the General Assembly Commissioners if they would accept Reverend Mike Wilkinson as Moderator and Reverend Joe Butler as Vice-Moderator. Those present in the congregation answered with an affirmative, “We do.”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion was served by Co-Celebrants Reverend Mary Anna Townsend and Reverend Duawn Mearns. Presbytery of del Cristo Elders (Rick Blose, Pat McMurray, Craig Hoover and Bill Kesatie) provided the Communion elements to the worshippers. Ushers for the evening service were Don Davis and Chip Olson, also of Presbytery of del Cristo.

Moderator-Elect, the Reverend Mike Wilkinson gave the benediction

SECOND DAY – TUESDAY – JUNE 21, 2022

The General Assembly began its day with devotions in respective committees. Forty-eight (48) ministers, forty-three (43) elders and seven (7) Youth Advisory Delegates were in attendance in committees.

THE AFTERNOON PROGRAM

Our United Outreach (OUO) hosted a Lunch and Learn in La Ventana Room. The Reverend Jeff McMichael, Regional Representative for OUO served as master of ceremonies. In his opening comments he announced the purpose of the luncheon: to educate, promote, persuade and to recruit ambassadors for OUO as the OUO Committee works to broaden participation. Literature and sign-up sheets were provided at each table to that purpose.

He then invited the Reverend Cliff Hudson, Development Director of Our United Outreach, to discuss how the mission and work of the Cumberland Presbyterian (CP) Church is supported through contributions to OUO. He commended denominational agencies and entities for prudent use of limited resources. During the question-and-answer session, Reverend Hudson stated that about a third of CP churches support OUO as a tithe, about a third provide some level of support while the remainder of churches provide no support. He did mention that individuals, churches, and presbyteries do and can make donations to OUO. He emphasized that “if we increase participation we can do better.”

Finally, Reverend Hudson asked Elder Mikel Davis, Chairperson of the OUO Committee, to speak on how current economic pressures are impacting, families, local congregations and ultimately programs/ministries supported by OUO. Elder Davis emphasized that each individual Cumberland Presbyterian needs to be invested in Our church. He closed with the encouraging statement: “You can’t out give God.” The OUO Committee welcomes ideas on how to improve participation and growth in OUO specific endowments.

THE EVENING PROGRAM

At 8:30 p.m., commissioners and visitors participated in a Joint Reception honoring Women in Ministry in La Ventana and via Zoom meeting. Memphis Theological Seminary/the Program of Alternate Studies and Ministry Council’s Missions Ministry Team hosted the reception. The Reverend Rebecca Zaharte, Director of Ministry with Women opened the event with words of welcome and appreciation for women in ministry and those who support them. She then invited the Reverend Dr. Jody Hill, President of Memphis Theological Seminary to the podium. He too brought words of greeting and acknowledged the ways women in ministry have contributed to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. During this reception, Reverend Zaharte announced the recipients of the first-ever Clergy Woman of the Year Award. The international recipient is the Reverend Nobuko Seki (Japan Presbytery) and USA recipient the Reverend Lisa Cook (Nashville Presbytery). Both ministers were awarded with plaques and distinctive stoles. Reverend Seki sent her appreciation and words of encouragement via video while Reverend Cook shared her words of thanks in person. Attendees enjoyed fellowship, refreshments, and door prizes.

THIRD DAY – WEDNESDAY – JUNE 22, 2022

The General Assembly began its day with devotions in respective committees. Forty-eight (48) ministers, forty-four (44) elders and eighteen (18) Youth Advisory Delegates were in attendance in committees.