



**CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**DENOMINATIONAL NEWS AND UPDATES**  
**FOR FALL PRESBYTERY MEETINGS • 2020**

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**OUR UNITED OUTREACH COMMITTEE** - [www.cumberland.org/ouo](http://www.cumberland.org/ouo)

- In these uncertain times, we all are sharing common experiences as we seek to continue to serve the Lord and our church faithfully. We may be separated, but we are still together. Please know that Our United Outreach lies at the heart of all the ministry we continue to do as the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. OUO is the glue that keeps our ministries, agencies, and boards together. Without Our United Outreach, nothing else that we do would be possible. Many of our congregations are struggling. We know this and are experiencing the challenges of our time with you. We want to thank you for your continued faithfulness to OUO and let you know that all of the OUO reps are ready, willing, and able to assist you in both the mechanics of OUO giving and your own local church finances.
- Please visit our page on the denominational website for contact information for Calotta Edsell, Carolyn Harmon, Cliff Hudson, or Jeff McMichael. God bless and again, thanks for your faithfulness to OUO, the funding engine that drives our ministries.



**OFFICE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - [www.cumberland.org/gao](http://www.cumberland.org/gao)

- The 190<sup>th</sup> General Assembly will meet concurrently with the 145<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. The meeting will be held at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky, June 27-July 2, 2021. Meeting and lodging information will available this fall at: [www.cumberland.org/gao](http://www.cumberland.org/gao)
- The General Assembly Nominating Committee requests your help in submitting the names of people with gifts, skills and interest to serve on a denominational board and agency. Information about service opportunities and how to recommend someone to serve on a denominational board or agency is available online: [www.cumberland.org/nc](http://www.cumberland.org/nc)



**HISTORICAL FOUNDATION** - [www.cumberland.org/hfcpc](http://www.cumberland.org/hfcpc)

- The Historical Foundation is charged, by the General Assembly, with preserving the collective heritage and history of the people called Cumberland Presbyterian.
- Most local churches lack the knowledge, ability, and materials to adequately store permanent records for posterity. The Historical Foundation is here to assist with this need.
- The Historical Foundation is the only legal repository of historical materials for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America.



## UNIFICATION TASK FORCE- [www.cumberland.org/unification](http://www.cumberland.org/unification)

- In June 2019, the General Assemblies of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church approved sending the *Proposed Plan For Union* of the two denominations to the presbyteries for approval. Presbyteries in both denominations will vote by simple majority, whether or not to approve the *Proposed Plan For Unification*. Due COVID-19, several presbyteries in both denominations have not yet been able to meet and vote on the *Plan for Unification*.
- Copies of the *Proposed Plan For Union* are available online ([www.cumberland.org/unification](http://www.cumberland.org/unification)) or by contacting the General Assembly Office (901-276-4572).



## MINISTRY COUNCIL- <http://cpcmc.org>

### The Ministry Council (Communications, Discipleship, Missions and Pastoral Development Ministry Teams)

- The Ministry Council is in the process of developing the **Engage** program. *Engage* will allow congregations to discern their true mission within their four walls, as well as in the surrounding community and world in which they serve. Through guided encounters and trainings, the congregation will become spiritually, physically, financially, and numerically engaged in the work of the church and become a thriving congregation. For more information contact Rev. Kristi Lounsbury at [klounsbury@cumberland.org](mailto:klounsbury@cumberland.org).
- A new book, **RELATIONAL MISSIONS: Concepts, Perspectives and Practices That Inform Global Missions**, by Rev. Dr. Lynn Thomas is now available at CP Resources.
- A new **handbook will be available this fall for Committees on Clergy Care**, written by the Pastoral Development Ministry Team. A complimentary copy will be sent to all presbyterial Clergy Care Committees or to the Committee on Ministry/Preparation for those without a Clergy Care Committee.
- The following **resources are available on the cpcmc.org website and YouTube**:
  - Celebrating the Sacraments During Quarantine - <https://cpcmc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Celebrating-The-Sacraments-During-Quarantine-Final.pdf>
  - Sharing Our Faith During A Pandemic - <https://cpcmc.org/sharing-our-faith-during-a-pandemic/>
  - Help! We need to have a session meeting - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abPCQfPCYf4>
  - A webinar on Worshipping Communities - [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIrJ7e0\\_cMcRZxQBb40pGCQ/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIrJ7e0_cMcRZxQBb40pGCQ/videos)
- Missions Ministry Team has an **Intercultural Sensitivity Training** available for all congregations, ministers, elders, and church leaders. Visit <https://cpcmc.org/mmt/intercultural-usa/>
- **Women's Ministry** is gathering devotional videos from CP Clergywomen to supplement the Bible studies released on their theme last year. The videos will be released on social media and our website each month.
- Missionaries Wilson and Diana Lopez will be moving to Spain as soon as the pandemic permits.
- In general, **congregations overseas are struggling with the same reality related to COVID-19**. Churches are not meeting in their buildings, but missionaries and leaders have developed ways to help with food and emotional support to those in need.
- **Cumberland Kid Summer Challenge** is a four-session faith formation resource that can be used by children and families at home. It introduces four "I am" statements of Jesus from the book of John, and "challenges" the children to remember the scripture throughout the week with a list of activities that connect the "I am" statement to their everyday life at home. Each session includes a 6 – 8-minute video and PDF instructions. <https://cpcmc.org/discipleship/childrens-ministry/cumberland-kid-challenge/>
- **Discipleship Check-In** is an online gathering for all those working to disciple children, youth, and adults in the CPC. This is a time to come together to share ideas, pray, and encourage one another in discipleship ministry. <https://cpcmc.org/discipleship-check-in/>
- **Encounter**—Beginning in September, the Encounter Study and the Leader's Guide have a new format. The new format allows for an in-depth study of scripture, encourages discussion, and provides for real-life application of the scripture lesson. The Leader's Guide has a new section that ties the Cumberland Presbyterian Confession of Faith into every lesson. For more information visit: [www.cpcmc.org/encounter](http://www.cpcmc.org/encounter)
- **Mental Healthcare Benefit for Ordained Clergy and Probationers** – It is not too late for a presbytery to participate in the Employee Assistance Program. This healthcare benefit for pastors is needed more now than ever before. Participating presbyteries will receive a 25% grant for 2021 from the Board of Stewardship. Contact Rev. Dr. Pam Phillips-Burk for more information.

- **Legacy of Ministry** is a way to acknowledge and recognize a minister at the time of ordination, upon their ordination anniversary, retirement, installation or even as a memorial. For a \$100 contribution to this endowment, a minister will receive a certificate appropriate for the occasion and a beautiful pastoral cross pendant. An application form is available on the PDMT website.
- ***A Pictorial History of the Periodicals of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church***, is a new book written by former Communications Ministry Team member Rev. Dusty Luthy about the history of THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN (CP Magazine) and other CP Publications. The book is available at [cpcmc.org/store-2/](http://cpcmc.org/store-2/) for \$10. Proceeds from sales of the book will benefit the CMT Endowment.
- If you would like your **CP Magazine** to arrive sooner, first-class mail subscriptions are available for additional cost. Digital subscriptions are available and include access to digital versions of historical back-issues. More are added each year, so the value of this subscription grows over time!
- If your **presbytery** would like your **news and information** included in the CP Magazine, please be sure to email Matt Gore, [mhg@cumberland.org](mailto:mhg@cumberland.org).



## **BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP** - [www.cumberland.org/bos](http://www.cumberland.org/bos)

- **New Staff**

We would like to introduce Alan Butler as the new Coordinator of Benefits for the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits. He replaces Mark Duck who recently retired. Alan is from Fort Worth, Texas and a recent graduate of Memphis Theological Seminary. If you have questions about your denominational health insurance or other benefits please call him at 901-276-4572 x 204 or [abutler@cumberland.org](mailto:abutler@cumberland.org).

- **Investment Loan Program**

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church Investment Loan Program is a great opportunity for any Cumberland Presbyterian congregation to save money for a rainy-day including repairs to the roof, heat & air conditioning unit, just to name a few. The Investment Loan Program accounts can be thought of as a savings account where a congregation can open an account with as little as \$500. The available funds can be withdrawn at any time by the congregation. The funds can earn interest which can vary from quarter to quarter. Currently the funds earn 4% interest annually, which is better than most Certificate of Deposits.

In addition to being invested in government backed bonds and other bonds, some funds are used to make loans to other Cumberland Presbyterian Churches. The Investment Loan Program provides an opportunity for a church in Texas to help a church in Kentucky to build and expand their ministry, thus one Cumberland Presbyterian helping another Cumberland Presbyterian, working together to further the Kingdom of God.

Individual Cumberland Presbyterians who live in Kentucky, Missouri, New Mexico, Texas or Tennessee, may also open an individual Investment Loan Account, and help expand the work of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

For more information you can go the Board of Stewardship's website at <http://www.cumberland.org/bos/> or by emailing Robert Heflin at [rheflin@cumberland.org](mailto:rheflin@cumberland.org) or by calling 901-276-4572 x206 or x207.



## **MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY** - [www.memphisseminary.edu](http://www.memphisseminary.edu)

- As a result of COVID-19, we transitioned to online courses mid-way through the spring and will continue online for the fall semester. Our students and professors have been resilient and refused to allow the pandemic to diminish our mission of equipping leaders for the church.
- We received \$89,703 for our End of Year Fundraising Campaign, exceeding our original goal by almost \$10,000. One Cumberland Presbyterian family graciously offered to match the entire amount over the next fiscal year! As a result of the wonderful generosity of so many, we will finish the Fiscal Year 2020 in the black. This is the second year in a row that our operational revenue exceeded our expenses! We continue to be amazed by God's grace and the generosity of our donors.
- Memphis Theological Seminary has also sought ways to ease the financial burdens of our students:
  - We recently distributed \$36,000 in CARES Act funding in the form of small grants to eligible students from this past spring. These grants are intended to help off-set the costs associated with the transition to online learning.

- We will also be offering all masters degree-seeking students who register for at least six credit hours this fall a \$500 scholarship.
- We are also waiving application fees for all Fall 2020 applications to our master's degree programs.
- We are excited to announce a new outreach we began this past summer to minister to local congregations in the midst of the pandemic. It is a free series of virtual courses titled [Sunday Morning Seminary](#) that is hosted at 9AM each Sunday morning. This program is a part of our renewed commitment to serve our local congregations. To learn more or to access previous recordings click this link: [Sunday Morning Seminary](#). We hope you will join us!
- In the face of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Program of Alternate Studies also decided to hold all Summer Extension classes online. Instructors educated themselves in a variety of methods for remote learning and conducted twenty-four classes. We offered three classes each day as well as daily student-led worship to keep the “feel” of the PAS Experience intact. Students are now hard at work on after-class projects, papers, and assignments that are a necessary part of this pedagogy. Hats off to the 51 students and 22 instructors who rolled up their sleeves and did what they had to do to get it done.
- Please remain prayerful for our ministry as we seek daily to glorify Christ and serve His Church.



## **BETHEL UNIVERSITY** - [www.bethelu.edu](http://www.bethelu.edu)

MCKENZIE, Tenn. August 7, 2020 - On July 24, Bethel University, along with several other schools, received recommended approval from the State Board of Education (SBE) and the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) as an approved Education Preparation Provider (EPP).

An EPP prepares students to become licensed teachers, and all Tennessee Educator Preparation Providers that lead to licensure must be approved by the State Board of Education. To be approved, all licensure programs must ensure that candidates have the opportunity to attain the knowledge and skills, have clinical experiences, and meet all other standards, procedures, and guidelines established by the TDOE and the SBE.

"We are so thankful to our faculty and staff for the outstanding work they have done with the Tennessee Department of Education in getting our approval to continue to license students to teach," President Walter Butler stated. "Bethel University is known for its outstanding K-12 teachers and want to continue to be a partner in students' education. I am so proud of our faculty, staff, students, the Tennessee Department of Education and the State Board of Education for working together to obtain this continued approval."

Bethel will have a comprehensive review in 2022 and will be working with the Tennessee Department of Education as that review approaches.

"The communication and collaboration with the Tennessee Department of Education leaders has been exceptional, and we look forward to working with them as we continue growing as an EPP," said Dr. Morgan Butler, Division of Education Chair.

The mission of Bethel's Division of Education is to uphold the mission of the University and to prepare candidates for careers in public education. The program is designed to instill a love of lifelong learning and service through teaching others.

Dr. Morgan Butler stated, "Students can be assured that they will receive an education that prepares them to succeed in a diverse range of classrooms after they graduate."

The Division of Education offers a Bachelor of Science degree in interdisciplinary elementary education(K-5); exceptional learning and development interventionist (K-8); exceptional learning and development interventionist (6-12); and other licensure areas including biology (6-12); chemistry (6-12); English (6-12); history (6-12); mathematics (6-12); music (K-12), and physical education (K-12).

The Master of Arts in Education is a non-licensure program designed to offer professional growth and development of advanced skills. The Leadership Excellence Master of Arts is an advanced program for candidates seeking administrative licensure. The Practitioner Licensure Program offers eligible candidates an alternate pathway to licensure.

For more information on our Division of Education programs, reach out to Dr. Morgan Butler at [butlerm@bethelu.edu](mailto:butlerm@bethelu.edu).



## CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOME- [www.cpch.org](http://www.cpch.org)

The Children's Home has continued its work throughout the global pandemic, serving youth in foster care and the eight single-parent families in our Family Residential Program. Our agency estimates that between increased, unbudgeted expenses and decreased revenue, the financial impact of COVID-19 on the Children's Home exceeds \$100,000 in just the first six months of 2020. Amid the uncertainty of the past few months, there have been several bright spots, which illustrate how important our service to children and families remains.

- We celebrated a resident's high school graduation. You can read more about her story here: <https://www.crosstimbersgazette.com/2020/05/23/foster-care-student-overcomes-lifetime-of-uncertainty-to-graduate-high-school/>
- The girls in our Treatment Services Program, which serves adolescents with significant trauma histories who need a structured but less restrictive therapeutic environment, are learning to express themselves and build positive self image. Their recent self portrait artwork provides beautiful examples of the healing happening there. Check out their work here: <https://www.cpch.org/newslettercontent/residentselfportraits-082020>
- A resident recently left us for a foster home. In her exit interview, she said she will remember the Children's Home as her "best placement" and credited our staff with supporting her in important ways that helped her grow.
- **Ways to Support Us**
  1. The Children's Home asks for prayers for the continued health and safety of all staff and residents.
  2. The Children's Home wishes to thank all church congregations and individuals who have continued to support us financially. Support is as important as ever and truly helps us make a difference. Online giving is a safe, secure and easy way to ensure your gift can immediately go to work. Visit <http://cpch.org/give> to donate. At this time, we are preparing for a virtual return to school, with the possibility of returning to in-person learning in September. Gifts will support things like sanitation supplies, technology improvements, Chromebooks, and other items needed for this unique school year.
  3. The Children's Home is planning a fundraiser on Saturday, Dec. 5. Holiday-themed items are needed for our silent auction. Handmade crafts or baskets that would make great gifts are needed. Learn more at <https://www.cpch.org/brunch>



**OUR UNITED OUTREACH**  
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