



CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DENOMINATIONAL NEWS AND UPDATES
FOR SPRING PRESBYTERY MEETINGS • 2021



OUR UNITED OUTREACH COMMITTEE-www.cumberland.org/ouo

- In this time of challenge and difficulty, the Our United Outreach Committee wishes to report that our giving totals for 2020 were about 6% below the prior year. Thus, we received 90.5% of our hoped-for goal for 2021.
- We are sensitive to the challenges our congregations are facing, and we note the level of ingenuity, creativity, and sense of purpose all across the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in continuing to do the ministry we are called to do. OUO remains the primary funding engine of all our boards, agencies, and ministries. Therefore we ask for your generous support even in a time such as this.
- For more information about OUO and how it all works, please visit our website at www.cumberland.org/OUO or contact Cliff Hudson at 423-645-7563.



OFFICE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY- www.cumberland.org/gao

- The 190th General Assembly will meet concurrently with the 145th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. The meeting will in Louisville, KY., **June 27-July 2, 2021**. Meeting and lodging information is available at: 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



HISTORICAL FOUNDATION - www.cumberland.org/hfpcp

- The Historical Foundation is charged, by the General Assembly, with preserving the collective heritage and history of the people called Cumberland Presbyterian.
- We are available to assist in the selection of materials from congregations, ministers, members, etc. for preservation in the archives.
- Denomination Day Offering 2021 was to raise funds for future digitization of materials in the archives. This project will continue throughout the year.



UNIFICATION TASK FORCE-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) 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 developing **ENGAGE** - a congregational based program that uses Discovery, Discernment, Development and Discussion to lead a church into their true mission within their four walls, as well as in the community and world. **ENGAGE** facilitators will provide enrichment opportunities for pastors and congregants through small group studies, sermons, and numerous resources tailored specific to the congregations' needs. For more information contact Kristi Lounsbury at klounsbury@cumberland.org.
- A **new book** title, *RELATIONAL MISSIONS: Concepts, Perspectives and Practices That Inform Global Missions*, and **new curriculum** title, *MISSIONS IN THE IMAGE OF GOD: An Eight Day Bible Study on Missions* by Rev. Dr. Lynn Thomas are available at CP Resources.
- **Cumberland Road** podcast for Cumberland Presbyterians. Subscribe on Apple, Amazon, Google, and Spotify. For more information contact TJ Malinoski at tmalinoski@cumberland.org.
- **Intercultural Sensitivity** training opportunity available for all congregations, ministers, elders, and church leaders. Visit <https://cpcmc.org/mmt/intercultural-usa/>. For more information contact Johan Daza at jdaza@cumberland.org.
- **CP Women's Ministry** is at work on three possibilities for this year's Convention. In-person only, a hybrid in-person and online option, and an online only option. For more information contact Cardelia Howell-Diamond at chd@cumberland.org.
- The **pandemic** created hardships around the world. Our missionaries, by and large, have been confined to their homes for months. Many countries had mandatory lockdowns. Several missionary families were scheduled for home assignments in their home countries, those plans were postponed. For more information contact Lynn Thomas at lynndont@gmail.com.
- **Mental Healthcare Benefit for Ordained Clergy and Probationers** – Congratulations to the 17 US presbyteries who have enrolled their ministers and probationers in the Employee Assistance Program. To access benefits, call Linda Burns at 800-445-5011, who will help you find a provider. If you have any questions, contact Pam Phillips-Burk for more information.
- **Clergy Crisis Fund Appeal for 2021** – This fund will be needed more than ever before in 2021. We began to see evidence of this in the last quarter of 2020, as we exceeded the annual budget of \$6,000 by \$1,500. We are appealing to the church to help provide additional funds for the coming year. We envision a need of \$20,000 this year. If your presbytery would be willing to receive an offering in 2021, or if you can give money not already earmarked to the PDMT for the Clergy Crisis Fund, we would be appreciative of your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Phillips-Burk (pam@cumberland.org or 901.276.4572, x203)
- **Coming Soon! Handbook for Clergy Care Committees.** Every presbyterial committee will receive a FREE complimentary copy. Additional copies can be purchased from the CP Resources for \$5 each + s/h.
- **Free Lenten Resource for Families** DMT has partnered with GenOn Ministries to provide CP families with a **FREE** resource to use during Lent. It is a 6-session, at-home, interactive resource, with short, easy-to-do sessions: read a Psalm, do an activity, and pray together.
- **Lent 2021 App for your Phone/Tablet** Join other CPs during Lent reading scripture and praying together using our Yapp App for Lent 2021. The app will include: A Sunday reflection on the week ahead, a daily scripture, reflection question, and daily prayer. <https://my.yapp.us/CPLENT>.
- **Encounter Video Study** Sign up for a free weekly email that will include a list of resources including a video study with Encounter writers. Sign up here: <https://cpcmc.org/encountersignup/>. Find these resources at encounterhelps.cpcmc.org.
- **Virtual Discipleship Blueprints** are being offered to churches and presbyteries. This eliminates all leader costs which means churches and presbyteries can host one of these events FREE. Contact Elinor Brown at esb@cumberland.org for more information.
- **CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN Magazine** - We are in our 193rd year! We are the "publication of record" for our judicatories. Every issue is entirely by, for, and about the CPC and we welcome your submissions! We feature news and feature articles from across the denomination and reach the most committed CPs. Our low subscription rates are only \$25 for a year or \$45 for two years.
- The Ministry Council is currently **accepting online applications for the position of Communications Ministry Team Leader**. The position is housed in the denominational headquarters (Center) in Memphis (Cordova), Tennessee. Ideally, the CMT Leader will be active within a local congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church or Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, but may be an active member of another reformed Protestant denomination. To learn more about this open position, please visit <https://cpcmc.org/mc/new-opportunities/>.



BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP- www.cumberland.org/bos

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 3% 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 or by calling 901-276-4572 x206 or x207.

Retirement

Are you saving for your retirement? If you are a pastor, associate pastor, or other church employee you are eligible to participate in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church Retirement Plan. If you work full time or part time, you are eligible. It is important that you save for your retirement. You can contact Alan Butler about participating in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church Retirement Plan. His email address is abutler@cumberland.org or 901-276-4572 x204



MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY- www.memphisseminary.edu

I want to begin these greetings by expressing my heartfelt gratitude for your support of Memphis Theological Seminary. Your gracious gifts enable us to equip leaders for ministry in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Thank you!

In addition to expressing my personal appreciation, I also wanted to provide an update on our ministry.

As a result of COVID-19, we moved all of our classes online on March 16, 2020, and will continue distance learning throughout the Spring 2021 semester.

In spite of the pandemic, 133 master's students enrolled this past fall, and our retention rate was excellent, with 97% of our students returning from the Spring semester (Thanks be to God!)

We also have 63 DMin (doctoral) students for a total degree-seeking student population of 196 students.

Finally, we have 67 Cumberland Presbyterian students working on their certificate for ordination through the Program of Alternate Studies.

I hope that knowing your gifts to our Seminary directly impact every one of these 263 students fills you with a great sense of joy; you are an important part of their ministry!

On average, it costs approximately \$20,000 annually to educate one student. However, our Cumberland Presbyterian Students are only charged about 20% of that amount, and some pay even less because of the gracious support of presbyteries like yours. Please remain prayerful for our ministry as we seek daily to glorify Christ and serve His Church.

With deepest gratitude and prayerful blessings,
Jody Hill, President



BETHEL UNIVERSITY- www.bethelu.edu

- The construction of the new Chapel on our McKenzie campus is underway. The approximate time of construction is one year.
- Bethel University has had 8 straight balanced budgets.
- Bethel University is proud to welcome Michelle Stubbs as our recently hired Vice President of Development. She brings 31 years of development experience with her. A copy of the press release is below.

Bethel University is pleased to announce that Michelle Stubbs has been named Vice President of Development. She brings to Bethel more than 30 years of experience working with nonprofit organizations throughout the Midsouth. Stubbs' first day on the McKenzie campus was Jan. 6.

"We are so honored to have Michelle Stubbs joining our team as our new Vice President of Development," said President Dr. Walter Butler. "She brings a wealth of experience and leadership in this field. Michelle is excited to begin meeting our alumni and friends and learn more about Bethel University's rich history."

Stubbs has consulted for numerous nonprofit organizations and has led development efforts for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Harding Academy and Le Bonheur Children's Hospital among others. Most recently, Stubbs served as the Director of Development for the College of Nursing at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

She is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and has presented at multiple conferences on the local and national level.

"I am excited by the opportunity to work in a faith-based environment where students are challenged to grow and become who they are meant to be," Stubbs said. "There is so much joy here at Bethel. I am eager to share that with others and to plant seeds of opportunity where our students and programs can grow through giving."

Stubbs is a Jackson native but has spent the majority of her career in Memphis. She received her Bachelor of Science in Communication from Freed-Hardeman University. She and her husband, Doug, have two daughters, Callie (22) and Olivia (20).



CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOME- www.cpch.org

- We have two videos available on our website that can be easily shown to highlight our mission and programs.
- Our website has a direct link to our Amazon Wish List where individuals can choose to send us items to help support the mission. We also have a wonderful option for monthly recurring online donations which is a convenient way to give monthly.
- We need your ongoing prayers and support for our mission and the children and families we serve.
- We love our mission groups who come and visit. We welcome your churches to come and spend time with our kids to fellowship and improve our campus.



OUR UNITED OUTREACH
Made Possible In Part By Your Tithe To Our United Outreach