

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

**139TH General Assembly
Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America
Meeting
June 15-18, 2014
Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel
Chattanooga, Tennessee**



***The Reverend Elton Hall, Moderator
The Reverend William Robinson, Vice Moderator
The Reverend Dr. Theodis Acklin, Stated Clerk
The Reverend Lela Fencher, Engrossing Clerk***

**The 139th General Assembly
Of the
Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America
Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel
1400 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee
15-18 June 2014**

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

The following SUMMARY is a brief description of the actions taken by the 139th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, 15-18 June 2014. This SUMMARY is not intended to be nor is it, the authoritative document for guiding the church's actions. The intent is to summarize the work of the General Assembly. The General Assembly MINUTES serve as that authority. Note: These actions are the results of the presented and adopted reports of standing board/committees and select committee of the General Assembly and not the minutes. This is a SUMMARY OF ACTIONS ONLY. This SUMMARY is provided as a courtesy of the General Assembly.

The 139th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, meeting 15-18 June 2014 accomplished the following actions:

Host: Hiwassee Presbytery

Host Moderator: Rev. Larry Shearer

Theme: "The Life of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America; It's Not Over, It's Just Beginning", Ezekiel 37:1-14 and John 1:1- 4.

Organizational Matters

1. **GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS CONSTITUTED** with forty-nine (49) commissioners, and four (4) Youth Advisory Delegates. Fourteen (14) of the sixteen (16) presbyteries answered in the affirmative to roll call; Kansouri and Purchase Presbyteries were absent.
2. **AFFIRMED THE NATIONAL CHURCH YEAR THEME**, "The Life of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America; It's Not Over, It's Just Beginning", Ezekiel 37:1-14 and John 1:1- 4.
3. **PARTICIPATED** in the Opening Worship of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, presented by Moderator, Rev. Elton Hall, 16 Monday June 2014.

4. **RECEIVED** greetings from Dr. Lowell Roddy, Chairman of the Presbyterian Church Military Chaplaincy; and Rev. Lawrence Greenslit, Presbytery CPA Military Division Education Director.
5. **PARTICIPATED** in a joint CPC/CPCA Communion Service at First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and the Moderators' reception.
6. **PARTICIPATED** in several joint CPC/CPCA devotions, worship services, Fun Night, and Women's celebrations.
7. **PARTICIPATED** in joint CPC/CPCA workshops on *The Proposed Plan of Union of Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America*.
8. **AFFIRMED** that the 141st General Assembly will be held in Nashville, Tennessee in 2016 with the Elk River Presbytery serving as host, assisted by the entire body of the General Assembly.
9. **ELECTIONS**
The Following were elected by the General Assembly to serve in the following capacities:
 - A. Elder Lewis Leon Cole, Moderator (Cleveland Ohio Presbytery) Class of 2015 (1st term)
 - B. Rev. Anthony Hollis, Vice Moderator (Hiwassee Presbytery) Class of 2015 (1st term)
 - C. Elder Craig A. White, Stated Clerk (Huntsville Presbytery) Class of 2017 (1st term)
 - D. Elected Rev Lela Fencher, Engrossing Clerk, (Tuscaloosa Presbytery) Class of 2017 (2nd term)

General Assembly Executive Board:

- A. Rev Barbara Clemons (Alabama Synod) Class of 2017 (1st term)
- B. Rev. Elton Hall (Texas Synod) Class of 2017 (1st term)
- C. Rev. Percy Jackson (Tennessee Synod) Class of 2017 (1st term)
- D. Rev. Anthony Johnson (Kentucky States Synod) Class of 2017 (1st term)
- E. Rev. Endia Scruggs (Member at Large) Class of 2017 (1st term)

General Assembly Permanent Judiciary:

- A. Rev. Dr. Willie Cowan (Alabama Synod) Class of 2017 (1st term)
- B. Rev. Dr. Rosemary Herron (Tenn. Synod) Class of 2017 (1st term)
- C. Rev. Anne Jones-Pierre (Tenn. Synod) Class of 2017 (1st term)
- D. Elder Erma Rainey (Kentucky States Synod) Class of 2017 (1st term)
- E. Elder Dr. Joe W. Ward (Alabama Synod) Class of 2016 (Last term)
- F. Elder Thomas Ward (Texas Synod) Class of 2016 (Last term)

CPCA Trustees of Historical Foundation

A. Elder Patricia Ward (Alabama Synod) Class of 2017 (1st term)

CPCA Committee on Theological and Social Concerns

A. Elder Dr. Phillip Redrick (Alabama Synod) Class of 2017 (1st term)
B. Elder Sharon Combs (Kentucky States Synod) Class of 2017 (1st term)
C. Rev. LaRuth Jefferson (Kentucky States Synod) Class of 2017 (1st term)
D. Rev. Edmond Cox (Tennessee Synod) Class of 2017 (1st term)
E. Rev. Robert E. Thomas (Texas Synod) Class of 2017 (1st term)

Council of Military Chaplaincy

A. Rev. Dr. Mitchell M. Walker, Sr. (CPCA) Class of 2018 (1st term)

10. **RECEIVED** excellent hospitality from the host – Hiwassee Presbytery. Expressed words of gratitude to the Hiwassee Presbytery and its Moderator, The Rev. Larry Shearer and other committee members; and **HEARD** a gracious response from Rev. Shearer on behalf of the Hiwassee Presbytery.
11. **AFFIRMED** the meeting of the 140th General Assembly to convene in Huntsville, AL. Huntsville Presbytery will serve as host, assisted by the entire body of the General Assembly.
12. **RECEIVED** words of thanks from the Moderator-elect, Elder Lewis Leon Cole, Jr.
13. **RECEIVED** words of thanks from the Vice Moderator-elect, Rev. Anthony Hollis.
14. **RECEIVED** words of thanks from the Stated Clerk-elect, Elder Craig A. White.
15. **RECEIVED** words of thanks from the Engrossing Clerk, Rev. Lela Fencher.
16. **HEARD** a status report from the CPCA Headquarter Face-Lift Project Committee members, Elder Patricia L. Ward and Elder Craig A. White.

I. Report of the Select Committee on CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

17. **ADOPTED** PHASE I related only to Satellite Schools of Continuing Education of the Report which includes a \$50 fee for each course offered by the School of Continuing Education of the GA.

18. **REFERRED** the remainder of the report, PHASE I (*Continuing Education*) and PHASE II (*Ministry Staff Development Person and Christian Education Committee/Ministry*), to the General Assembly Executive Board, Administrative Director, and the Co-coordinator of the Continuing Education.
19. **ADOPTED** that all instructors who hold degrees must have earned them from schools accredited by agencies approved by the General Assembly/ School of Continuing Education of the GA.

II. Report of the Select Committee on ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

ADOPTED the following from this select committee report:

- A. That the General Assembly continues its support of the Military Chaplaincy, the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WARC), and the corporate relationship with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (CPC), and the Coalition of Appalachian Ministries (CAM).
- B. That the General Assembly makes congregations and presbyteries aware of the 1810 Circle and encourages new members to support this endeavor annually.
- C. That congregations be encouraged to have a special offering on the Sunday designated as Denomination Day to help support the special project designated for that year.
- D. That the General Assembly makes congregations, presbyteries, and individuals aware that the Historical Foundation is interested and has funds to publish books on topics concerning the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America.
- E. That the General Assembly encourages presbyteries, congregations, and individuals active on the internet to join the Historical Foundation of the CPC & CPCA Facebook group.

III. Report of the Select Committee on GENERAL ASSEMBLY EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

20. **ADOPTED** the following from this select committee report:

- A. That the General Assembly changes from biennial (every two years) meetings to annual (every year) meetings.
- B. That the General Assembly authorizes the Stated Clerk to write letters to all Presbyteries, Moderator, and Stated Clerks asking them to encourage sessions of local congregations to send their Presbytery's General Assembly tax assessment.
- C. That compliance of General Assembly mandates by churches and presbyteries are delayed or deferred until 2016.

IV. Report of the Select Committee on FINANCE and BUDGET DISTRIBUTION

21. **ADOPTED** the Recommendation of this Select Committee to adopt the CPCA Budget projected for July 1, 2014 thru June 2016.

V. Report of the Select Committee on JUDICIARY

22. **ADOPTED** the following from this select committee report:

- A. The proposed amendments to the Standing Rules of the General Assembly with noted corrections. [**NOTE: Please refer to full report of the Select Judiciary Committee to the GA for complete list of changes**].
- B. That all Synod record books be sent to the 140th General Assembly for review.
- C. That all presbyteries be reminded that all reports are to be signed and submitted on time.
- D. That the National Missionary Society comply with the mandate that was previously issued to it to turn all savings, endowments, and monies over to the General Assembly within 30 days after the close of the 139th General Assembly.
- E. That the General Assembly's Legal Counselor draft a position paper relative to the matter of incorporation to be forwarded to the Elk River Presbytery.
- F. That the General Assembly encourage ordained ministers to attend the essential courts (Presbytery and Synod).

VI. Report of the PERMANENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY BOARD OF JUDICIARY

23. **ADOPTED** the following from this select committee report:

- A. That the Kansouri Presbytery is dissolved and that the Kentucky States Synod is directed to dissolve the Kansouri Presbytery.
- B. That the congregation of Tulsa CPCA be assigned to the Brazos River Presbytery and the Texas Synod.
- C. That the Catechism, pages 109 thru 115 was adopted by the 139th General Assembly.
- D. That there is no change to the presbyteries' financial contributions to the General Assembly.
- E. That Rev. Dr. Perryn Rice receives approval for dual membership status with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for another year.

- F. That when necessary for the (General Assembly) Executive Board to meet to consider business deemed to be ecclesiastical in nature, all nonvoting members, excluding the Administrative Director and Legal Advisor, are exempt from such meetings.
- G. That Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America elders are included in Reference **Constitution** in the Confession of Faith, 5.6 p., pertaining to elders administering the Lord's Supper.

VII. Report of the Select Committee on MEMORIAL

24. **MEMORIALIZED and THANKED GOD** for the Life/Legacy of two (2) ordained ministers and fourteen (14) ordained elders who died during the intervening period between the 2012 and the 2014 meetings of the General Assembly. A Memorial Service was held to commemorate the lives of the following individuals in the 139th meeting of the General Assembly:

Elder Rodger Smith	Angelina Presbytery
Elder Readus Linton	Birmingham Presbytery
Elder Jocelyn Thomas	Birmingham Presbytery
Elder Robert Brown	Brazos River Presbytery
Elder Dessie Bailey	Florence Presbytery
Elder Herman Fuqua	Florence Presbytery
Elder Ida Lanier	Hiwassee Presbytery
Elder Martin Crawford	Huntsville Presbytery
Elder Charles Fletcher	Huntsville Presbytery
Elder Annie Smith	Kansouri Presbytery
Reverend Ronald Bowers	New Hopewell Presbytery
Elder James Shoulders	Tennessee Valley Presbytery
Elder Gene E. Eden	Tuscaloosa Presbytery
Elder Napoleon Morrow	Tuscaloosa Presbytery
Elder Sammy Wilder	Tuscaloosa Presbytery
Reverend Thomas Wilder	Tuscaloosa Presbytery

VIII. Report of the Select Committee on MISSION and EVANGELISM

25. **ADOPTED** the following from this select committee report:

- A. That the General Assembly establishes two goals for Mission and Evangelism which include Congregational Strengthening and Planting a Mission Church.
- B. That the General Assembly provides a survey tool to each presbytery to determine the strengths and weaknesses within its churches.
- C. That each presbytery's Mission and Evangelism Committee will coordinate the assessment endeavor.

- D. That each presbytery would work towards planting a Mission Church in its area.
- E. That the GA will provide each Presbytery with guidelines and/or a manual on how to establish a mission church.
- F. That all positive Mission and Evangelism experiences should be reported in writing to the General Assembly and posted in the Cumberland Flag.
- G. That 50/50 matching funds will be included in the GA budget for a presbytery which establishes a mission church until the mission church is fully constituted.

IX. Report of the Select Committee on RESOLUTION of THANKS

26. **HEARD** the Resolution of Thanks to the Hiwassee Presbytery for hosting the 139th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America.

X. Report of the Select Committee on THEOLOGY and SOCIAL ISSUES

27. **ADOPTED** the following from this select committee report:

- A. That it concurred with the matter regarding the CTSC meeting and election of officers.
- B. That it concurred with the expiration of terms.
- C. That it concurred with the election of the General Assembly representative and alternate.
- D. That it concurred with studying *Works in Process*, *Worship in the Third Millennium*, and *The Theological and Biblical Reflections on Women in Ministry*. Also that the CPCA will create and promote “nurturing opportunities” for single mothers and young women in and out of church.
- E. That the CPCA and its constituency will seek out and study the paper, *Reflections on a Divided Church*.” And that churches and/or presbyteries will set up workshop internally and externally with the CPC to foster better relationships between the two Churches.

28. **ADJOURNED** to meet next year June 2015 with the General Assembly on Sunday, 7 June 2015 in Huntsville, Alabama with the Huntsville Presbytery of General Assembly serving as host.

//signed//

Elder Craig A. White, Stated Clerk

//signed//

Reverend Lela Fencher, Engrossing Clerk