

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

**140TH General Assembly
Of the
Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America**



***Convening
7 – 10 June 2015
At the
Embassy Suites and Hotel
Huntsville, Alabama***

***Elder Lewis Leon Cole, Jr., Moderator
Reverend Anthony Hollis, Vice Moderator
Elder Craig A. White, Stated Clerk
Reverend Lela Fencher, Engrossing Clerk***

**The 140th General Assembly
Of the
Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America
Embassy Suites and Hotel
800 Monroe Street NW
Huntsville, Alabama
7-10 June 2015**

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

The following SUMMARY is a brief description of the actions taken by the 140th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, 7 - 10 June 2015. 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 committees 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 140th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, convening 7-10 June 2015 accomplished the following actions:

Host: Huntsville Presbytery

Host Moderator: Reverend James Robinson, Sr.

Theme: "Seeking God's Vision for a New Beginning", Ezekiel 37:3-5 and Habakkuk 2:1- 3.

Organizational Matters

1. **GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS CONSTITUTED** with fifty (50) commissioners, and eight (8) Youth Advisory Delegates. Fifteen (15) of the fifteen presbyteries answered in the affirmative to roll call.
2. **AFFIRMED THE NATIONAL CHURCH YEAR THEME:** "Seeking God's Vision for a New Beginning", Ezekiel 37:3-5 and Habakkuk 2:1- 3.
3. **PARTICIPATED** in the Opening Worship of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America at Madkins Chapel CPCA, message by Vice Moderator, Rev. Anthony Hollis on Monday, 8 June 2015.

4. **RECEIVED** greetings from the Honorable Laura Hall, Representing House District 19 in the Alabama House of Representatives; and the Honorable Richard Showers, Huntsville City Council Representative of District 1.
5. **PARTICIPATED** in the Moderators' reception at Madkins Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America.
6. **PARTICIPATED** in several CPCA devotions, worship services, and Women's celebrations.
7. **PARTICIPATED** in forum with members of the Unification Task Force of both CPC/CPCA on the panel on *The Proposed Plan of Union of Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America*.
8. **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 2016
 - B. Rev. Anthony Hollis, Vice Moderator (Hiwassee Presbytery) Class of 2016

General Assembly Permanent Judiciary:

A. Elder Vanessa K. Midgett	(Alabama Synod)	Class of 2018 (1st term)
B. Rev Robert Leadon	(Texas Synod)	Class of 2018 (1st term)

National Youth Work Coordinator

A. Rev. Al Garrett.	(Alabama Synod)	Class of 2018 (1 st term)
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9. **RECEIVED** excellent hospitality from the host presbytery, the Huntsville Presbytery.
10. **AFFIRMED** the meeting of the 141st General Assembly will convene in Nashville, Tennessee, and that the CPCA will meet concurrently with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Elk River Presbytery will serve as the host presbytery, assisted by the General Assembly.
11. **RECEIVED** words of thanks from the Moderator-elect, Elder Lewis Leon Cole, Jr.
12. **RECEIVED** words of thanks from the Vice Moderator-elect, Rev. Anthony Hollis.

I. Report of the Select Committee on CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

13. **ADOPTED** That the each Presbytery's Committee on the Ministry/Committee on Ministerial Preparation be instructed to comply with the requirement to

entering the ministry in the CPCA either through graduation from an accredited Seminary or through the alternate studies program.

14. **ADOPTED** that **all potential candidates for the ministry must have a background check**, including both current and potential/future candidates for the ministry in each presbytery.
15. **APPROVED** the appointment of Reverend Dr. Perryn Rice as the coordinator of the Texas Synod School of Continuing Education.
16. **ADOPTED** that churches are directed to have intergenerational ministries (e.g., Children's, Youth, Young Adult, Adult, and Senior) and fund them.
17. **ADOPTED** that anyone desiring to serve children and youth in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America must be cleared first through a background check and by the appoint judicatory.
18. **ADOPTED** that each local congregation, presbytery, and synod draft and adopt a Child Protection Policy to assure a safe and secure environment for children and youth who participate in CPCA programs and activities.
19. **APPROVED** that each presbytery encourage the constituency within its boundaries to subscribe to ***The Cumberland Flag***.

II. Report of the Select Committees on THEOLOGY and SOCIAL CONCERNS (CTSC) and ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

20. **ADOPTED** the following Recommendations:

- A. That the General Assemblies accept this paper as study paper and that it is used to initiate thought and discussion within the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (CPC) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA).
- B. That the Office of the General Assembly of both denominations makes this paper available through the stated clerks of the presbyteries.

III. Report of the Select Committee on HISTORICAL

21. **ADOPTED** the following Recommendations:

- A. That the General Assembly makes congregations and presbyteries aware of the 1810 Circle and encourages new members to support this endeavor annually.

- B. That congregations are encouraged to have a special offering on the Sunday designated as Denomination Day to help support the special project designated for that year
- C. 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 (CPC) and Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA).
- D. That the General Assembly encourages presbyteries, congregations, and individuals active on the internet to join the Historical Foundation of the CPC & CPCA Facebook group.
- E. That the General Assembly encourages all congregations to preserve their session records by depositing them in the Historical Foundation.
- F. That the General Assembly instructs each synod and presbytery to deposit its Minutes in a timely fashion with the Historical Foundation.
- G. That the General Assembly instructs presbyteries to locate the session records when closing a church and then deposit them in the Historical Foundation.

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

22. **ADOPTED** the following Recommendations:

- 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 Select Committees on Memorial and Resolution of Thanks are combined into one select committee.
- C. That there is an effort to bring about reconciliation between the CPCA and the churches of the Tennessee River Synod.

**V. Report of the Select Committee on FINANCE and BUDGET
DISTRIBUTION**

23. **ADOPTED** the Recommendation that each synod, presbytery, and local congregation invest in liability insurance for their protection and to notify the General Assembly upon compliance.

VI. Report of the Select Committee on JUDICIARY

24. **ADOPTED** the following Recommendations:

- A. That [the General Assembly] mandates each synod, presbytery, and local congregations comply with the 132nd General Assembly regarding the rescinding of credentials of clergy who are no longer members of the CPCA.
- B. **REAFFIRMED** that matters related to ordinations are the responsibilities of the presbyteries pursuant to 5.6a and 5.6d of the Confession of Faith.

VII. Report of the PERMANENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY BOARD OF JUDICIARY

25. **ACTIONS of the General Assembly Related to the Board of the Judiciary:**

- A. **DETERMINED** that an inactive member cannot constitute the number of members reported by a presbytery to determine the number of commissioners that a presbytery may send to the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America.
- B. **DETERMINED** that an Elder removed from the office of an auxiliary, such action does not impact or affect the ability of the Elder to serve as a commissioner to the General Assembly.
- C. **REMANDED** the request from New Zion CPCA to be exempt from taxation back to the Birmingham Presbytery for resolution.
- D. **REMANDED** the request from the Birmingham Presbytery in a letter, dated 23 May 2014, asking the Permanent Board of the Judiciary to “*spell out the authority and the duties of the General Assembly Executive Board...*” to the General Assembly
- E. **REAFFIRMED** its findings submitted to the 139th Session of the General Assembly on 15 June 2014 responding to a letter, dated 23 May 2014, from the Birmingham Presbytery.

VIII. Report of the Select Committee on MEMORIAL

- 26. **MEMORIALIZED and THANKED GOD** for the Life/Legacy of two (2) ordained ministers and nine (9) ordained elders who died since the 2014 meeting of the General Assembly. A Memorial Service was conducted by

the Select Committee on Memorial to commemorate the lives and the legacy of the following individuals in the 140th meeting of the General Assembly:

Elder Lankford Cain	Huntsville Presbytery
Reverend McKinley Jones	Huntsville Presbytery
Elder David Love	Huntsville Presbytery
Reverend Roscoe Myles	New Hopewell Presbytery
Elder Cecilia Powell	Ohio Valley Presbytery
Elder James Tyler	Purchase Presbytery
Elder James Stubblefield	Purchase Presbytery
Elder James Birgans	Tennessee Valley Presbytery
Elder Tommie Lee Rainey	Tennessee Valley Presbytery
Elder Nettie Wynn	Tennessee Valley Presbytery
Elder William Rice	Tuscaloosa Presbytery

IX. Report of the Select Committee on MISSION and EVANGELISM

27. **ADOPTED** the following:

- A. That the General Assembly designates the Sunday before Veteran's Day as a day of prayer for the military and chaplains in the military throughout the Denomination.
- B. That each church, presbytery, synod, and any leaders in the CPCA will send to the GA Office correct addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mails

X. Report of the Select Committee on RESOLUTION of THANKS

28. **HEARD** the Resolution of Thanks to the Huntsville Presbytery for hosting the 140th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. The 140th General Assembly provided a standing ovation to the Huntsville Presbytery and its Moderator, the Rev. James Robinson, Sr. and other committee members for an excellent job.

XI. Other Action(s) of the 140th General Assembly

29. **REAFFIRMED** that according to the *Rules of Order*, all official correspondence, documents, and the like from a judicatory of the CPCA **MUST** bear the signature of both the moderator and the stated clerk of the judicatory, or the documents will be returned without action.

30. **ADJOURNED** to meet next year, June 2016, with the General Assembly convening in Nashville, Tennessee and Elk River as the host presbytery. This adjournment was executed by the 140th General Assembly on Wednesday, 10 June 2015 in Huntsville, Alabama.

HUMBLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig A. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Elder Craig A. White, Stated Clerk