



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

www.cpcachurch.org

Alabama Synod*Kentucky States Synod*Tennessee Synod*Texas Synod

**STANDING RULES
Of the
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



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ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be ***The General Assembly*** of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA), consisting of the following four (4) synods: Alabama, Kentucky States, Tennessee, and Texas.

ARTICLE II

Purpose and Mission

Section 1. Purpose: The purpose of the *General Assembly* is set forth in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America *Constitution*, 9.1, Confession of Faith.

Section 2. Mission Statement:

a. Vision of Ministry: To be a people united in one faith known to the world as the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America called to continuing ministry of Jesus Christ as multi-cultural, inclusive, nurturing, and equipping family.

b. Affirmation of Ministry: Therefore, we affirm the Great Commission of Christ (Matthew 28:19-20). We celebrate our faith through corporate worship. We seek to save the lost, to console the broken hearted, and to assist the needy. We seek to fulfill our mission through local churches, presbyteries, synods, and a General Assembly.

ARTICLE III

General Assembly

Section 1. Regular Meeting: The General Assembly (or simply the Assembly) shall convene annually on the Monday preceding the second Thursday in June at 8:30 a.m. (host church time), and continue until business has been completed up to four (4) days. The regular meeting will be made up of a quorum, which is any twenty (20) or more commissioners, of who at least ten (10) are ministers, and ten (10) are elders.

Section 2. Called Meeting: A *Called Meeting* is a meeting of the Assembly held at a time other than its Annual Meeting. A Called Meeting shall meet as set forth in Section 9.2 of the Confession of Faith, specifically: The Moderator, or in case of the Moderator's absence, death, or inability to act, the Stated Clerk shall with the written concurrence or at the written request of twenty (20) commissioners, ten (10) of whom shall be ministers and ten (10) of whom shall be elders, representing at least five (5) presbyteries, call a special meeting. The Called Meeting **announcement** must be issued in writing at least sixty (60) days prior to the proposed meeting date, stating the particular business, date, time, and place to all the stated clerks of all presbyteries, and to all commissioners and their alternates. Only the business stated in the **announcement** shall be transacted.

Section 3. Meeting place: The Annual Meeting place of the General Assembly shall be determined by vote of the Commissioners in legal session. A congregation, presbytery, or synod may invite the General Assembly to meet in a city of its choice. Normally, the General Assembly shall refer invitations to its Executive Board for study before a vote is taken. The formula for determining meeting places for the General Assembly is ***Alabama Synod, Kentucky States Synod, Tennessee Synod, and Texas Synod***, and the same rotational basis thereafter. If the occasion arises to change this schedule, it must be approved at a Meeting of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE IV

Membership and Attendance

Section 1. Membership: The membership of the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America will consist of Commissioners defined as ordained ministers and elders (serving as active members of a session of a particular church) and both the ministers and elders elected by their respective presbytery).

Section 2. Representation of Commissioners: The General Assembly shall consist of elected Commissioners from presbyteries in the following proportions (as set forth in Section 9.2 of the Confession of Faith):

- a. A presbytery having an active church membership of 1-200 shall be entitled to send one minister and one elder;
- b. A presbytery having an active church membership of 201-400 shall be entitled to send two ministers and two elder;
- c. A presbytery having an active church membership of 401-1000 shall be entitled to send three ministers and three elder;
- d. A presbytery having an active church membership of 1001- above shall be entitled to send four ministers and four elders.

Section 3. Youth Advisory Delegates (YAD): Each presbytery shall be requested to select and to send to the meeting of the General Assembly non-voting Youth Advisory Delegate(s) with the same proportions as set forth in Section 2. above. A Youth Advisory Delegate shall be placed on a Select Committee of the Assembly with the privilege to discuss, to debate, and to vote on committee work. A Youth Advisory Delegate may speak on the floor of the Assembly but will not have the privilege of voting. A polling of the Youth Advisory Delegates may be taken and recorded on every question considered by the Assembly. Youth Advisory Delegates must be between the ages of 15-19.

Section 4. Ecumenical Participants: Denominations with whom the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America relates and when reciprocal agreements are reached may send representatives to the General Assembly, and they are referred to as Ecumenical Participants. Ecumenical Participants

shall be placed on Select Committees of the Assembly with the privilege to discuss, to debate, and to vote on Committee work. The Ecumenical Participants may speak on the floor of the Assembly but will not have the privilege of voting.

Section 5. Absences of Commissioners: All unexcused absences of Commissioners and Youth Advisory Delegates certified as official representatives of the presbyteries shall be reported to the Stated Clerk of the appropriate presbytery for such action as the presbytery deems necessary.

ARTICLE V

The General Assembly Program

Section 1. Program Planning Committee: The Program Planning Committee shall consist of the Moderator, Stated Clerk, and Administrative Director. The Administrative Director shall consult with the presidents of the organizations, which are scheduled to meet during General Assembly week, and the host presbytery. They shall meet at least four (4) months prior to the meeting of the General Assembly to review schedules on call of the Moderator (may be by conference call or some similar technical communications medium).

Section 2. Opening Worship: The stated meeting of the General Assembly shall begin with a Worship service led by the General Assembly's Worship Director. The retiring Moderator shall deliver a sermon or someone selected by the retiring Moderator in consultation with the Program Planning Committee. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall ordinarily be celebrated during this service.

ARTICLE VI

Officers of the General Assembly

Section 1. Composition: The officers of the General Assembly shall be Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Stated Clerk, and Engrossing Clerk. A minister or elder may fill the office of Moderator or Vice Moderator. Each must be elected by the General Assembly for specified terms. The Moderator and Vice-Moderator must be a certified Commissioner from a presbytery during each year of service.

Section 2. Moderator:

a. The Moderator performs those duties set forth in the *Rules of Order*, 1.0 Moderator, Confession of Faith.

b. A Moderator shall be elected as soon as the General Assembly is constituted. A majority vote of the Commissioners present is necessary to elect.

c. Tenure: The Moderator is elected to serve a one-year term and is eligible for reelection. However, he/she may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. The elected Moderator will not assume duties until the close of the meeting

elected. The retiring Moderator will serve until the end of the meeting in which the election for Moderator took place.

d. Compensation: The Moderator shall be paid \$1,000.00 for each meeting of the General Assembly plus travel and lodging. The Moderator will receive the approved per diem paid by the General Assembly.

e. Qualifications: The candidate for Moderator of the General Assembly:

- (1) Must be an elected Commissioner in each year of the nomination;
- (2) Can be an ordained minister or an ordained Elder Commissioner;
- (3) Must be an active participant in church life at the local, presbytery, and synod levels; must have moderated at the judicatory level.
- (4) Must endorse the government of the church;
- (5) Should be sound in Cumberland Presbyterian doctrine and parliamentary procedures;
- (6) Must be physically able to travel across the church.

f. Duties: The Moderator of the General Assembly, in addition to the duties set forth in the *Rules of Order*, 1.0 Moderator, shall:

- (1) In consultation with the Stated Clerk, appoint all Select Committees provided for by these Rules which serve during the meeting of the General Assembly.
- (2) Have the authority and responsibility of naming any and all other necessary Select Committees, which shall serve during his/her tenure of office.
- (3) Be an advisory member of all boards and agencies and shall attend their meetings as his/her schedule permits.
- (4) Work with the Stated Clerk and Administrative Director in coordinating visits to each of the presbyteries within the church.
- (5) Make a written report to the Assembly, which gives an account of activities as Moderator, and which may include (at the Moderator's discretion) observations, comments, and recommendations.
- (6) Give counsel to the church (including ministers and pastors).

Section 3. The Vice Moderator:

a. A Moderator performs those duties set forth in the *Rules of Order*, 2.0 Vice Moderator, Confession of Faith.

b. The Vice-Moderator shall be elected immediately following the election of the Moderator. A majority vote of the Commissioners present is necessary to elect.

d. Tenure: The Vice-Moderator is elected to serve a one (1) year term and is eligible for reelection. However, he/she may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.

e. Compensation: The Vice Moderator shall be given a \$500.00 donation. Travel, lodging, and meals cost for the meeting of the General Assembly. The Vice Moderator will receive the approved per diem paid by the General Assembly.

f. Qualifications: The candidate for Vice-Moderator of the General Assembly:

- (1) Must be an elected Commissioner in the year of the nomination;
- (2) Can be an ordained minister or an ordained elder commissioner;

- (3) Must be an active participant in church life at the local, presbytery, and synod levels; must have moderated at the judicatory level;
- (4) Must endorse the government of the church;
- (5) Should be sound in Cumberland Presbyterian doctrine and parliamentary procedures;
- (6) Must be physically able to travel across the Church.

g. Duties:

- (1) The Vice-Moderator will perform those duties prescribed under *Rules of Order*, Paragraph 2.2 of the Confession of Faith.
- (2) A voting member of the General Assembly Executive Board (GAEB).

Section 4: Stated Clerk:

a. The Stated Clerk shall be elected by the General Assembly for a term of three (3) years and may succeed himself/herself; but may not serve more than three (3) consecutive terms. The regular term of office shall begin July 1 and expire and June 30.

b. In the event of a vacancy in the office, the Engrossing Clerk shall become the Stated Clerk *pro-tem* and shall serve until the next regular meeting of the Assembly. If the Engrossing Clerk is unable to serve, the Moderator shall appoint a Stated Clerk *pro-tem*.

c. Compensation: The Stated Clerk shall be given a \$1,000.00 donation. Travel, lodging, and meals cost for the meeting of the General Assembly will be paid by the General Assembly. The Stated Clerk will receive the approved per diem paid by the General Assembly.

d. Duties:

- (1) The Stated Clerk shall perform such duties as prescribed by the General Assembly, and those prescribed under the *Rules of Order* in Section 3.0 of the Confession of Faith.
- (2) In addition to the General Assembly the General Assembly Executive Board shall prescribe such other duties as may be required when the General Assembly is not in session.
- (3) The Stated Clerk shall be responsible for the record-keeping of the Assembly and have a minimum number of the General Assembly Minutes printed which are to be mailed within thirty (30) days following the meeting of the Assembly to session clerks, and others who may be identified by the Assembly.
- (4) The General Assembly Office shall receive the Board and Standing Committee reports by March 30th of each year so that copies may be mailed to all Commissioners, Youth Advisory Delegates and Ecumenical Participants.
- (5) The General Assembly Office shall provide a congregational and presbytery report form and ordination certification forms to the Presbytery Stated Clerks by February 1st of each year.
- (6) The Stated Clerk shall provide the Commissioners, Youth Advisory Delegates, and Ecumenical Participants with sufficient copies of appointment of committees and reports of the Select Committees.

- (7) The Stated Clerk, in consultation with the Retiring Moderator, shall make referral of all items before the Assembly.
- (8) The General Assembly's Office shall make available such secretarial help for the meetings as is needed and make available word processing and reproduction equipment for the meetings.
- (9) The General Assembly Office shall secure an appropriately-engraved gavel and present it to the Moderator at the end of the term of service.

Section 5. The Engrossing Clerk:

a. Election: The Engrossing Clerk of the General Assembly shall be elected in the same manner as is the Stated Clerk, for a term of three (3) years, and may succeed himself/herself, but may not serve more than three (3) consecutive terms.

b. **Compensation:** The Engrossing Clerk shall be paid \$500.00 for each meeting of the General Assembly, plus travel, lodging, and meals. Compensation is paid per the recommendation of the Stated Clerk, particularly upon the submission of the General Assembly's Minutes. The Engrossing Clerk will receive a per diem approved by the General Assembly.

c. **Duties:**

(1) The Engrossing Clerk shall serve under the direction of the Stated Clerk as the recorder of the Minutes of the General Assembly and shall provide the minutes on a form of electronic media for electronic reproduction.

(2) He/She shall serve as Stated Clerk, pro-tem, during the each session of the General Assembly in the event the Stated Clerk is absent or unable to serve.

(3)The regular term of office shall begin upon election at the General Assembly until the close of each Assembly.

ARTICLE VII

Nominations, Elections, and Voting

Section 1. Nominations: Nominations for all officers, elected boards and elected committees shall be conducted as set forth in Section 11.0 of the *Rules of Order* in the Confession of Faith.

a. Nominations shall be received from the General Assembly Nominating Committee. Nominations from the General Assembly Nominating Committee shall not preclude nominations from the floor.

b. All persons nominated must submit a **Nominee Data Form (Appendix A)** to the General Assembly Office by 20 April of each year the General Assembly meets; or have the completed form in hand at the time he/she is nominated from the floor at the Assembly. The Nominee Data Form for each nominee must be submitted with the signatures of both the Moderator and the Stated Clerk of the presbytery from which the nominee is a member or is eligible to be a member; whom certifies that the nominee is in good standing with his /her respective presbytery.

Section 2. Elections: Elections for all officers, to elected boards and to elected committees shall be conducted as set forth in Section 11.0 of the *Rules of Order* in the Confession of Faith, 2014 Edition. The elections shall be made at the time the Nominating Committee makes its report, and the elected shall assume office at the close of the General Assembly (with the exception of the Stated Clerk whose term will begin 1 July). The majority vote of the membership present at the General Assembly is necessary to elect one to office.

Section 3. Voting: Voting shall be conducted as set forth in Section 12.0 of the *Rules of Order* in the Confession of Faith, 2014 Edition.

- a. When more than one (1) person is nominated for the same office/position, voting shall be by secret ballot. A group of representatives, under the direction of the Stated Clerk, shall count the ballots. The Stated Clerk shall certify the count. (Each ballot will be read aloud so that other members may tally if they so desire).
- b. If more than two (2) persons are nominated and no nominee receives a majority of the votes counted, the vote shall be taken in the same manner on those leading nominees who together received a majority of the total vote cast on the preceding ballot.

ARTICLE VIII

Boards and Standing Committees

Section 1. Boards and Standing Committees of the General Assembly:

- a. General Assembly Executive Board (GAEB)
- b. General Assembly Judiciary Board
- c. General Assembly Nominating Committee
- d. Historical Foundation
- e. United Committees with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (CPC)
 - (1) Joint Committee on Amendments
 - (2) Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns (CTSC)

Section 2. General Assembly Executive Board (GAEB):

a. Function/Responsibility. The General Assembly Executive Board reports directly to the General Assembly. Its functions include acting on behalf of the General Assembly when it is in adjournment, coordinating all activities of the General Assembly, proposing a budget to the General Assembly for all departments of the General Assembly, and performing other tasks the Assembly may assign it from time to time.

b. Composition. Membership to the General Assembly Executive Board shall include twelve (12) persons: the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, the Stated Clerk, Administrative Director; five (5) persons elected by the General Assembly. The five (5) persons elected by the General Assembly shall be Alabama Synod Representative, Kentucky States Synod Representative, Tennessee Synod Representative, Texas Synod Representative, and a Member-at-Large. The Presidents of the National Missionary Society, National Sunday School

Convention, and National Youth Work (along with the Administrative Director) are non-voting members. The General Assembly delegated to the GAEB the right to resolve into Executive Session which will consist of all members of the GAEB with the exception of the presidents of the auxiliaries.

c. Frequency of Meetings. Ordinarily, the General Assembly Executive Board will hold at least two (2) scheduled meetings per year in November and in April, and will meet thereafter as required (which may include teleconferences and/or utilization of other technological media).

d. Authority. Upon the adjournment of the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America and during the period the General Assembly is not in session, the General Assembly Executive Board, in addition to the function/responsibility cited above, is empowered to act on behalf of the General Assembly. The GAEB reports directly to the General Assembly. Its work ultimately is directed by and must be approved by the General Assembly. All functions not lodged in the Boards and the Standing Committees are assigned to the GAEB.

Section 3. General Assembly Nominating Committee:

a. Membership. The Nominating Committee shall be a Standing Committee of the General Assembly. The membership of the Nominating Committee shall be five persons and shall come from the membership of the General Assembly Executive Board, with no members term on the Nominating Committee extending beyond his/her term on the Executive Board. Included in the membership will be at least one person from each synod and the member at large.

b. Function/Responsibility. It shall be the responsibility of this Committee to nominate to the General Assembly qualified persons to fill all vacancies in elected offices, board, and standing committees. The Stated Clerk shall make available all recommendations for Board and Standing Committee memberships that have been submitted by presbyteries and others. The report of this committee should be presented early in the meeting of the Assembly (the first day, when possible) but a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours will be the normative period before a vote on the nominations will be held. Any Commissioner, at the time for the election, shall have the privilege of making nominations from the floor, provided he/she has made every effort to secure the personal consent of the nominee and any required form(s).

c. Authority. This committee has the full responsibility of ensuring a slate of officers is nominated for an election and nominees to fill all boards and standing committee vacancies.

Section 4. Board of Judiciary:

a. Function/Responsibility. The Permanent Judiciary Board shall consider and report to the Assembly on all questions directed to it by the Assembly or any Board or agency of the Assembly. All judicial questions submitted to the General Assembly for a ruling and/or interpretation shall first be considered by Permanent Judiciary. The Board shall also examine all General Assembly Minutes, the

Auditors report, and such other records as are referred to it, and report its findings to the Assembly.

b. Composition. Permanent Judiciary shall be composed of seven members. The members shall be ordained persons (ministers and/or elders only)

c. Authority. This board has full responsibility of managing, examining, and interpreting all judicial matters and questions that are directed to the General Assembly. Its work must ultimately be approved by the General Assembly.

Section 5. Historical Foundation:

a. Function/Responsibility. The Historical Committee shall work as members of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches and oversee the receiving, cataloging, and preserving of documents and other materials which relate to the life and history of the church.

b. Composition. The Committee shall be composed of five (5) members. Each member must be in good standing in a Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America congregation and shall serve no more than nine (9) consecutive years.

c. Frequency of Meetings. The Committee shall meet as often as the by-laws of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation require.

d. Authority. This committee has the full responsibility for managing the process of collecting and preserving the history of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. Its work must ultimately be approved by the General Assembly.

Section 6. United Theology and Social Concerns Committee:

a. Function/Responsibility. The Unified Committee is an agency of the General Assemblies of the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches and is charged with the responsibility to conduct theological and ethical reflections on matters of importance to the churches and their mission in the cultures and societies in which they serve. The United Committee was created by action of the two General Assemblies in 1999.

(1) It is the responsibility of the Committee to stimulate the theological thinking and discussion within our own denominations, to serve as a liaison between the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches and the Theological Committee of the Caribbean and North American Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), and to make available upon request to any agency or person a brief opinion on theological questions.

(2) It is the responsibility of the Committee to reflect theologically upon areas of social life, which, in the mind of the Committee, should be special concern to Christians at a particular point in time.

(3) It is the responsibility of the Committee to call the attention of the church and the world those areas of social responsibility, which need addressing from a distinctly Christian viewpoint, and to provide the theological rationale for that viewpoint.

(4) The responsibility of the committee is in the area of moral concerns, and therefore, always should be sensitive to the creative tension, which exists

with the church whenever genuine and honest differences about doctrine and moral application of doctrine occur.

(5) It is the responsibility of the Committee to provide both theological and factual background to the churches so that their members can both study pertinent moral issues and act upon them out of a Christian perspective.

(6) While church judicatories usually enact laws, they may also adopt resolutions, which are, in effect, efforts at moral persuasion. The Committee should recommend to the General Assemblies such resolutions, as it deems appropriate. Those resolutions not intended to be enacted, as the law of the church should be clearly identified as resolutions or proclamations, which are recommended for study and consideration.

(7) The responsibility of the Committee is in the area of moral concerns, or what the Confession of Faith embraces in its creedal statement under the title, "Christians Live and Witness in the World."

(8) It is the responsibility of the Committee to formulate such moral perspectives based on the revealed will of God in the Scriptures as are relevant to contemporary issues, and;

(9) It is the responsibility of the Committee to explore and to grapple with the possible application of these perspectives to concrete situations as an incentive to all church members to do the same. Care should be taken not to attempt to make rules for every specific situation, but to formulate a moral framework for discussion, which provides the basis for responsible decision making on the part of members of the church.

b. Composition. Eight (8) members of the Committee are elected by each General Assembly, four (4) from each denomination (CPC and CPCA). CPCA members are elected to serve a three (3) year term and may be reelected once, serving no more than nine (9) years total.

c. Frequency of Meetings. The Committee meets semi-annually, and produces study papers and resources for the General Assembly and its agencies, and for the use of particular churches and members of Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The Committee is willing to provide resources for Presbyterian Committees on Theological and Social Concerns, local congregations and other interested groups as time allows.

d. Authority. The Committee has the full responsibility to represent the position of the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA), in conjunction with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (CPC); on current and relevant theological, ethical, social, moral, and cultural matters of importance to the Church and its missions. Its work must ultimately be approved by the General Assembly.

Section 7. School of Continuing Education and Ordination Certification:

a. Function/Responsibility. The Permanent School of Continuing Education Committee was created by the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America in the 2001 General Assembly. The Committee

responsibilities include evaluating education for the denomination and its certification programs.

(1) It is the responsibility of this committee to provide guidance, sound theological and doctrinal training for candidates to the ministry and continuing education opportunities for ordained ministers and laity.

(2) It is the responsibility of this committee to evaluate/monitor the curriculum for ministerial preparation. This committee should make recommendations and changes to the General Assembly. It shall inform all presbyteries and synods of changes and mandates.

(3) It is the responsibility of the Committee to review all licensing and ordinations and call to the attention of the Permanent Judiciary Board any violations.

b. Composition. The Committee shall be composed of six (6) members. The members must be ordained elders or ministers with one representative from each Synod. They will serve along with the coordinators of the School of Continuing Education. Each member can serve up to three (3) terms. Each term is three (3) years

c. Frequency of Meetings. Ordinarily, the Committee will meet one (1) time annually.

d. Authority. The Committee has the full responsibility of managing the training, curriculum development, and the ordination procedures, matters, and issues of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. Its work must ultimately be approved by the General Assembly.

Article IX

General Rules for Boards and Standing Committees

Section 1. Membership. The term of office for elected members shall be three (3) years, except in the case of an election of a person to fill an unexpired term. They shall be eligible to succeed themselves; after having served nine (9) years consecutively, the person shall not be eligible for reelection until at least one (1) year has elapsed. No one shall be elected to a membership until he/she has consented to serve. Any member (ordained and non-ordained) in good standing of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America shall be eligible for membership on a Board or Standing Committee of the General Assembly, except in the special case of the Judiciary Board where only ordained ministers and elders may serve.

Section 2. Vacancies. A member of a Board or Standing Committee missing two (2) consecutive meetings (except for providential hindrances), will nullify his/her membership to a board or committee. The Moderator has the authority to appoint individuals to fill all vacancies, elected or appointed, occurring after the close of the General Assembly meeting; which includes vacancies that occur if a board or committee member resigns (NOTE: If a member resigns, the board/committee must meet and accept the resignation, and report its action to the Stated Clerk).

The individual(s) appointed by the Moderator will serve until the next upcoming General Assembly. The Moderator should, except for extenuating circumstances, appoint an individual for the same Synod that was created by the vacancy on a board or committee.

Section 3. Ecclesiastical Commissions. Being deliberative bodies by virtue of the nature of their work must be composed of ordained ministers and/or ordained elders (i.e., persons eligible to be members of a judicatory).

Section 4. Reports. By April 30th of each year, each agency shall file a report with the Stated Clerk concerning its activities, achievements and future plans in order that the report may be duplicated and mailed at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE X

Select Committees, Regular, Other, Chairperson, and Functions

Section 1. Appointment Authority. Select Committees shall be appointed by the Moderator and Stated Clerk:

- a. Christian Education
- b. Ecumenical Relations/Theological and Social Issues
- c. Executive Board Review
- d. Finance and Budget Distribution
- e. Judiciary
- f. Memorials
- g. Mission and Evangelism
- h. Resolution of Thanks

Section 2: Regular Select Committees. The select committees as set forth in Article X, Section 1, shall be the regular select committees of the General Assembly, appointed by the Moderator and the Stated Clerk, to study reports and to consider other matters that may be referred to them.

Section 3: Other Select Committees. The General Assembly, at will, may create other select committees as the need arises, and the Moderator and the Stated Clerk will appoint the committees and provide instruction.

Section 4: Chairperson. The first person named on a committee is considered the chairperson unless otherwise specified. However, once the committee convenes, if it desires, it may select a new chairperson.

Section 5: Functions. The select committees examine the reports of boards and standing committees, and determine if the boards and standing committees have

worked within established guidelines/bylaws/rules. Moreover, select committees will determine if the boards and standing committees have dealt with those issues that were assigned, and have carried out their responsibilities in a timely and appropriate manner.

ARTICLE XI ***General Rules***

Rule 1. Resolutions. All resolutions related in any way to the general enterprise of the church shall be referred to appropriate Boards and Standing Committees for recommendation to the body via General Assembly Executive Board.

Rule 2. General Assembly Year. The General Assembly Year shall be July 1 through June 30.

Rule 3. Synod Records. All Synod records shall be sent to the General Assembly by the Synod Stated Clerks for examination by the Select Judiciary Committee.

Rule 4. General Assembly Business. Any resolution, memorial, or other item of new business that is to be presented to a meeting of the General Assembly shall be presented first to the General Assembly Executive Board for study prior to presentation to the General Assembly.

Rule 5. General Assembly Roll of Ministers, Licentiates, Candidates and Churches. Each presbytery clerk shall mail a report, which includes an up-to-date roll of ministers, licentiates, candidates, and churches not later than April 30th.

Rule 6. Report of Boards, Standing Committees, and Commissions. The report of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Stated Clerk, Administrative Director, Boards, and Standing Committees shall be referred to the proper Select Committee for their review; Select Committees shall be brought directly to the floor of the General Assembly. Standing Committees (sometimes called Review Committees) are those that serve only during the meetings of the General Assembly; Special Committees (sometimes referred to as Ad Hoc Committees) are those that are appointed for a limited time to do a particular task or deal with a specific issue.

Rule 7. Membership Eligibility. All ordained ministers in good standing in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America and ordained elders currently serving as a member of a local church session in good standing of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, are eligible for membership on boards, committees, and commissions of the General Assembly.

Rule 8. Attendance of Board and Committee Meetings. If a member of a board or committee misses two (2) consecutive meetings, except for providential

hindrances that are excused by the Assembly, his/her membership to the board or committee is automatically nullified. Boards and committees are required to report these absences to the Stated Clerk.

Rule 9. Membership Limitation. A person shall not serve concurrently on more than one board or standing committee of the General Assembly.

Rule 10. Commissioners. All commissioners must be ordained ministers and ordained active elders due to the ecclesiastical nature of the work usually assigned.

Rule 11. Retiring Moderator/Vice-Moderator. The retiring moderator/vice-moderator serves until the close of the General Assembly, at which time the newly elected moderator and vice moderator shall begin serving.

Rule 12. Review of Boards, Standing Committees, Select Committees and Commissioners Reports. The following shall govern how the General Assembly considers the reports of the elements of its body and the work of its commissioners.

a. Reports of the Moderator, Stated Clerk, boards, and standing committees shall be referred to an appropriate select committee for review except as set forth in paragraphs b, c, and d below.

b. Reports of the Judiciary and Committee on Nomination shall not be referred to a select committee, but will be acted upon directly by the General Assembly.

c. Reports of Commissioners and Select Committees are brought directly to the General Assembly for review and for action

d. The General Assembly will not refer any concerns, which are related to judiciary, ministerial, or nominating in nature to any select committee; instead, these will be referred to Board of Judiciary or Nominating Committee as appropriate.

Rule 13. Called Meeting. Meetings of the General Assembly other than the Annual Meeting in June are hereby-designated as a *Called Meeting*. All actions at the Called Meeting shall be limited to the agenda item(s) stated on the announcement.

Rule 14. General Assembly Fiscal Year. The General Assembly fiscal year is July 1 through June 30.

ARTICLE XII ***Parliamentary Authority***

The most current editions of the ***Confession of Faith***, for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church/Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America and the most current edition of ***Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised***, shall govern this Assembly in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not

inconsistent with these rules and any special rules of order this assemblage may adopt.

ARTICLE XIII
Amendment of these Standing Rules

These Standing Rules may be amended or changed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of Commissioners present and voting at a duly constituted General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America.

APPENDIX A

Nominee Data Form

(For Prospective Members of Offices, Boards, and Committees of the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America)

1. Name _____ Minister____ Layperson ____
Preferred Title First Middle Initial Last Female____ Male ____
2. Address _____
Street Address or P. O. Box City State Zip
3. Phone Number _____
Home Cell Work
4. E-Mail Address _____ Fax Number _____
5. Congregation _____ Presbytery _____
6. Age: 15-19 ___ 20-24 ___ 25-34 ___ 35-44 ___ 45-54 ___ 55-64 ___ Over 64 ___
7. Areas of service in local congregation _____

8. Areas of service in Presbytery, Synod, or General Assembly _____

9. Occupation or Business _____
10. Education _____
11. Specify Board(s) or Agency(s) where you would like to serve _____

12. Comments _____

13. Please sign and date below indicating your willingness to serve if elected:

Recommended by: _____
Signature of Stated Clerk of Presbytery Date

Recommendation by: _____
Signature of Moderator of Presbytery Date

(Please return completed form to: General Assembly Office, 226 Church St, Huntsville, AL 35801)