

**THERE'S A PLACE OF  
COMMANDED BLESSING  
WHERE PEACE AND UNITY DWELL**

(Psalms 133.1)

How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in  
unity!

## (Ephesians 3.20-21)

- Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

## (Ephesians 4.1-3)

- I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
  - with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,
  - making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

## (Ephesians 4.4-6)

- There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,
  - one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
- one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

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# A Brief History of CPC & CPCA Relationship

Source:

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church in  
America: Her Roots and Character

By Dr. Robert S. Wood

Presented as The Ingram Lectures at  
MTS, March 12-13, 1996

- 1874 Formal split—survival mode
- Fraternal Exchanges, 1879-1911
- 1879 New relationship—annual greeting as peers, not master-slave; “separate but equal”
- 1883 attempt at union, CPC prompted, denied
  - 1) separated at CPCA request
  - 2) CPCA having success



- 1906 CPC/PCUSA union hindered relationship CPC/CPCA
- 1911 CPCA sought African American Presbyterians, didn't have success
- Institutional Maintenance, 1911-1935
- 1936 Renewal and expansion of relationship
  - CPC assistance for CPCA
- 1953 CPC seminary admitted CPCA students

- 1953ff Joint programming of Boards
- 1958 Study at union, CPC prompted
  - Union not feasible, but don't abandon effort
  - Enlarged fraternal delegates
  - Continue discussions

- 1963 Permanent Committee on Unification named, CPCA prompted
- 1964 Report
  - Basic unity of Body of Christ
  - Joint use of Confession of Faith
  - Mutual helpfulness to both churches, new avenues for Christian witness
- 1965 Brotherhood Week, both churches
  - Studied papers, exchange program

- 1966 plan for unity submitted
  - Needed 12 out of 16 presbyteries, only got 11 (CPCA)
  - Committee was dissolved
- 1972 Federated Board of CE, joint agency (United Board for Christian Discipleship)
  - By 1996, 30+ joint programs

- 1972 unity reaffirmed as concern
  - Shift from helping relationship to cooperating relationship
  - Grassroots unity is the goal
- 1984 Confession of Faith Revision, joint committee
  - CPCA affirms 1984 Confession
- 1991 efforts ceased

WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT;  
WE ARE ONE IN THE LORD

**WHY UNION?**

**WHY DO WE NEED EACH  
OTHER?**

- Greater witness for Christ
- Administrative streamline, possibility for
- Better use of resources
- Together, as one will turn from inward/survival focus to outward focus
- Sense of renovation—new energy to move forward



- Will learn cultural particularities, spiritual resources & enrich each other
- Greater opportunities for ministry and ministers/congregations
- Sense of newness—“Behold, I am doing a new thing.”
- Rebirth
- Enhances evangelism goals

- Bring to CPC the CPCA functionality of laity
- Truly be global church
- To no longer be embarrassed, to get rid of mask, no more explaining or trying to find reasons for division
- Will reflect God's purpose in the world
- New denomination—new expression of what Cumberland Presbyterianism is

**WHAT ARE OUR CHALLENGES?**

- TRUST—establishing relationship of trust
- Change/sacrifice – “Deny yourself; Take up your cross, and follow me”
- Realizing that unity is a gift and a work of God
- Walking in faith and ridding ourselves of the *fear of unknown*—this kept Israel in wilderness

- Honest confession and introspection
- Overcome history/legacy (nitty gritty); devil's in the details
- Reconciliation
- Fear of offending members perpetuates ignorance and is an unhealthy dynamic

- Unknown impact—loss of charting own course – being swallowed up
- Representation in judicatories
- Power/Vulnerability
- Ridding ourselves of excuses

- Giving the process the time needed
- Helping churches to see similarities
- Loss of membership—willing to risk
- Intentionality in all we do

# *EXISTING JOINT WORK*



- Joint Task Force West TN and New Hopewell, Theology and Social Concerns; primary focus=unification (per recommendation from GA)
- Joint Denomination Day – HSV Presbytery CPCA and RD Presbytery CPC
- Christ Church and Church Street— partner—worship, mission; crop walk RDP & HSV Presbyteries (20 +25 kids)

- The Event—Elder training—112 attended in Huntsville
- Hiawassee Presbytery North CPCA & East TN worship 30+ years
- Murfreesboro Presbytery – Church Street CPCA & Winchester CP VBS, etc.
- Cookeville CPC hosted Hiawassee Presbytery Spring 2012 meeting (3 day meeting)

- Rev. Peter Jeffrey of CPC—revival at Christian Fellowship in Chattanooga, CPCA
- Denominational representative at 2012 CPCA Forum/CPC GA – Women’s Planning
- Don Nunn – Texas—pulpit exchange with Elton; Nunn—message at BR CPCA Presbytery meeting; Jay—workshop at BR Presbytery meeting

- Revival CPCA speaker at Russellville Church
- Arkansas Presbytery (Stan Wood)
- Diversity in ordination service in Nashville Presbytery
- Arkansas Presbytery property—CPCA NCD?
- Synod & Presbytery property—Little Rock & Paducah
- New disaster relief project KY Synod & Covenant Presbytery

- Joint articles in both publications
- Jan 2014 Ministers' Conference in Huntsville
- Workshops at GA & Forum with UTF updates
- Lynne & Mike touch base every month to keep communication open
- MTS speaking opportunities
- Representatives to come from CPCA to CPC Missions Ministry Team meetings
- Edith Old working with BR Presbytery, CPCA

- Unified Board of CE, CPYC, Triennium, HF, UCTSC
- Children's Home
- MTS, Bethel University
- PCMC
- CAM
- WCRC
- CPC GA Planning Committee voted last year to allow CPCA advisory delegates for committee representation

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- **3 PHASES**



# PHASE 1 -- Awareness, education, relationship-building

- 1. Continue grassroots joint ministries
- 2. website/fb/social media (now)
- 3. pre-assembly and Forum workshops (summer 2013)
- 4. presentations in both CPCA/CPC 2013  
Presbytery meetings/video and make available to churches

# PHASE 1 -- Awareness, education, relationship-building

- 5. Presentations in joint CPC/CPCA clusters (2013)
- 6. Encourage hiring of staff from both denominations
- 7. Joint Assemblies (June 2014)
- 8. Work on plan for union
- 9. Intentional GA planning for 2014

# PHASE 2 -- Action

- 1. Modify plans for union
- 2. More intentional in youth ministry
- 3. Plan development with concrete steps

**PHASE 3:**

**Birth & Celebration**