

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

**135TH General Assembly
Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America**



*Meeting
June 14-18, 2009
at the
Marriott Hotel & Spa
Florence, Alabama*

*The Reverend Dr. Harry M. Johnson, Sr., Moderator
Elder Lewis Leon Cole, Vice Moderator
The Reverend Dr. Theodis Acklin, Stated Clerk
Elder D. Kay Wood, Engrossing Clerk*

**The 135th General Assembly
Of the
Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America
Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa
800 Cox Creek Parkway
Florence, Alabama
June 14-18, 2009**

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

The following SUMMARY is a brief description of the actions taken by the 135th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, June 14-18, 2009. 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 135th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, meeting June 14-18, 2009 accomplished the following actions:

Host: Florence Presbytery

Host Moderator: Rev. Dr. Edward Anderson

Theme: "This Is Our Time" Ezekiel 37:3 and Galatians 4:4

Organizational Matters

1. **GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS CONSTITUTED** with fifty-two (52) commissioners, and six (6) Youth Advisory Delegates. Each of the sixteen presbyteries answered in the affirmative to roll call.
2. **NATIONAL CHURCH YEAR THEME**, "This is Our Time", Ezekiel 37:3 and Galatians 4:4
3. **HEARD OPENING WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**, presented by Moderator, Rev. Dr. Harry M. Johnson, Monday, June 15, 2009
4. **ACKNOWLEDGED** the presence of and **RECEIVED** greetings from Dr. Ed Brogan, Executive Director of Military Chaplaincy.
5. **ACKNOWLEDGED** the presence of and **RECEIVED** greetings from Mr. Bobby Irons, Mayor City of Florence; Mr. Dewey Mitchell, Probate Judge of Lauderdale County; and Elder Jim Cassel, Moderator, Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

6. **PARTICIPATED** in the moderator's reception.
7. **PARTICIPATED** in a one day Open Forum, "Where Do We Go From Here", and presentation of, "The Five-Year Plan"

ELECTIONS

8. Elected Rev. Elton Hall, Moderator (Brazos River Presbytery); re-elected Elder Lewis Leon Cole, Vice Moderator, (Cleveland Ohio Presbytery); and Elder D. Kay Wood, Grossing Clerk (Hiwassee Presbytery).

General Assembly Executive Board:

1. Elder Craig White Class of 2012 (3rd term)
2. Rev. Robert E. Thomas

General Assembly Permanent Judiciary:

1. Elder Byron McGlathery Class of 2012 (2nd term)
2. Elder Dr. Joe Ward Class of 2012 (2nd term)
3. Rev. Earnest Jefferson Class of 2012 (2nd term)

General Assembly Mission Board:

1. Rev. Margaret Bennett Class of 2012 (1st term)
2. Elder Michael Wilbon Class of 2012 (1st term)

School of Continuing Education

1. Rev. Ann Jones-Pierre Class of 2012 (3rd term)
2. Rev. Barbara Clemmons Class of 2012 (3rd term)

9. **RECEIVED** excellent hospitality from the host – Florence Presbytery. Expressed words of gratitude to the Florence Presbytery and its Moderator, The Rev. Dr. Edward Anderson and other committee members.
10. **AFFIRMED** the meeting of the 136th General Assembly to convene in Nashville, TN. Elk River will serve as host, and assisted by the entire body of the General Assembly.
11. **AFFIRMED** the words of the Moderator's Report, Rev. Dr. Harry M. Johnson, Sr.
12. **AFFIRMED** the words of the Vice Moderator's report, Elder Lewis Leon Cole.
13. **AFFIRMED** the words of the Stated Clerk's Report, Rev. Dr. Theodis Acklin.
14. **AFFIRMED** the words of the Administrative Director's Report, Rev. Dr. Lynne Herring

COMMITTEE REPORTS

15. **HEARD** reports from the following committees:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We **CONCUR** that we direct all Presbyteries to ensure churches are directed to have intergenerational ministries and fund them. (i.e. Children, Youth, Young Adult, Adult and Senior Ministries)

We **CONCUR** the Synodical Leadership Conferences with the General Assembly awarding each Synod a grant of \$250.00. We **CONCUR** GAEB providing adherence with the stipulation: the grant will be mailed from the General Assembly Office after the conference, upon receiving a synopsis of the Synodical Conference and a written request for the grant.

We **CONCUR** all Presbyteries implement viable intergenerational ministries. These programs are to be designed to address the needs and unite congregations.

We **CONCUR** that the National Sunday School convention complete their Mission Statement and a five-year plan of action by the end of their 2009 meeting and present the written document to the General Assembly Mission board for review in the Spring 2010 meeting. This is the third request.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

The Committee **CONCURS** with the following recommendations:

- I. **Report, Presbyterian Council for Chaplains & Military Personnel** – We concur that we designate the Sunday before Veteran’s Day as a day of prayer for the military and chaplains in the military throughout the Denomination.
- II. **Report of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches** – We concur for the denomination to continue to support and participate in the world Alliance of Reformed Churches and the Caribbean and North American Area council, and to continue to investigate strengthening allegiance with our brothers and sisters in Africa. The committee would like to request that the report from the Denomination include the goals/milestones achieved for this effort.
- III. **Joint Programs** – The Committee concurs with GAMB request to adopt six various joint programs. The committee would like to suggest that details regarding the purpose/objective for each program be distributed to all presbyteries to raise understanding of the programs. The Joint Programs are as follows: 1) Consultant Training Program; 2) Christian Education Conference; 3) Youth Ministry Planning Council; 4) Presbyterian Youth Triennium; 5) Young Adult Conference; 6) Cumberland Presbyterian Youth Conference.

- IV. **Report of the Historical Foundation Board of Trustees** – The committee concurs that the General Assembly, through its minutes and summary of actions, make congregations and presbyteries aware of the 1810 Circle and encourages new members to support this endeavor annually.
- V. **Church Directories** – We concur that each remaining Presbytery, under the direction of the Presbyterial Stated Clerks, be encouraged to compile a comprehensive directory of the congregations within its bounds and that, if possible, these directories include maps, a photograph of the church and a brief church history. Upon completion, two copies to be placed in the Historical Library and Archives by December 31, 2009, prior to the Bicentennial Celebration of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 2010.
- VI. **Special Offering on Denominational Day** – The committee concurs that each congregation be encouraged to have a special offering on the Sunday designated as Denomination Day to help support the programs of the Historical Foundation.
- VII. **Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns** – the committee concurs with the General Assembly of the CPCA commending the Japan Presbytery for their struggle in faith, for their adherence to the Confession of Faith, and for the listening to the mandates of the Holy Scripture.
- VIII. **Work of the Japan Presbytery** – The committee concurs that the paper and the work of the Japan Presbytery be distributed to all presbyteries as a study document demonstrating the need for all Cumberland Presbyterians to study, learn, and understand our doctrine, practices, and beliefs; and to possess the ability to struggle in faith with issues confronting our world today.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Committee **AFFIRMS** the Moderator’s Report, entitled “THIS IS OUR TIME”. We also concur with the moderator’s special emphasis on “the need for God’s vision, that we Live in God’s Time and that we seek a personal revelation from God”

The committee **RECOMMENDS** all forms required by the Denomination be made available electronically for those who are able to use them. Also, recommend these forms be made available on the church website unless there are cases where that does not make sense. We further recommend the website be populated with reference documents, i.e., “As You Enter The Ministry”, By-Laws, etc.

The committee **RECOMMENDS** we continue the credibility discussion, as mentioned in the Vice Moderator’s Report, and that we develop a concrete plan to address the lack of credibility of this board as viewed from within the body of the General Assembly. (See Vice Moderator’s Report)

A recommendation from the Stated Clerk’s Report states that if the consensus of the 135th GA expresses a continuing need for a denominational headquarters, that the GA appoint a committee to assess the existing facility for needed repairs/renovations. The committee motioned that we **NOT** concur with this recommendation and we further

recommend that we use our present office GA staff and the GAEB to handle this matter. Motion passed.

We **CONCUR** that the GA instruct each Presbytery to reiterate to all churches with members attending the General Assembly that they are to accept responsibility for their youth decorum/behavior at the General Assembly. It is important to remember that NYW is not a babysitting service.

The committee requests a report from the **Ad Hoc Property Purchasing Committee**, The New Century Development did not purchase the Denominational Center and the CPCA did not purchase the nine acres of property as agreed upon by the General Assembly. The committee requests the Ad Hoc Property Purchasing Committee to address this issue and grant Attorney Underwood permission to speak and to provide an explanation as to the forfeiture of the \$5,000.00 earnest money. (Refer to the official minutes of the 2009 General Assembly).

FINANCE

Please refer to Summary of Finances from the official minutes of the 2009 General Assembly.

JUDICIARY

The committee **CONCURS** with recommendation to grant a one year dual membership for Rev. Perryn Rice and Rev. Wallace Johnson

The committee **CONCURS** that the General Assembly reiterate the criteria for entering the ministry in the CPCA, either through graduation from an accredited Seminary or through the alternate studies program and instruct all presbyteries and synods to comply.

The committee **CONCURS** on all churches becoming incorporated. The Committee **CONCURS** and suggest that this matter be given priority one attention with all deliberate speed.

The committee **CONCURS** that General Assembly Auxiliaries Officers tenure will be for two years and the person must be out of office (for that particular position) at least one year before becoming eligible for election. This is to become effective with the next scheduled election of each auxiliary.

MISSION & EVANGELISM

The Committee **RECOMMENDS** and **ADOPT** the CPCA support of the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, American Diabetes Foundation, American Heart Foundation, HIV and AIDS, Cancer Foundation, Children in Africa, and children of Prisoners as an ongoing ministry for CPCA. And participants notify the GA office of contributions. This will enable the Denomination to document total giving.

The Committee **CONCURS** that all churches are directed to collect a special offering on the first Sunday in October and that this offering is designated to one or more of these Foundations or Ministries. Churches are directed to send the offering to their local foundation(s) and notify the GA office of financial contributions and in-kind service. Engagement should not be limited to financial contributions. It is the desire that all congregations will volunteer time and service as well.

The Committee **CONCURS** that we continue support of the Love Loaf Program. Each congregation will mail their contributions to World Vision and notify in writing the amount given to the General Assembly.

MEMORIALS

MEMORIALIZED and **THANKED** God for the life/legacy of the following elders and ministers who died during the interim period between 2008 and 2009. A service of Memorial was held to memorialize the lives of the following individuals in the 135th General Assembly.

Elder T. C Hampton	Angelina Presbytery
Elder William Anderson	Birmingham Presbytery
Elder William J. Ranking	Birmingham Presbytery
Rev. Clifford Craven	Hiwassee Presbytery
Elder Willie Tucker	Hiwassee Presbytery
Rev. Archie King	Huntsville Presbytery
Elder Julia Elliott	Huntsville Presbytery
Elder Willie Readus	Huntsville Presbytery
Elder Moses Jones	Huntsville Presbytery
Elder Luther Jones	New Hopewell Presbytery
Elder Royce Sparks	Purchase Presbytery
Elder Elbert Tabb	South Alabama Presbytery
Elder James Carl Baugh	Tennessee Valley Presbytery

THEOLOGICAL & SOCIAL CONCERNS

To assist churches in response to practical ways of dealing with the needs of legal immigration, the committee **CONCURS** and **RECOMMENDS** that two papers be approved as study papers on immigrant challenges and becoming legal and that they be sent to all presbyteries as study papers.

The Committee **CONCURS** that the Powerpoint presentation on *Global Warming and Green House Gases* prepared by the Rev. Missy Rose be made available on CD for the GA commissioners and stated clerks of presbyteries for study on the problem and what we as the faith community can do in response.

Hosting the General Assembly

2010	Elk River (General Assembly)	Nashville, TN.
2011	Brazos River Presbytery	
2012	The Tennessee Valley Presbytery	

HEARD the Resolution of Thanks to the Florence Presbytery for hosting the 135th General Assembly

ADJOURNED to meet next year June 2010 with the General Assembly on Monday, June 2009 in Nashville, TN. with the Elk River and Presbyteries of General Assembly serving as host.

HUMBLY SUBMITTED,

Reverend Theodis Acklin, Stated Clerk

Elder Kay Wood, Engrossing Clerk

