

VIII. The 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 Committee, with no members term on the Nominating Committee extending beyond his/her term on the Executive Committee. Included in the membership will be at least one person from each synod.

B. Duties.

It shall be the responsibility of this Committee to nominate to the General Assembly qualified persons to fill all vacancies in elected offices, the General Assembly Mission 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 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 the personal consent of any new nominee and any required forms.

IX. Board and Standing Committees

A. The following shall be the Board and Standing Committees of the General Assembly:

1. General Assembly Executive Board
2. General Assembly Judiciary Board
3. General Assembly Mission Board
4. Historical Foundation

5. The Ordination Certification Committee

There are two United Committees with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church

1. Joint Committee on Amendments
2. Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns

B. Incidentals regarding each Board or Standing Committee are the following

1. General Assembly Mission Board.

- a. *It's Task.* The Board of the General Assembly is the General Assembly Mission Board. Its area of responsibility is the program of the church. All functions not lodged in the General Assembly Office, the Permanent Committees, or the General Assembly Executive Committee are assigned to the General Assembly Mission Board. The following auxiliaries function under the authority of the General Assembly Mission Board: National Missionary Society, National Sunday School Convention, National Youth Work, Ministers and Elders Spouses.
- b. *It's Composition.* The General Assembly Mission Board will be comprised of nine persons, elected in groups of three for three-year terms. These nine persons, elected by the General Assembly. The composition shall be four, three and two. Four would be one representative from each synod (male or female, Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas). Three would be presidents of the National Missionary Society, National Sunday School Convention and National Youth Work. Member at Large and the Coordinator of National Youth Work.
- c. *Frequency of Meetings.* The General Assembly Mission Board will ordinarily meet annually for two full days, beginning on a Thursday morning and concluding on the following Friday. Ordinarily, the meetings will be held in January or February.

2. General Assembly Executive Board.

- a. *Its Task.* The General Assembly Executive Board reports directly to the General Assembly. It's functions include acting in emergency situations 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 from time to time assign it.
- b. *Its Composition.* Membership to the General Assembly Executive Board shall include nine persons: the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, the Stated Clerk, Administrative Director and five persons elected by the General

Assembly. The five persons elected by the General Assembly shall be Alabama Synod Representative, Kentucky States Synod Representative, Tennessee Synod Representative, Texas Synod Representative, and Member-at-Large. The Administrative Director be a non-voting member.

- c. *Frequency of Meetings.* Ordinarily, the General Assembly Executive Board Committee will hold two scheduled meetings per year November and May.

3. Permanent Judiciary Board.

- a. *Its Task.* The Permanent Judiciary Committee 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 the Permanent Committee. The Committee shall also examine all General Assembly Minutes, The Cumberland Digest, the Auditors report, and such other records as are referred to it, and report its findings to the Assembly.
- b. *Its Composition.* The Committee shall be composed of seven members. The members shall be ordained persons (either as minister or elder) and shall be elected for a three-year term, serving no more than nine consecutive years.
- c. *Frequency of Meetings.* Ordinarily, the Committee will meet annually.

4. Historical Foundation.

- a. *Its Task.* 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. *Its Composition.* The Committee shall be composed of five members. Each member must be in good standing in a Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America congregation and shall serve no more than nine 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.

5. Standing United Theology and Social Concerns

- a. *Its Task.* 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 Alliance of Reformed Churches, 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." It is the responsibility of the committee.
 - (a) to formulate such moral perspectives based on the revealed will of God in the Scriptures as are relevant to contemporary issues, and
 - (b) to explore and grapple with the possible application of these perspective 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 members of the Committee are elected by each General Assembly to three-year terms. Members may be reelected twice, and can serve no more than nine years.
- 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.

6. School of Continuing Education

a. Task. 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 members. The members must be ordained elders or ministers with one representative from each synod in addition to the coordinators of continuing education. Each member can serve up to three terms. Each term is three years

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

C. General Rules Which Govern Each Board and Standing Committee are the following.

1. Membership. The term of office for elected members shall be three years, except in the case of an election of a person to fill an unexpired term. They shall be eligible to succeed

themselves twice; after having served nine years consecutively, the person shall not be eligible for reelection until at least one year has elapsed. No one shall be elected to a membership until he/she has consented to serve.

2. Any member (ordained and non-ordained) 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 Committee where only ordained ministers and elders may serve.

3. If a member of a Board or Standing Committee misses two consecutive meetings (except for providential hindrances), his or her term in office expires, and the Moderator shall appoint someone to serve until the next meeting of the General Assembly.

4. Ecclesiastical Commissions, being deliberative bodies by virtue of the nature of their work, must be composed of ordained ministers and/or elders (i.e., persons eligible to be members of the court).

5. Reports. By March 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 10 days prior to the meeting of the General Assembly.

X. Select Committees of the General Assembly

The following Select Committees shall be appointed by the Moderator and Stated Clerk:

1. Executive Committee Review
2. Christian Education
3. Memorials
4. Finance and Budget Distribution
5. Ecumenical Relations
6. Theological and Social Issues
7. Judiciary
8. Missions & Evangelism
9. Resolution of Thanks

XI General Rules

A. 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.

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

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