

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

***136TH General Assembly
Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America***



***Meeting
June 13-17, 2010
at the
Franklin Marriott Cool Springs Hotel
700 Cool Springs Blvd.
Franklin, TN 37067***

**The Reverend Elton Hall, Moderator
Elder Lewis Leon Cole, Vice Moderator
The Reverend Dr. Theodis Acklin Stated Clerk
Elder D. Kay Wood, Engrossing Clerk**

**The 136th General Assembly
Of the
Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America
Franklin Marriott Cool Springs
700 Cool Springs Blvd.
Franklin, TN. 37067
June 13-17, 2010**

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

The following SUMMARY is a brief description of the actions taken by the 136th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, June 13-17, 2010. 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 136th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, meeting June 13-17, 2010 accomplished the following actions:

Host: Elk River Presbytery

Host Moderator: The Rev. William Hill

Theme: If It Is Not Broken – Break It!"

Scripture: Hosea 10:12 and Galatians 6:7-8

Organizational Matters

1. **GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS CONSTITUTED** with fifty-two (52) commissioners, and six (6) Youth Advisory Delegates. With the exception of Kansouri Presbytery, fifteen of the sixteen presbyteries answered in the affirmative to roll call.
2. **NATIONAL CHURCH YEAR THEME:** If It Is Not Broken – Break It!"; Hosea 10:12 and Galatians 6:7-8
3. **HEARD** OPENING WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION, presented by Moderator, The Rev. Elton Hall, Monday, June 14, 2010.
4. **ACKNOWLEDGED** the presence of and **RECEIVED** Dr. Jay Earheart Brown, President Memphis Theological Seminary; The Rev. Debra Matthews, from the Memphis Theological Seminary, Memphis, TN.; and The Rev. Thomas R. Chadwick, Associate Director, of The Presbyterian Council For Chaplains and Military Personnel.
5. **PARTICIPATED** in the Moderator's Reception, Monday, June 14, 2010.

6. ELECTIONS

Re-elected Rev. Elton Hall, Moderator (Brazos River Presbytery); re-elected Elder Lewis Leon Cole, Vice Moderator, (Cleveland Ohio Presbytery).

General Assembly Permanent Judiciary

Elder Archie Watley Class of 2013 (2nd Term)

Elder Thomas Ward Class of 2013 (3rd Term)

General Assembly Mission Board

Ms. Venessa Edmonds Class of 2013 (1st Term)

Unified Committee on Theology & Social Concerns

Rev. Charles Reese Class of 2013 (1st Term)

Sis. Jimmie Dodd Class 2013 (1st Term)

Elder Joy Wallace Class 2013 (1st Term)

CPCA Trustees of Historical Foundation

Elder Vanessa Barnhill Class of 2013 (1st Term)

Elder Noami King Class of 2013 (3rd Term)

National Youth Coordinator

Ms. Venessa Edmonds Class of 2013 (1st Term)

7. **RECEIVED** excellent hospitality from the host – Elk River Presbytery. Expressed words of gratitude to the Elk River Presbytery and its Moderator, The Rev. William Hill and other committee members.
8. **AFFIRMED** the meeting of the 137th General Assembly to convene in Dallas, TX, June 5-8, 2011. Brazos River Presbytery will serve as host.
9. **AFFIRMED** the words of the Moderator's Report, The Rev. Elton Hall
10. **AFFIRMED** the words of the Vice Moderator's Report, Elder Lewis Leon Cole
11. **AFFIRMED** the words of the Stated Clerk's Report, The Rev. Dr. Theodis Acklin
12. **AFFIRMED** the words of the Administrative Director's Report, The Rev. Dr. Lynne Herring

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

It was **MOVED** that the appointment and funding of the new Youth Empowering Team (Y.E.T.) as recommended by the Select Committee be forwarded to GAMB for study, and implementation.

It was moved that each presbytery appoint an Historian, on or before, October 1, 2010. It was also **MOVED** that the Historians on the National level become the historians on the

General Assembly and Synodical levels. Historians shall report information to the Historical Committee of the General Assembly and electronically to Mrs. Len Johnson for inclusion to The Cumberland Flag.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

It was **MOVED** upon recommendation from the GAEB that the action taken on Recommendation XIII of the GAMB report, dated April 16, 2009 be reversed and recommends that all future reports, to eradicate wording discrepancies, are to be recorded by the secretary/recorder of the board or auxiliaries, read at the adjournment of the meeting of the Board, signed by the president, chairperson, and recorder and submitted to GAEB for action. Motion passed.

To comply with IRS regulations for charitable and all 501.(C) organizations, it was recommended and **MOVED** that the 14 cents per mileage reimbursement be tabled to allow time for our legal counsel, Attorney Nick Underwood, to conduct further study and consultation with IRS. The General Assembly will keep its mileage at the current rate of 48.5 cents per mile until 2011. This recommendation applies to the General Assembly only. Individual presbyteries, synods, and churches should make their own determination as to what they wish to pay for mileage. Motion passed.

It was **MOVED** that an independent financial audit be conducted and findings submitted before November 10, 2010. All findings of the report will be presented to the General Assembly at its next meeting, June 2011. The audit will be conducted by an outside certified public accountant firm. It was also **MOVED** that all commissioners of the 2010 General Assembly receive a copy of the audit findings within 30 days of the GAEB review. Motion passed.

It was **MOVED** that the GAEB recommend the pastoral relationship between Ransom Temple CPCA church session and The Rev. Annette Jackson be dissolved immediately and that the Tennessee Synod take oversight of the Elk River Presbytery and Ransom Temple CPCA Session as related to this matter for a period of 2 years and if necessary take action to recommend dissolution of the church session and that the Tennessee Synod shall provide quarterly reports to the GAEB. Upon advice of Counsel, that the file in this matter remain closed. Motion passed.

It was **MOVED** that the communication from West End CPCA requesting admission to the Huntsville Presbytery be referred to the Alabama Synod and the Tennessee Synod for action. Motion passed.

It was **MOVED** that the communication received from Bush Chapel CPCA requesting financial assistance from the General Assembly in rebuilding their church, first be presented to Brazos River Presbytery prior to submission to the General Assembly.

Moderator's Report

We **CONCUR** it is important for this denomination to look at refocusing the structure and ministries we have such as Sunday School, Mission, Youth, and Chaplaincy. The committee recommend that GAMB be empowered to develop methods and ministries that can be passed on to presbyteries and to local congregations, that strengthen those present ministries such as Sunday School, Mission, Youth and Chaplaincy (just to name a few) as well as to develop new ministries as in mentoring programs, etc., and for the specifics to be reported back to the 2011 General Assembly. Motion passed.

We recommend the General Assembly look at leasing a portion of the headquarters building to supplement income. The committee **CONCURS** with the recommendation that GAEB be instructed to work out the specific details and the legalities of the leasing, such as amount of space to be leased, what specific space to be leased, the cost of the spaced to be leased, and other necessary details. Motion passed.

Have a leadership or pastor's conference, partnering with Memphis Theological Seminary, the CPC and inviting pastors, churches and denominations to come. The committee **CONCURS** with this recommendation, and that the Moderator update the General Assembly about this matter at the 2011 General Assembly. Motion passed.

Vice-Moderator's Report

The Committee **CONCURS** with the Vice-Moderator's recommendation that voting on freshly presented proposals just prior to adjournment causes the body to vote on things we are unfamiliar with and are not focused on. This causes disservice to the body by bringing items to the floor for the first time, and vote on major issues affecting the church, just prior to adjournment. A motion passed that the body delay vote of serious or complex issues until the next meeting following the introduction of the issue or proposal. Motion passed.

The committee **CONCURS** it is time to reconsider the General Assembly meeting every other year since the economy has changed. The committee recommends this task be assigned to the GAEB for further discussion and a recommendation be brought back to the 2011 General Assembly. Motion passed.

The General Assembly take the time to re-visit the proposed/approved 2012 Restructuring Plan with a detailed, line by line, review of the budget, understand the funding of the plan and recommend to the GA that we delay the implementation if we cannot complete the task in time for the current implementation timeline. The committee **CONCURS** with Recommendation 5 from the Vice Moderator's report and after further discussion with the GAEB, the committee recommends the delay of implementation of the 2012 restructuring due to the national economic decline. Motion passed.

Administrative Director's Report

The committee **CONCURS** with the mandate for each Presbytery to follow the guidelines and comply with the procedure for rescinding the credentials of clergy who are no longer members of CPCA. Motion passed.

The committee **CONCURS** that there must be consistency throughout the Denomination that candidates for the ministry complete the assigned coursework (14 classes) they are to engage in a Practicum (designed and written by Dr. Bradford) before becoming ordained. Each presbytery must implement this as passed by the 2007th General Assembly. Motion passed.

The committee **CONCURS** that, due to budgeting, the School of Continuing Education Satellite Program not be funded this year by the General Assembly. Motion passed. Students are to pay tuition of \$50 per course starting this fiscal year. Motion passed.

Again, as in the past several years, the committee **CONCURS** that each Synod, Presbytery and Congregation become incorporated. Motion passed.

The committee **CONCURS** that each presbytery encourages the constituency within its boundaries to subscribe to The Cumberland Flag and appoint a historian. Motion passed.

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was recommended and MOVED that the Finance & Budget Distribution Committee stay in place after this session of 2010 General Assembly as an Ad Hoc, advisory and/or monitoring capacity. The Committee will stay active as a Select Ad Hoc Committee until June 2011. The purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee will actively network with GAEB to secure grants, and fundings and report back to GAEB on its progress. The GA passed a \$190,000 budget.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The committee **CONCUR** the General Assembly grant Rev. Perryn Rice dual membership status with the CPC and CPCA for one additional year.

The committee **CONCUR** that the action of renewal of the reciprocal standing of Rev. Wallace Johnson be held in abeyance due to non compliance of the requirements of the Reciprocal Agreement made and entered into by the CPC and CPCA.

The GA passed the Reciprocal Agreement present by the Joint Judiciary Committee on Amendment.

MEMORIALS

MEMORIALIZED and **THANKED** God for the life/legacy of the following elders and ministers who died during the interim period between 2009 and 2010. A service of Memorial was held to memorialize the lives of the following individuals in the 136th General Assembly:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Presbytery</u>
Elder Theodore Carter	South Alabama
Elder Mary Martha Daniel	Cleveland Ohio
The Rev. Oscar Edmonds	Tennessee Valley
Elder Charles Hunt	Birmingham
Elder Reuben McDaniel	East Texas
The Rev. James S. Nance	Elk River
The Rev. Elizabeth Ross	Florence
The Rev. Dora B. Sharp	Huntsville
The Rev. Sandra Smith	Hiwassee
Elder Royce O. Sparks	Purchase
Elder Elbert Tabb	South Alabama
Elder Earnest Wallace	Brazos River
Elder Andrew West	Cleveland Ohio
Rev. Walter Pride, Jr.	Huntsville
Elder George Pickett	Huntsville

MISSION & EVANGELISM

The committee **CONCURS** all churches be directed to receive a special offering on the first Sunday in October and that this offering be designated to one or more of these foundations or ministeries. Churches should send their offering to their local foundation and notify the General Assembly Office of financial contributions and in-kind service. Engagement should not be limited to financial contributions. GAMB desires each congregation to volunteer their time and service.

THEOLOGY & SOCIAL CONCERNS

RECOMMEND and **ADOPT** the General Assembly send a letter of appreciation to the Rev. Larry Johnson and family for his time and commitment to Theology & Social Concerns.

RECOMMEND and **ADOPT** recommendation to implement steps to affirm life and to oppose all types of violent behavior, i.e., gang violence, family violence, and peer violence.

Hosting the General Assembly

2011 Brazos River Presbytery Dallas, TX

2012 Tennessee Valley Presbytery

HEARD the Resolution of Thanks to the Elk River Presbytery for hosting the 136th General Assembly.

ADJOURNED to meet next year June 2011 with the General Assembly hosted by Brazos River Presbytery, Dallas, TX, June 5-8, 2011.

Humbly Submitted,

Rev. Dr. Theodis Acklin, Stated Clerk

Elder D. Kay Wood, Engrossing Clerk

