



SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
181st General Assembly
Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Michael Sharpe, Stated Clerk

The following summary is NOT the authoritative document for guiding the Church's action. Only the General Assembly Minutes can serve that purpose.

ORGANIZATION

1. The General Assembly opened with worship, directed by the Reverend Andy McClung, Worship Director. The Retiring Moderator, Reverend Boyce Wallace delivered a sermon entitled, "Lift Up Your Eyes and Look."
2. Elected the Reverend Don Tabor, Nashville Presbytery, as the Moderator.
3. Elected the Reverend Joyce Merritt, Murfreesboro Presbytery, as the Vice Moderator.
4. Elected thirty-nine persons to board/agency membership.
5. The Commissioners from Japan Presbytery presented a PowerPoint presentation on the relief & rebuilding efforts following the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on March 11, 2011. The Commissioners also presented a check from Japan Presbytery in the amount of \$5,000 for relief efforts for the tornado victims in Missouri.

ADDITIONAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

6. Youth Advisory Delegate Madison Crooks, Murfreesboro Presbytery, delivered the Tuesday morning devotional.
7. A Communion service was held on Wednesday evening. The Rev. Sharon Huey, Presbytery del Cristo, delivered a sermon entitled, "Blessed, Broken and Given Away." based on Colossians 1:15-20 and Mark 6:30-44. The Reverends Sharon Huey and Andy McClung served as Co-Celebrants of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.
8. Elder Commissioner Ricardo Castaneda, Andes Presbytery, delivered the Thursday morning devotional.
9. Dr. Andy McClung delivered the closing devotional based on Genesis 22:1-14.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

10. Approved an amended resolution that would allow Presbyteries to use the option of Provisional Status (COF section 10.3) when bringing new churches into the presbytery if there is an issue concerning property rights of the church. With provisional status the church retains their property rights until the complete assimilation into the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.
11. Instructed Global Center Staff to develop a program to instruct and guide presbyteries who might be interested in using Provisional Status when dealing with new churches entering a Presbytery.

OUR UNITED OUTREACH

12. Approved a goal of \$2,704,000 for Our United Outreach for 2012.
13. Instructed that within each Presbytery, the board or agency that works with probationers and incoming ministers of other denominations serving CP Churches be charged with the responsibility of providing OUO information and how it affects the various entities of the denomination.
14. Instructed that the Board of Missions in each Presbytery, continue to encourage

newly organized churches to pay Our United Outreach.

MINISTRY COUNCIL

15. Approved the Church calendar for 2011-2012 and recommended that the dates for future calendars be extended beyond the present calendar year to at least 24 months in advance.

16. Encouraged the Ministry Council and the General Assembly Mission Board of the CPCA to meet jointly to explore opportunities to share ideas, set goals and objectives for the future and ways to engage in joint activities in Christian education, stewardship, missions, and evangelism.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY TEAM

17. Encouraged Mark Davis, team leader to extend CP Updates to include additional concerns that can be prayed for.

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM

18. Approved a Program for Certification of Youth Ministers and recommended it's use.

19. Rev. Dietrich "Deech" Kirk, Executive Director of the Center for Youth Ministry Training, made a presentation on the three year training program conducted by the Center and MTS.

MISSIONS MINISTRY TEAM

20. Adopted a ten-year plan for evangelism, church planting and mission expansion and directed the Ministry Council and other denominational agencies to proceed with further amplification and implementation of the plan.

21. Presented the Endorsed Missionary Program, a new approach for missionary service for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

22. Presented the PREP 1:8 training and recruiting program for new missionaries in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

23. Announced that Bob Watkins would be assuming the new role of Asia Consortium Facilitator and Missions/Ministry Council Fund Development Facilitator.

24. Announced that Lynn Thomas would be assuming the new role of Director of Global Cross Culture Missions.

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY TEAM

25. Approved the editorial changes to Handbook for Presbyterian Committees on the Ministry or Preparation for Ministry, as the official Cumberland Presbyterian manual.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY

26. Noted that enrollment has increased from 225 to 4,141 in 12 years and is on target to add 1,500 new students in 2011.

27. Noted that Bethel University has added five new campus locations in Tennessee and is the fastest growing independent university in the state of Tennessee.

28. Appointed five persons to a committee to review the covenant relationship and to report to the 182nd General Assembly.

29. Affirmed appreciation and support of the leadership, staff, administrators, donors and studies as Bethel University continues in ministry.

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

30. Adopted a new Covenant Relationship with the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home.

31. Instructed that the CPCH communicate with and thoroughly explain to all CP congregations its plan for self-government, its strategic vision for the future, and its covenant relationship with the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

32. Designated that May 13, 2012 be CPCH Sunday and encouraged congregations to emphasize the importance of this offering as a significant source of funding for CPCH.

COMMISSION ON CHAPLAINS & MILITARY PERSONNEL

33. Instructed churches to pray for members of the Reserve, National Guard, and Active Duty troops serving and their families.

34. Encouraged the Commission to be sensitive to the global nature of the church and make sure future reports are only pertinent to the churches in the United States or churches served by the United States armed services.

35. Conducted a commissioning ceremony at Assembly for Mr. Garrett Burns a student at MTS from Arkansas Presbytery. Mr. Burns was sworn in as an Ensign in the United States Navy.

HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

36. Encouraged congregations and presbyteries to support and promote membership in the 1810 Circle, which requests a minimum gift of \$25 per annum to support the work of the Historical Foundation.

37. Encouraged congregations to have a special offering on the Sunday designated as Denomination Day to help support the programs of the Historical Foundation.

JUDICIARY

38. Adopted a Constitutional Amendment ratified by the presbyteries, changing the number of commissioners to the General Assembly by deleting 1,250 and inserting 1,000 in Section 9.2a making the section to read "A presbytery having an active membership (including ordained clergy) of 1-1000 shall be entitled to send one minister and one elder." and in Section 9.2b deleting 1,251-2,500 and inserting 1,001-2,000 making the section to read "A presbytery having an active membership (including ordained clergy) of 1,001 to 2,000 shall be entitled to send two ministers and two elders."

39. Approved sending a constitutional amendment to presbyteries, to change the wording to section 3.32, 3.33 and 3.34 by adding the words Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America to each section and report to the 181st General Assembly.

40. Instructed the stated clerk of the General Assembly and the Permanent Committee to begin a study on the property provisions in the Constitution (COF sections 3.31-3.35) of the CPC to determine if they continue to be

appropriate as a means of expressing our connectional commitment as Cumberland Presbyterians.

41. Referred to the Permanent Committee on Judiciary and the Joint Committee on Amendments a proposed amendment that would allow two elders per congregation to serve communion to the congregation, when authorized by presbytery.

MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

42. Affirmed the need for a full-time professor of CP studies and called attention to the need for contributions and donations to The Baird-Buck Chair of CP Studies Endowment.

43. Recommended that information about Our United Outreach be included in Memphis Theological and Program of Alternate Studies coursework, such as the Polity course.

44. Affirmed appreciation and support of the leadership, faculty, staff and administrators, donors and students as MTS continues in ministry.

45. Recommended that every congregation set aside a Seminary Sunday each year for the purpose of praying for MTS, to keep church members informed of the ever-changing ministry of MTS and PAS, and to receive a special offering.

46. Dr. Michael Qualls, new director of the Program of Alternate Studies, was introduced by Dr. Jay Earheart-Brown, President of Memphis Theological Seminary.

THEOLOGY & SOCIAL CONCERNS

47. Adopted the study paper "Reflections on a Divided Church". Directed the General Assembly Office to send the study paper and its action steps to each presbytery clerk with the request it distributed to each clerk of sessions in their presbytery.

48. Encouraged the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns to develop a survey for reporting of joint CPC/CPCA activities.

49. Requested that stated clerks of presbyteries complete the reporting surveys when they are distributed to presbyteries.
50. Recommend that churches and presbyteries participating in CPC/CPCA joint activities communicate their activities with the Communications Ministry Team of the CPC and the Unified Committee on Theology and Social Concerns.
51. Recommended that the commissioners of the 181st General Assembly commit to work against violence by praying about, holding Bible Studies on, and creating study groups to struggle with how we might live in the resurrection.

MISCELLANEOUS

52. Accepted an invitation from Andes and Cauca Valley Presbyteries plan to host the 185th General Assembly in Colombia, South America and instructed the General Assembly Office to communicate acceptance of the invitation to all presbyteries by the fall meetings for planning purposes.
53. Formed a special committee with the task of evaluating the current denominational organizations of General Assembly, to include the Ministry Council, the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits, and the General Assembly Office. The purpose of this process is to ascertain the success of these organizations in implementing the current structure. The committee will report to the 182nd General Assembly on both the successes and possible ways that the current structure can be improved and made more efficient.
54. Encouraged presbyteries, synods and denominational agencies to use of approved technology (e.g. videoconferencing) for meetings, in an effort to be better stewards of time and money.
55. Resolved that intercessory prayer to empower our evangelistic efforts become a priority within the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.
56. Requested that General Assembly Planning Committee consider ways that overseas commissioners can visit area

- churches and promote the global church while in the United States for Assembly.
57. Minutes of the General Assembly will be placed on the website and a disc will be mailed to persons requesting a copy of the Minutes.
58. Adopted a resolution of appreciation.

The meeting was adjourned to meet in Florence, Alabama on June 17-22, 2012.

Copies of the General Assembly Minutes when completed will be made available in the following formats:

Online: www.cumberland.org/gao

A limited supply of printed copies will be made available through the Cumberland Presbyterian Resource Distribution at: 901-276-4581

Copies of the Minutes on CD format will also available from the General Assembly Office. Contact Elizabeth Vaughn at: 901-276-4572 or eav@cumberland.org