



SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
186th 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. Elected the Reverend Dwayne Tyus, Nashville Presbytery, as Moderator.
2. Elected the Reverend Nobuko Seki, Japan Presbytery, as Vice Moderator.
3. Elected forty-one persons to board/agency membership.
4. Re-Elected Stated Clerk, Reverend Mike Sharpe and Engrossing Clerk, Reverend Vernon Sansom to another 4 year term.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

5. The General Assembly opened with worship and communion with the CPCA. Elder Leon Cole Jr., Moderator (CPCA), served as Liturgist for the service. The retiring Moderator (CPC) Reverend Michele Gentry de Correal delivered a sermon entitled, "Called to Serve, Sent to Proclaim" – 2 Peter 1:10-11. The Reverends Mitchell Walker (CPCA) and Gloria Villa Diaz (CPC) served as Co-Celebrants for the Sacrament of Holy Communion.
6. A joint Monday evening worship was led by the Youth and Young Adults.
7. The Global Community led the Wednesday morning devotional.

8. Youth Advisory Delegate, Shelby Webb, Missouri Presbytery, delivered the Thursday morning devotional.
9. Reverend Perryn Rice, Commissioner from Red River Presbytery, led the closing worship.

OUR UNITED OUTREACH

10. Approved a goal of \$2,800,000 for Our United Outreach in 2017.
11. Approved adding the following to the GA bylaws, Article 10.02 Election and Tenure 03 to read "When nominating persons to boards and agencies, priority consideration be given to persons whose individual life and/or church involvement demonstrates a commitment to support Our United Outreach."
12. That General Assembly prayerful consider and recommend opportunities to significantly revitalize Our United Outreach.

MINISTRY COUNCIL

13. Approved a change to Ministry Council bylaws, Article 3, section E to read "The board of directors shall meet a least twice a year upon the call of the president or secretary..." beginning 2017.
14. Urged each presbytery to proactively recruit and encourage qualified leaders to prayerfully consider opportunities to serve as elected board members at the denominational level, to include the Ministry Council and all other denominational entities.

MISSIONS MINISTRY TEAM (MMT)

15. Urged each presbytery to budget funds in both 2017 and 2018 to send one participant to the Certificate in CP Studies program.
16. That presbyteries encourage local churches within their bounds to invite the MMT and/or other resources to hold evangelism training for the local church and groups of churches for the purpose of encouraging and equipping church leaders and members in sharing the good of Jesus Christ with others and providing empowering methods and means that people can apply in their context.

17. That in an effort to broaden CP ministry within the USA, presbyteries are encouraged to invite and welcome churches interested in assimilation in the CPC and to seek guidance from Missions Ministry Team (MMT) for information and counsel.

18. That each presbytery budget funds in 2017 for current and potential new church development leaders to attend a Church Starters Conference hosted by the MMT in fall 2017.

19. That each presbytery appoint a young woman to represent their presbytery at a Regional Young Women Retreat and serve as a point of contact between the Young Women Planning Team and the Presbytery.

20. Encouraged churches, presbyteries and synods to be in prayer and become actively involved in the mission to and with Choctaw Cumberland Presbyterians to address immediate needs and future planning.

21. That each presbytery budget to send two or more representatives from their Board of Missions to the Listening to the Spirit-Serving with Conviction Event.

22. Encouraged Boards of Missions (or their equivalent) in the United States presbyteries to support intercultural internship opportunities among probationers, ordained ministers or lay persons with those presbyteries who might be interested in participating in one of the cross-culture ministries in the United States.

23. Adopted the manual entitled *Guidelines for Congregations Considering Merger*, to assist churches and presbyteries interested in merging CP churches to strengthen their worship, study and witness to the gospel.

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY TEAM

24. Approved shifting primary responsibility for the Leadership Referral Services (LRS) from the Missions Ministry Team to the Pastoral Development Team effective August 1, 2016.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY

25. Encouraged all congregations and presbyteries to celebrate the accomplishments of Bethel University's 175 years of education and service to the CPC and the world. Bethel Forevermore!

26. Encourage all congregations and presbyteries to continue to support Bethel University through prayer and financial assistance and to encourage those pursuing higher education to seek information about what Bethel University has to offer.

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

27. Encouraged all congregations to participate in Children's Home Sunday (March 19, 2017) by sharing information and a video about the CPCH and receive a special offering on that day, or a more convenient day of the session's choosing.

COMMISSION ON MILITARY CHAPLAINS & PERSONNEL

28. Encouraged each presbytery in the USA to communicate with their congregations to have a special offering to support the work of the Presbyterian Council on Military Chaplains on, May 28, 2017 (Memorial Day) and all subsequent Sundays on or before Memorial Day

HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

29. Make congregations and presbyteries aware of the 1810 Circle, and encourage new members to support this endeavor annually.

30. Make presbyteries, congregations and individuals aware that the Historical Foundation is interested and has funds to publish books on topics concerning the CPC and CPCA.

31. Encouraged congregations to have a special offering on the Sunday designated as Denomination Day to help support the special project designated for that year.

32. Encouraged all congregations to preserve their session records by depositing them in the Historical Foundation.

33. Instructed each synod and presbytery to deposit their minutes in a timely fashion with the Historical Foundation.

34. Instructed presbyteries to locate the session records when closing a church and then deposit them in the Historical Foundation.

35. Commended the Board of Trustees of the Historical Foundation and Archivist, Ms. Susan Knight Gore, for their hard work and dedication.

JUDICIARY

36. Referred back to the Permanent Committee on Judiciary, the development of the constitutional amendment referred to them by the 184th GA (which read: *That the Permanent Committee on Judiciary work in concert with the Missions Ministry Team, in the development of a constitutional amendment(s), empowering the MMT (or its successor) to develop new churches outside of the United States.*)

37. Requested that the stated clerk's office of each presbytery, rather than the Office of the General Assembly, be designated as the repository for the Safe Sanctuary plans for churches within that presbytery.

38. Approved that an ordained minister, although of another denomination, may serve the Lord's Supper in a Cumberland Presbyterian Church, provided this minister has submitted to the appropriate training in CP theology and conducting of the Sacrament, as well as having been approved by presbytery and provided the presbytery continues oversight of this non-Cumberland Presbyterian minister serving one of its churches.

MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

39. Expressed gratitude to Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary, but especially to the following individuals for their faithful service to MTS and the CPC: Ms. Pat Meeks (CPC, Cordova, Tennessee – went home to Jesus April 2016); Mr. Tim Orr (CPC, Newbern, Tennessee); Mrs. K.C. Warren (Presbyterian USA, Memphis, Tennessee); and Mr. Dan

Hatzenbuehler (Episcopal, Memphis, Tennessee).

40. Encouraged churches and groups across the CPC to consider investing in the development of future leaders through the "Ministry for the Real World" campaign.

41. Urged all probationers to consider MTS and PAS as their first option for meeting the educational requirements for ordained ministry.

42. Encouraged all churches to share information about MTS and PAS and receive a special offering on Seminary/PAS Sunday (the Third Sunday in August, or a more convenient day of the session's choosing).

THEOLOGY & SOCIAL CONCERNS

43. Adopted the study papers "*Homelessness as a Justice Issue-A Theological Response*" and "*A Confessional Response to Discrimination*" that they be used to initiate thought and discussion within the CPC & CPCA.

44. That National Domestic Violence Awareness Month be added to the church calendar for the month of October.

45. Requested the Office of the General Assembly of both denominations make the study papers available to churches through the Stated Clerks of Presbyteries.

46. Approved that the 4th Sunday in December be set aside as Unification Sunday and that all churches have a service geared toward unification.

47. That the Resolution adopted by Japan Presbytery, "*On the occasion of the 70th year after WWII-Praying to be used as peacemakers, an instrument for peace, at the time of the great crisis that would destroy the peace,*" be accepted as information and be referred to the Permanent Committee on Theology and Social Concerns for study and clarification.

UNIFICATION

48. Encouraged and gave great appreciation to members of the Unification Task Force for their great faithfulness in pursuing the unification of the CPC and the CPCA.

49. The revised Plan for Union of the CPC and CPCA was approved for study in the two churches, and that all ministers, sessions presbyteries, synods and members of the two churches be encouraged to study the document and provide feedback to the task force during the upcoming year.

50. Recommended that the General Assemblies of the CPCA and CPC commit to meeting concurrently in the same city during the same week for the foreseeable future.

51. Requested that the Unification Task Force meet with representatives of MTS, PAS, and the School of Continuing Education and Certification to discuss the pathways of education for clergy.

STEWARDSHIP

52. Commended Reverend Robert Heflin and the Board of Stewardship, Foundation and Benefits for their diligent work.

OTHER ACTIONS

53. A joint Pre-Assembly Conference was held with the CPCA, with a shared Theme: GO –“So let’s go outside, where Jesus is....” Hebrews 13:13a.

54. Elder Leon Cole Jr., Moderator of the CPCA, brought greetings to the assembly in the name of the CPCA.

55. Celebrated retiring all denominational debt with a note-burning service.

56. Adopted a ***Resolution of Repentance, Apology, and Resolve*** presented by Reverend Byron Forester, Commissioner from West Tennessee Presbytery.

57. Adopted a *Resolution of Gratitude*, presented by Reverend Anne Hames, Commissioner from West Tennessee Presbytery.

NEXT MEETING

58. General Assembly adjourned to meet concurrently with the General Assembly of the CPCA, at the Innisbrook Resort/Conference Center, near Tampa, Florida on June 19-23, 2017.

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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

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

