

# **SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

**2011 Alabama Synod**

**Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America**



**Hotel Capstone  
320 Paul W. Bryant Drive  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401  
July 29th-30<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Host Presbytery: Tuscaloosa  
Host Moderator: Reverend Horace Hughes  
National Theme: "What Type of Soil Are You?" Luke 8: 4-15**

**Reverend James Robinson, Sr., Moderator  
Reverend Barbara Clemons, Vice Moderator  
Elder Vanessa K. Midgett, Stated Clerk  
Reverend Naomi Brown, Engrossing Clerk**

**The Alabama Synod  
Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America**

**Hotel Capstone  
320 Paul W. Bryant Drive  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401  
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Tuscaloosa Presbytery Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America

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The following SUMMARY is a brief description of the actions taken by the 2011 Alabama Synod of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, July 29<sup>th</sup> -30, 2011. This SUMMARY is not intended to be nor is it the authoritative document for guiding the Synod's actions. The intent is to summarize the work of the Alabama Synod. The Alabama Synod MINUTES serve as the authority. Note: These actions are the results presented and adopted reports of the standing board/committees and select committees of the Alabama Synod and not the minutes. This is a SUMMARY of ACTIONS ONLY. This SUMMARY is provided as a courtesy of the Alabama Synod.

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The 2011 Alabama Synod of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, meeting July 29- 30, 2011 accomplished the following actions:

**HOST PRESBYTERY:** Tuscaloosa

**HOST MODERATOR:** The Reverend Horace Hughes

**THEME:** “What Type of Soil Are You?” Luke 8: 4-15

Organizational Matters

1. **The Alabama Synod was constituted with \_\_\_\_\_ ministers and \_\_\_\_\_ elder representatives.**
2. **Theme: “What Type of Soil Are You?” Luke 8: 4-15**
3. **Heard Opening Worship and Celebration of the Lord’s Supper, Friday, July 29, 2011.** 9:00 a.m. -The meeting of the Alabama Synod of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA) opened with a service of Worship and Celebration of Holy Communion. Music was provided by the Tuscaloosa Presbytery Choir. Vice Moderator Reverend Barbara Clemens served as Liturgist. Moderator, Reverend James Robinson, Sr. delivered the message using scriptural reference Luke 8:8 and the subject “*Are you*

*listening?*” The Communion Celebrants were Reverend George Bennett, Sr., Reverend Moses Finch, and Reverend Critis Fletcher. Also assisting with the communion service were appointed session representatives.

4. **Acknowledged** the presence of Reverend Dr. Lynne Herring, Administrative Director, Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA).

5. **Received/Referred/Granted** Consent to a total forty-six (46) communications. The following communications were addressed by the body.

- a) **Received:** There were 37 requests for approval of excused absence communications from ministers. The assembly unanimously consented to approve the requests.
- b) **Received:** The Florence Presbytery submitted the name of Reverend Willie Montgomery, Jr. as the Florence Presbytery representative to the Alabama Synod Executive Board (ASEB) replacing Reverend Naomi Brown. Reverend Montgomery is added to the ASEB as the Florence Presbytery representative.
- c) **Received.** The Tennessee Valley Presbytery submitted communications notifying the Synod that Reverend Andrew Baker and Reverend Melvon Ingram were granted by the authority of the Presbytery, the status of superannuated due to health issues. Communication was adopted and members given superannuated status as requested.
- d) **Received.** The Birmingham Presbytery submitted a communication requesting the names of Reverend Darrow Smith and Reverend Lula D. Smith be added to the Alabama Synod Roll of ordained ministers. Request was approved. Names officially added to the roll of ordained ministers.
- e) **Received.** Macedonia CPCA, of Tuscaloosa Presbytery, submitted a communication requesting a change of address for the church to P.O. Box 405 Aliceville, AL 35442. Request adopted. Change of address effected as requested.
- f) **Received.** A communication was received from the Huntsville Presbytery (HP) requesting exemption from financial assessments (taxation) for all Synod Presbyteries for (1) year. Approval of this request would allow Presbyteries to retain monies to be applied in the support and completion of critical ministries. The request for waiver request was adopted; giving a waiver of taxation for year 2011 to all presbyteries.
- g) **Received.** A communication was received from former Stated Clerk Reverend Jacqueline E. Lang affirming the handover of Synod computer equipment and 2006 through 2009 records that she held during her tenure as Stated Clerk to Elder Vanessa K. Midgett. Stated Clerk Elder Midgett volunteered to inventory any records on file at CPCA Headquarters building in an attempt to locate records prior to 2006; all records located will be archived as is appropriate.
- h) **Received.** Received a communication of notification from the Tuscaloosa Presbytery concerning its decision to vote not to ratify the proposed By-laws for 2011. Communication received as a point of information.
- i) **Received.** A communication was received from the Tennessee Valley Presbytery, requesting the addition of Reverend Clint Scales to their list of ordained ministers. In addition the presbytery requested the removal of Reverend Sheila Acklin and Reverend Linda Davis from the presbytery list of ordained ministers. Requests

granted. Roll of ministers adjusted as requested.

j) **Received.** Written communication(s) were received from person(s) representing themselves as members of the Union Hill Church of the Huntsville Presbytery. The stated purpose of the letter(s) were to request to the Alabama Synod to rescind the Huntsville Presbytery decision/vote to adopt/accept the July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Union Hill Commission's Report to the Huntsville Presbytery. In accordance with the New Rules of Discipline, from the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches, these communications were referred to permanent Committee on Judiciary for resolution. Huntsville Presbytery member(s) and representative(s) of the Alabama Synod, ASEB, and/or Judiciary Committee will be recused from participating in any actions of the Synod regarding the redress and resolution of the Union Hill request. Additionally, General Assembly Official(s) and/or representative(s) will be recused from participation on the resolution of this issue.

6. **ELECTIONS - Committee on Nominations Report** – Reverend Dr. Lynne Herring presented the report.

- a) **Election of Moderator**- Reverend Barbara Clemons (Huntsville Presbytery), elected as Moderator of the Alabama Synod, last term, Class 2012.
- b) **Election of Vice Moderator**- Reverend Gerald Fencher (Tuscaloosa Presbytery) was elected as Vice Moderator of the Alabama Synod, 1<sup>st</sup> Term, Class 2012.
- c) **Alabama Synod Executive Board (ASEB)** Florence Presbytery Representative, elected, Reverend Willie Montgomery, Jr. replacing Rev. Naomi Brown, 1<sup>st</sup> Term, Class of 2014.
- d) **Board of Judiciary** – Tuscaloosa Presbytery Representative, elected, Elder Eugene Jones replacing Elder William Rice, 1<sup>st</sup> Term, Class of 2014.
- e) **Member-at-Large** – Elected, Reverend Leroy Clark – re-elected– last term, Class of 2014.
- f) **Board of Stewardship/Finance** – Tennessee Valley Presbytery representative, re-elected, Reverend Kenneth Cain – last term Class of 2014. Florence Presbytery Representative, re-elected, Elder Howard Robinson – last term, Class of 2014.

7. **Received--** excellent hospitality from the Tuscaloosa Presbytery as host of the 2011 Synod. Expressed words of gratitude to the Tuscaloosa Presbytery and host Moderator, Reverend Horace Hughes, the Hospitality Committee, and entire membership of the Presbytery.

8. **Affirmed the Meeting Place for 2013 Alabama Synod**- The Birmingham Presbytery will host the next Alabama Synod in July 2013.

9. **Received and Oral Status Report Concerning Brantley Chapel Request for Assistance:** The Alabama Synod Executive Board (ASEB) was empowered by the Synod during the 2011 session to work to resolve the Brantley Chapel request for financial assistance needed to make building repairs to the church. .

## **10. REPORTS**

- a) **Referred** the Moderator’s Report, Stated Clerk’s Report, and the Alabama Synod Executive Board’s Report to the Select Committee on Executive Review.
- b) **Referred** Boards/Committees/Auxiliary Reports to the appropriate select committee.
- c) **Stewardship and Finance Report** – Initial report was not presented to the Select Committee on Audit therefore this report was reviewed and approved by the Synod. Report was adopted as presented

## **SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

11. **Adopted the Report on Select Committee on Records - Birmingham Presbytery, Florence Presbytery, Huntsville Presbytery, South Alabama Presbytery, Tennessee Valley Presbytery, Tuscaloosa Presbytery**– Report on each Presbytery adopted as presented.
12. **Adopted the Select Committee in Audit Report** – Review of Financial Records and Reports.
- a) **Alabama Synod Banking Committee Report-** There was no recommendations required. All account balances from beginning to end were found to be accurate.
  - b) **Stewardship and Finance Report** –There was no report available for review by this committee. Report was reviewed and subsequently adopted by the Synod.
13. **Adopted the Select Committee on Statistics Report**
- a) Recommendation: The process for review/submission of congregational reports to the Presbyteries for the Alabama Synod is revised to electronic congregational reports.
  - b) Recommendation and Ad Hoc Committee on statistical reporting be appointed to implement this electronic reporting process.

## **Adopted the Select Committee on Executive Board, Moderator, Stated Clerk, and Synodical Youth Camp Report**

- a. **Executive Board Report**
- 1) **Recommendation-**Synod adopt the use of revised church statistical reporting form as the official Alabama form and that the process of the churches sending completed forms to

the Presbytery from consolidation and Presbyteries sending one consolidated report to the Synod. Recommended adopted.

2) **Recommendation-** Adopt the 2011 Revised By-Laws as the Synod as the official By-Laws. 2011 By-Laws adopted as Alabama Synod current By-Laws.

3) **Recommendation:** Approve the establishment of a Website for the Alabama Synod. The ASEB will have oversight and management of the website and the data contained. Recommendation adopted.

4) **Recommendation:** Adopt the City of Birmingham as the geographic location for the Alabama Synod meeting sessions. Birmingham adopted as the location for Synod meetings. ASEB will coordinate and approve all contractual arrangements required for Synod meetings.

**b. Moderator’s Report**

1) Recommendation: Alabama Synod adopts the practice of holding biennial meetings. Recommendation adopted.

2) **Recommendation:** Such Biennial meetings will be staggered (e.g., GA 2012 the Alabama Synod 2013, the GA 2014, the Alabama Synod 2015). Recommendation adopted.

**c. Stated Clerk’s Report**

**Adopted** Stated Clerk’s Report in its entirety.

Recommendation: ASEB to conduct review of Constitution and By-Laws to revise the document ensuring recent policies and rulings are updated into the document to be ready for review by the membership during the next biennial meeting of the Alabama Synod. Recommendation adopted.

**d. Alabama Synodical Youth Camp Report-**

Received Report– as a point of information. Concluded it is still the responsibility of the local church to provide transportation for youth attending the camp.

**b. MEMORIALS**

**Memorialized and Thanked God** for the life of our deceased members since the last Synodical Meeting. A Memorial Service was held to memorialize the lives of the following individuals in the 2011 Synodical Meeting Session.

Elder Booker T. Morrow

Elder Larry Chisholm

**Heard** - Report of 137 General Assembly (GA) presented by Reverend Dr. G. Lynne Herring, CP&CA Administrative Director and Reverend Dr. Theodis Acklin, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. General Assembly Update: **National Theme:** “What type of soil Are You?” Luke 8:4-15. **General Assembly Elected Officials:**

Rev. Elton Hall, re-elected as Moderator

Rev. William Robinson, elected Vice Moderator

Rev. Dr. Theodis Acklin, Stated Clerk  
Rev. Lela Fencher, elected as Engrossing Clerk

- a. The 2012 GA will convene in Huntsville, Alabama at the Embassy Suites Hotel. Lodging Cost -\$127.00 plus tax per night which includes a full made-to-order breakfast. Convention Dates: June 3-6 (Sunday – Wednesday). Hotel parking rate is \$6.00 per day. Busses will require special parking. Presbyteries that plan to bring buses should notify the Denominational Center to arrange for special parking. Saturday arrivals will receive the same rate. Tennessee Valley will serve as host presbytery for the 2012 General Assembly.
- b. The General Assembly voted to move to biennially meetings effective 2012 (i.e. meeting every two years);
- c. The next session after 2012 Assembly will be held in year 2014 and will be hosted by Hiwassee Presbytery. Location of the 2014 Assembly will be determined at a later date.
- d. **Note: *TAXATION/FINANCIAL ASSESSMENTS WILL REMAIN DUE AND PAYABLE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON AN ANNUAL BASIS AS IS STANDARD PRACTICE.***

**Heard** - Comments by the newly elected Moderator, Reverend Barbara Clemons, and Vice Moderator, Reverend Gerald Fencher.

**Heard**- Closing words by the Moderator, Reverend James Robinson Sr. our outgoing Moderator.

**Adjourned.** Meeting adjourned until the next scheduled Synodical meeting in 2013. The Birmingham Presbytery will host the next Alabama Synodical Convention in Birmingham, Alabama on year 2013.

Humbly Submitted,

Vanessa K. Midgett      Aug 30, 2011

Elder Vanessa K. Midgett, Stated Clerk

Date

