

APPENDIX A

THE HISTORY OF TRANSYLVANIA PRESBYTERY

1. Being part of a connectional and confessional Church, the Presbytery of Transylvania cannot structure itself or function as a church governing body apart from its ties with the past and the present. Its roots are deep. Its outreach is broad.
2. The Presbytery of Transylvania senses a strong ancestral tie in principle with the Culdees of seventh-century Scotland, whose spirit persisted through the centuries despite the disappearance of the Culdee Church as such. It finds roots in the work of John Knox and in the theology of John Calvin. It recognizes its more immediate existence to have come through the migration of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians and Scottish Covenanters to the American Colonies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
3. Some time during 1706, probably in March, seven Presbyterian ministers met and constituted themselves into a Presbytery, which became known as the Presbytery of Philadelphia. On September 21, 1716, the Presbytery of Philadelphia constituted itself a synod and proceeded to divide itself into four presbyteries. One of the presbyteries was known as the Presbytery of New Castle. In the division into Old Side and New Side Synods which took place in 1745 there came to be two Presbyteries of New Castle - one of them a part of the Synod of Philadelphia, the other a part of the Synod of New York.
4. On October 3, 1755, the Synod of New York created from its Presbytery of New Castle a new presbytery known as the Presbytery of Hanover. On May 30, 1758, following the reunion of the two Synods to form the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, the Presbytery of Hanover was recognized as one of the presbyteries of the new Synod. Six churches in the present Presbytery of Transylvania were organized by the Presbytery of Hanover; Danville, Cane Run (now the United Presbyterian Church, Harrodsburg), Pisgah in Woodford County, Mt. Zion (later First Presbyterian) in Lexington, New Providence in Mercer County, and Old Paint Lick. All of these appear to have been organized in or by 1784.
5. On May 20, 1785, the Synod authorized the creation from the Presbytery of Hanover of a new presbytery known as the Presbytery of Abingdon. One year later, on May 22, 1786, the Synod created from the Presbytery of Abingdon a new presbytery known as the Presbytery of Transylvania, "comprehending the district of Kentucky & the settlements upon Cumberland River". This new presbytery was formally organized in Danville, Kentucky, on October 17, 1786. The ministers who made up the new presbytery were David Rice, Thomas Craighead, Adam Rankin, Andrew McClure, and James Crawford. Terah Templeton was received into membership. The Presbytery of Transylvania was one of the original sixteen presbyteries when the General Assembly was formed in 1789.
6. On March 27, 1799, the Presbytery received notice that there had been granted by the Synod of Virginia a petition whereby the Presbytery of Transylvania would be divided into three Presbyteries - Transylvania, Washington, and Western Lexington. The three presbyteries were directed to meet in April of that year. By the next year - 1800 - the Presbytery of Western Lexington was being called the Presbytery of Lexington.
7. In 1802 the Synod of Kentucky was formed. In that same year the new Synod formed the Presbytery of Cumberland from the southern portion of the Presbytery of Transylvania. This new presbytery was rent by schism almost from its beginning. It was dissolved by the Synod of Kentucky in 1806 and was re-annexed to the Presbytery of Transylvania. An Independent Cumberland Presbytery was formed in 1810, and this became the nucleus of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. In that same year the Presbytery of Transylvania was again divided into three presbyteries - Muhlenburg, Transylvania, and West Tennessee.

8. On October 11, 1820, there was created from the West Lexington Presbytery a new presbytery known as the Presbytery of Ebenezer. At that time it consisted of seven churches: Augusta, Concord, Fleming, Maysville, Mt. Pleasant, Paris, and Washington. This new presbytery held its first meeting on November 27, 1820, in Carlisle, Kentucky.
9. In the meantime, there were two groups which had been part of the established Church of Scotland. One group, forming in 1743 the Reformed Presbyterian Church, was composed of those who had found the settlement of 1689 unsatisfactory. The other group, forming in 1733 the Associate Presbyterian Church, was composed of those who in that year seceded from the Church of Scotland because of centralization of power and dissatisfaction with "strange doctrines" which were being taught. Descendants of these Presbyterians who came to this country established churches, some of which merged in 1858 to form the United Presbyterian Church of North America. One of the presbyteries of this Church was the Presbytery of First Ohio, which included a portion of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in its bounds.
10. Following the Civil War, the General Assembly passed resolutions which were designed to require assurance of loyalty to the United States on the part of ministers and members from the South. Many who objected to such an action met and signed a "Declaration and Testimony". "Kentucky Synod met in Henderson, Ky., in October 1866. The lines were drawn between the side favoring the Assembly, and the side favoring the 'Declaration and Testimony'. The result was that a group, led by Dr. Robert J. Breckenridge, organized a Synod in conformity with the Assembly. Another group renounced the jurisdiction of the Assembly and formed an independent Synod, which in 1869, united with the Southern Presbyterian Assembly or Presbyterian Church in the U.S. So was a great church divided". (Kentucky Presbyterianism 1802 - 1952 - George H. Mack and Robert Stuart Sanders, p. 17). The occasion for the division of Presbyterianism in Kentucky was thus not the Civil War but the so-called "Loyalty Oath" required by the General Assembly of 1866 before it would seat commissioners.
11. The words of one historian are significant here. "In the years following the separation, both branches tried to have churches in all of the towns. With the keen competition between them, neither could grow rapidly." (Op. cit., p. 29)
12. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, in 1870, issued a directive to the synods to enlarge their boundaries. On October 14, 1870, the Synod of Kentucky united the Presbytery of Ebenezer and the Presbytery of West Lexington to form a single presbytery known as the Presbytery of Ebenezer. The Board of Trustees of the Presbytery of Ebenezer, Ashland, Kentucky, was granted a charter by the Commonwealth of Kentucky on June 13, 1907. A merger of the Presbytery of West Lexington and the Presbytery of Ebenezer of the Presbyterian Church in the United States took place in 1935. The new presbytery was known as the Presbytery of Lexington-Ebenezer.
13. On October 9, 1917, the Synod of Kentucky of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America took note of an overture from the Presbytery of Transylvania "To erect a Mountain Presbytery in Eastern Kentucky and to re-adjust any Presbyterial boundary lines that may be affected thereby". On May 23, 1918, approval was given to the formation of a new presbytery, to be known as the Presbytery of Buckhorn, from portions of the Presbytery of Ebenezer and the Presbytery of Transylvania. This new presbytery met on September 23, 1918, at which time Dr. Harvey S. Murdoch was elected the first Moderator; and Dr. George S. Watson was elected Stated Clerk. The Presbytery was granted a charter by the Commonwealth on April 8, 1937. It continued to exist until a reduction of the number of presbyteries in 1950. At that time, a new Presbytery of Ebenezer, consisting of all of the former Presbytery of Buckhorn and all of the Presbytery of Ebenezer except a few of its churches which became a part of the Presbytery of Transylvania, was organized on June 13, 1950, at a meeting held in the Second Presbyterian Church, Lexington, Kentucky. The new presbytery was granted a charter by the Commonwealth of Kentucky on February 14, 1951. The Presbyteries of Louisville and

Transylvania of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America were also merged in 1950. This merger resulted in a new Presbytery of Transylvania.

14. In the meantime, the Presbytery of Guerrant of the Presbyterian Church in the United States was formed in 1925. This, like its counterpart in the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, the Presbytery of Buckhorn, was a mountain presbytery. Its first meeting was held, appropriately, at Guerrant, Kentucky, on October 20, 1925. W. B. Guerrant was elected the first Moderator of the Presbytery. On the following day, George R. Faw was elected Stated Clerk.
15. In 1960 there was a merger of the U. S. Presbyteries of Lexington-Ebenezer and Transylvania to form the Presbytery of Transylvania. In 1968 that Presbytery and the Presbytery of Guerrant merged to form the Presbytery of Guerrant-Transylvania.
16. By the virtue of the union of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America and the United Presbyterian Church of North America in 1958 to form the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, two churches, Ezel and Frenchburg, formerly a part of the Presbytery of First Ohio, were added to the Presbytery of Ebenezer, which was continued as a presbytery of the new Church.
17. Over a period of years there was increasing cooperation between the Eastern Kentucky presbyteries. Occasional joint presbytery meetings were held; and some areas of committee work also became joint, as well as other aspects of church life and work. Then, on May 28, 1969, the Presbytery of Ebenezer was informed that the Presbytery of Guerrant-Transylvania, meeting on the same date and in the same place (First Presbyterian Church, Ashland, Kentucky), had established a committee to consider the possibility of union with the Presbytery of Ebenezer and had extended an invitation to the latter presbytery to take a like action. A committee of twelve, six from each presbytery, was appointed; and shortly thereafter it began its work. In the Fall of 1969 this committee recommended that a plan of union be prepared; and the committee was continued with this as its new charge. In 1970 certain boundary changes were effected so as to bring the geographical lines of the Presbytery of Ebenezer into conformity with those of the Presbytery of Guerrant-Transylvania. Included in this was a change of name from the Presbytery of Ebenezer to the Presbytery of Ebenezer-Transylvania, effective July 1, 1970. The remaining portion portion of the former Presbytery of Transylvania became known as the Presbytery of Louisville (U.P.).
18. Meeting jointly in Lexington, Kentucky, at Second Presbyterian Church, on May 12, 1970, the two presbyteries approved and adopted a plan of union, overturning the Synods of Kentucky to create a union presbytery. The Synods voted their approval; and the Presbytery of Transylvania (Union) was officially constituted on January 1, 1971. Formal union occurred at a special meeting in First Presbyterian Church, Lexington, Kentucky, on January 10, 1971. At that meeting, Elder John W. Frazer of Danville was elected Moderator; and the Rev. David Eugene Rule of Stanton was elected Stated Clerk. The Presbytery confirmed the calls and election of Staff: Charles M. Hanna, Jr., as Presbytery Executive; Cas M. Robinson as Associate General Presbyter in Christian Social Service; and Jack E. Weller as Associate General Presbyter in Mountain Work. The Presbytery then proceeded to call and elect William G. McAtee as Associate General Presbyter in Christian Education.
19. In the years that immediately followed, the Presbytery of Transylvania (Union) experienced the joys and the struggles of being a Presbytery related to two denominations. It took seriously its relationships, and it often provided leadership and example to other presbyteries. It participated enthusiastically in efforts to bring the two denominations closer together, as well as in efforts to help union presbyteries relate to one another and to the denominations.
20. By 1973, regional synods had become a reality in both denominations. The Presbytery of Transylvania (union) became a part of the Synod of the Covenant of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of

America, and of the Synod of the Mid-South of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. By that year also, the three Kentucky presbyteries had concluded that there existed issues of such dimension as to require a unified union presbytery approach and strategy. At their request, the two Synods planned a consultation with representatives of Synod and Presbytery Councils. Out of this came plans for a consultation of union presbyteries, which took place in Louisville, Kentucky, on May 5-7, 1975.

21. On November 9, 1978, the General Council accepted the resignation of Jack E. Weller as Associate General Presbyter in Mountain Work. Acting on a recommendation of its Staff Services Committee, the General Council initiated a study of the Presbytery staffing pattern, including all position descriptions. The Presbytery was informed of this at its Stated December Meeting. The following year it had opportunity to participate in the study. In both March and December of 1980, the Presbytery received detailed reports from the Staffing Patterns Committee. Two recommendations were adopted in March, and additional ones were adopted in December. At a called meeting on July 1, 1980, the Presbytery called William G. McAtee to be Executive Presbyter for an indefinite term, as of January 1, 1981. Subsequently, on June 9, 1981, and again on September 17, 1981, the Presbytery called O. George Aichel and Jerry W. Houchens to fill the positions of Associate Executive Presbyter and Associate Executive/Camp Manager, respectively. Charles M. Hanna, who had earlier indicated he would not seek another term as Executive Presbyter, was retained to provide "Interim Contract Services" and to serve as Assistant Treasurer.
22. On February 24, 1983, the Presbytery of Transylvania (Union) added its affirmative vote to that of all the other presbyteries of The United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America and to that of all but eight of the other presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in the United States on the question of the reunion of those two Churches to form the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). With the accomplishment of that reunion on June 10, 1983, the Presbytery of Transylvania (union), now the Presbytery of Transylvania, became a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Presbytery looks forward to the writing of new history in a new church.
23. With its capable and willing staff and the energy of a reunited denomination, Transylvania Presbytery actively moved through the 1980's and into the 1990's, with Jerry Houchens moving on to another position in 1990. Recognizing that an important era in its storied history was soon to end with the impending retirements of the Stated Clerk, David Eugene Rule (Clerk since 1971); the Associate Executive Presbyter, O. George Aichel (who had worked out of the Hazard office since 1981); and Executive Presbyter William G. McAtee, the Presbytery commissioned a Vision Priority Task Force to re-examine its focus and enable changes to support that focus.

The Task Force was elected in December, 1994, and immediately began its work. With David Rule's retirement in 1994, George Aichel's retirement in 1995, and William McAtee's retirement in 1996, the Task Force developed a new Mission Statement and proposed new Guidelines to carry out that mission. To help with its work, the Presbytery hired Marcia Myers as Transitional Staff in 1995 and began the search for an Interim Executive Presbyter to be hired beginning in 1997, to coincide with the new structure conceived by the Vision Priority Task Force and adopted by the Presbytery in June, 1996.

