



THE UNITING
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA

6 December 2013

The Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa

It is with deep sadness and painful acceptance that we embrace the news of the passing away of Mr Nelson R. Mandela, the Former President of the Republic of South Africa. We acknowledge that he is not only a hero and legend in South Africa but an icon claimed and honoured by the world at large. We most sincerely appreciate the role he played in dismantling apartheid and in bringing South Africa into a new multi-racial democracy. He is a man of incredible stature who epitomizes the essence of true forgiveness, reconciliation and peace. His ability to transcend his own personal hurts and pain in spending 27 years of his life in prison so sacrificially, and yet on his release being able to bring both black and white people together to build a new South Africa, speaks volumes about the fact that he placed the interest of South Africa far above his own needs and personal aspirations. It is his skillful endeavour to broker a peaceful outcome for South Africa that saved us from what could have possibly been a bloody revolution. He will always be remembered for his smile, the Madiba jive, and above all his contributions to the change and development to South Africa as a whole.

We give thanks to Almighty God for giving us this most outstanding, wonderful and gifted man who has touched our lives and world with such deep seated values, sacrificial service and the vision to care for all human beings with the desire to work for freedom, equality and peace to create a better world for our children. Our prayer is that our Political leaders in South Africa, his family and all people in South Africa and beyond this country will strive to honour, respect, exemplify and build on the legacy, values and things he has taught and imparted to us. As Mandela leaves us may the things he struggled and fought for live with us forever.

We pray God's abiding strength, peace and comfort to be given to the Mandela family and all those who feel the pain and struggle of separation and loss at this time. We take comfort and assurance in the power of the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, who gives us hope and joy in the midst of death and sorrow. It is with this knowledge that we go into the future knowing that God goes with us and before us. We call on all South Africans to embrace this hopeful future as we graciously release and bid farewell to our hero and icon, Nelson Mandela.

Rev. Prof. Jerry Pillay
General Secretary of the UPCSA

The Rt Rev Rod Botsis
Moderator of the General Assembly

Tiyo Soga House
28 Rhodes Ave, Parktown, 2193
PO Box 96188, Brixton 2019
Tel: +27 11 727 3500
Fax: +27 11 727 3506
Email: gensec@presbyterian.org.za

Moderator : Rt Rev RJ Botsis BA
General Secretary: The Rev Dr J Pillay BTh(Hons) MTh PhD
Clerk of Assembly : Mr TW Coulter B Ed DPLR
General Treasurer : Mr DH Anderson BCom, FCIS, AEP(Unisa), ISMP
(Harvard)