



Executive Commission 2013 News of the Day

Tuesday, 9 July 2013

The big day arrived and commissioners assembled for the Opening Service of the Executive Commission. Many folks from the St Andrew's congregation and the hosting Presbytery also attended the service.

Rod Botsis, our Moderator, set the tone of the Commission with his opening sermon. He placed emphasis on pleasing Jesus Christ. He discussed our motives and encouraged the Church to act in a way worthy of the gospel. There was a special atmosphere as communion was celebrated and this spirit continued throughout the day.



As part of the service we remembered and gave thanks to God for Elder Bruce Green and the Reverends. Christopher Hlatshwayo, Arthur Jacobs and Ephraim Makgae who passed away in the last year.

After tea the Executive began to work in earnest at Noord Kaap High School. Some of the Reports received were from the Business Committee, the Clerk, the General Secretary, the Finance Committee, the Pension Fund and Commission, Church Office Committee and the Priorities and Resources Committee. As the reports were received among the Commissioners there was a spirit of cooperation and harmony.



Record Clerks ensure the decisions are correctly recorded

Something new introduced at the Executive was an opportunity to converse with the conveners of committees specifically addressing the Mission Priorities of the UPCSA: Faith and Order, Mission and Discipleship, Stewardship and Church and Society.

Commissioners were given the opportunity to ask questions reflecting the voices from the pews. This is part of the strategy to support and develop missional congregations. Many commissioners said, "This is great we need to do it at the General Assembly."



As an aid to reaching consensus, red indicates agreement while a blue card signals that further discussion is required.

This informal time set the scene for the Insaka groups to discuss the reports and proposals.



Each person had an opportunity to be heard and commissioners commented on how the facilitators allowed discussion and the easy flow of ideas. Reflecting on the Insaka time one commissioner remarked, "I really felt that I was heard."



The first day closed with an informal time of songs, prayers and scripture readings.

Wednesday morning will be the first Decision Session where the proposals from the Insaka groups will be considered and consensus sought. We will seek to discern what God is saying to the UPCSA on matters covered so far.

To God be the Glory!

News letters are available as pdf on the website
<http://www.upcsa.org.za/upcsa-exec-comm2013.html>