



THE UNITING
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA

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Empowerment
Through
Education

PRESBYTERIAN EDUCATIONAL FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1 June, 2017

TO ALL MINISTERS AND SESSION CLERKS

PEF Sunday, 18 June, 2017

This weekend we will all celebrate Pentecost and God's gift of the Holy Spirit to His church. We pray that you will all be richly blessed and that the Spirit would renew and enliven the church to serve and witness as never before.

This year PEF Sunday falls just two weeks after Pentecost, and this letter is sent as a reminder that the **General Assembly of 2016 set the 18th June, 2017 as PEF Sunday**, and requested all congregations to hold a retiring offering for the PEF on that Sunday or another of the congregation's choosing in June, 2017. It is also sent as a request to pray that this ministry of the UPCSA will be blessed by the Holy Spirit and expanded by the gifts of the church at this time, and to consider prayerfully how your congregation can support the PEF.

In September it will be 45 years since the General Assembly of the PCSA took the decision to create the PEF to assist families from township congregations to obtain better education for their children. In spite of nearly half a century since 1972, and 23 years of our new democracy, the need is just as great today as it was then, and we call upon all our congregations to reach out and assist the PEF to overcome this challenge wherever the UPCSA is represented in our three countries: South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Three congregations that had not contributed to the fund since before 2010 responded to the 2016 appeal, and the Presbytery of M'Chinga also made a contribution for the first time. The PEF is most grateful to these 'first time' givers. Heartfelt thanks also go to the hundred or so congregations which donate regularly, even if not every year. Without you the fund would be 'poor' indeed!

The PEF and all the families of the young people who benefit from the awards made by the fund appeal to the remaining congregations, and especially to the 250 congregations that have not donated to the fund, to do so this year. The joy that your gift will bring and the changed future which will result will bring rejoicing in heaven.

Whether you decide to take up a special offering or make a donation to the PEF from the regular income of the congregation, please bring the work of the PEF to the attention of your congregation on PEF Sunday, and uphold the work of the members of the PEF Task Team and the administrator in prayer on that day.

All donations to the PEF, whether raised by way of a special offering or given out of the regular tithes and offerings of the congregation, are assessment free.

A master copy of the PEF Sunday flyer is attached. Please make copies of the flyer available for distribution on PEF Sunday. More information on the PEF can be found on the webpage at: <http://unitingpresbyterian.org/ministry/presbyterian-education-fund-pef/>

The banking details and information required for deposits can be found on the reverse of this letter. Please bring these details to the attention of your Treasurer and whoever will be assisting in making the deposit to the PEF account. Please forward details of deposits to the administrator at pef@presbyterian.org.za.

May our dear Lord and Saviour bless you and your congregations abundantly and touch your hearts to respond to the PEF's appeal.

In His Name,

pp Rev M Cook, Convener, Education and Training Committee

Rev L Mpetsheni, General Secretary

CELEBRATING MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF EDUCATION

Please address correspondence to: The Administrator, Presbyterian Educational Fund

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO THE ATTENTION OF YOUR TREASURER / PAY CLERK:

In order to ensure that your congregation's donation is recognized as a gift to the PEF, please deposit it into the PEF bank account, and then notify the PEF administrator by fax or email giving the details of your congregation and the deposit.

Fax: 011-727-3506

Email: pef@presbyterian.org.za

The PEF banking details and reference to be used are:

Name of account: UPCSA - Presbyterian Educational Fund

Bank: Standard Bank

Branch Code: 000355 (Parktown)

Account Number: 20 085 175 6

Reference: Name of congregation and Town

To safeguard against cheque fraud, please do not mail cheques to the PEF

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