



THE UNITING  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
IN SOUTHERN  
AFRICA

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Empowerment

Through

Education

PRESBYTERIAN EDUCATIONAL FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

21 May, 2018

**TO ALL MINISTERS AND SESSION CLERKS**

***PEF Sunday, 17 June, 2018***

Greetings from the PEF Task Team of the Education and Training Committee!

The Church has just celebrated Pentecost, and we pray that you and all congregants of the UPCSA have been richly blessed as you welcomed the Holy Spirit into your midst once again.

The **Executive Commission of 2017 set the 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 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, 2018.

In December, 2017 then-President Zuma announced free higher education in 2018. However, this has in no way made the work of the PEF redundant. Only South African citizens who matriculated in 2017, whose combined family income is below R350,000.00, and who are attending government funded institutions in 2018 qualify for this fee-free study, and not all courses qualify for 100% funding either! Therefore the need for the work of the PEF continues: many students are not at government funded institutions and any student above first year or who matriculated prior to 2017 does not fall into the group that will receive full funding. Then we still have our High School students, non-South African students studying in South Africa and our Zimbabwean and Zambian youth at high school, college or university in Zimbabwe or Zambia.

**The PEF needs your help!**

In 2016/2017 the PEF made 90 awards, totalling R 546,723.64, towards successful applicants' fees. We were able to pay out this amount because we received good support from 100 plus congregations, the Robert Niven Trust and larger donations from individuals, our business partner, AMS HADEN (Pty) Ltd and Associations, specifically the UPWF, which had accumulated funds of more than one year to donate. Some of these donations have obviously not recurred in the 2017/2018 year (ending 30 June, 2018), yet the need is even greater than before. It grows each year! Although congregations (and M'Chinga Presbytery) donated over R 156,000.00, in 2016/2017 this amounted to just 28% of the amount paid out, and if we are to meet the needs, and not dash the hopes, of our applicants in 2017/2018, we need every congregation in the UPCSA to consider their gifts to the PEF, and where possible, to **donate R 1000.00 per congregation** to ensure that we have enough to cover the amounts still to be paid out before the end of June, and to form the basis of the amounts that will be paid out in the 2018/2019 financial year. If your congregation cannot spare R1000.00, please make every effort to make some donation, and if your donation has remained at the same amount for the past number of years, please prayerfully consider increasing the amount.

With your help the PEF can make 2017/2018 our best year yet with regard to the amounts awarded and the number of applicants assisted, but we are not yet anywhere near meeting the needs of our applicants who have the least resources, and who need our help the most. Please help the PEF realise our applicants' dreams to better so many lives!

**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. Check the PEF webpage at: <http://unitingpresbyterian.org/ministry/presbyterian-education-fund-pef/> or contact the PEF administrator for more information on the PEF or answers to any queries you may have.

Banking details and information required for deposits appear 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](mailto: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,

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](mailto:pef@presbyterian.org.za)

The PEF banking details and reference to be used are:

<u>Name of account:</u>	UPCSA - Presbyterian Educational Fund
<u>Bank:</u>	Standard Bank
<u>Branch Code:</u>	000355 (Parktown)
<u>Account Number:</u>	20 085 175 6
<u>Reference:</u>	Name of congregation and Town

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