



THE UNITING
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA

CELEBRATING THE REV DR BUKELWA HANS

A Life of Faithful Service in Church, Medicine and Public Service

As the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA) celebrates 50 years since the first ordination of a woman into ordained ministry, we honour the women whose lives, faith and service have helped shape the journey of women in ministry. Among these distinguished women is Rev Dr Bukelwa Hans, whose life reflects a remarkable blend of faith, professional excellence, leadership and faithful service.

Rev Dr Bukelwa Hans has served in a number of spheres, bringing together her calling as a medical doctor, an ordained minister, a public servant and a woman committed to serving God and society.

She is married to Rev Howard Hans, and together they are blessed with five children and fifteen grandchildren. Her family remains an important part of the story of a woman whose life has been characterised by commitment, service and responsibility.

Before and alongside her ministry, Dr Hans pursued a distinguished career in medicine. As a medical doctor, she worked in both the private and public sectors, demonstrating her commitment to the wellbeing of people and communities regardless of standards. Her medical profession provided her with opportunities to serve and care for others, while also reflecting values that would continue to characterise her ministry.

Her calling to ordained ministry brought another dimension to her life of service. As an ordained minister of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa, Rev Dr Hans has faithfully served the Church over many years. Her ministry stands as part of the wider story of women who responded to God's call and accepted the challenge of serving within a Church that has journeyed towards recognising and embracing women in ordained leadership.



Her contribution, however, has extended beyond the medical and ecclesiastical spheres. Rev Dr Hans also served as a Member of Parliament and subsequently as Ambassador of South Africa to Finland and Estonia. These responsibilities placed her in spaces of national and international service, where she represented her country and contributed her experience, leadership and commitment to the broader public good.

Her journey is therefore a powerful testimony to the many ways in which one calling can find expression. In medicine, she cared for people; in the Church, she ministered to God's people; in public life, she served the nation; and in diplomacy, she represented South Africa beyond its borders.

As the UPCSA marks 50 years of ordained women in ministry, the story of Rev Dr Bukelwa Hans reminds us that this milestone is not simply about the passage of time. It is about the lives that have been offered in service, the doors that have been opened, the challenges that have been overcome, and the generations of women who have followed because others answered God's call before them.

Her life and ministry form part of the rich tapestry of women's contribution to the UPCSA and to society. Her journey demonstrates that ordained women have served not only from the pulpit, but also in hospitals, communities, institutions of governance and on the international stage.

We celebrate Rev Dr Bukelwa Hans with gratitude for her faithful service and for the witness of a life dedicated to God.

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50+

Years
OF ORDAINED WOMEN
IN THE UPCSA