



THE UNITING
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA

BREAKING BARRIERS AND GOING FIRST: REV. ZUKISWA (MHUZA) KLAAS



*A true reflection of 'Dynamite
comes in small packages'*



As the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA) celebrates 50 years of ordained women in ministry, we give thanks for women whose faith, courage and leadership have helped shape the life and witness of the Church. Among these women is Rev. Zukiswa (Mhuza) Klaas, whose story is a powerful testimony of calling, perseverance and pioneering leadership.

Rev. Zukiswa is the first-born child of Andile and Nomaphelo Klaas, sister to Andiswa and Owethu Klaas, and mother to Liyabona Akhona Klaas. She was the first person in her family to be ordained as a Reverend.

Her ministry began at St John's Presbyterian Church, where she served, and she also held the position of interim Moderator at the Clermont and Richard's Bay congregations. She was actively involved in the life and livelihood of the fellowships and served as a CFC.

Her calling took her beyond the local congregation when the Church seconded her to serve as a chaplain in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

She made history as the first female chaplain at 1 Special Service Battalion in Bloemfontein and later became the first female chaplain at the School of Armour. In the SANDF, she provides pastoral care to soldiers and their families, walking alongside them during deployments, exercises, loss, transition and uncertainty.

Beyond her formal roles, Rev. Zukiswa is a trend setter and a woman who seeks to inspire others through authenticity. Her journey shows that, with faith and courage, it is possible to break barriers and create opportunities for those who follow.

Her life is a reminder that ministry is not limited to one place or one role. It is about being present with people, serving with humility and making a meaningful difference wherever God places us.

As the UPCSA celebrates 50 years of ordained women in ministry, Rev. Zukiswa's story stands as part of the larger testimony of women who have heard God's call, embraced ministry and faithfully taken their place in the life and leadership of the Church.

*"But those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles."*

ISAIAH 40:31

Article by Rev Zukiswa Klaas | Pictures by Rev Zukiswa Klaas



Celebrating 50 Years
OF WOMEN IN ORDAINED MINISTRY