



THE UNITING
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA

30th March 2020

URGENT COMMUNICATION REQUIRING YOUR ATTENTION

Pension Fund and Medical Aid

TO ALL MODERATORS, SESSION CLERKS, PRESBYTERY AND CONGREGATIONAL TREASURERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

On behalf of the General Assembly Finance Committee of the General Assembly, I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our World has gone quiet. It feels as if a giant pause button has been pushed. It will take time to adjust but we will. This is a time for prayer! 2 Chronicles 7:14 comes to mind. It's deeply saddening to learn of South Africa's two deaths due to Covid-19. To the family and friends of the deceased, we send our condolences. Some of you reading this may know one of the confirmed people fighting Covid-19. The fortunate will have negligible symptoms; others will be very seriously ill. As the next few weeks and months progress, more people in your social circle or families will become infected.

With what is going around us, we are faced with HUGE challenges at work, at home and in our Church and Denomination, of which two issues are highlighted below requiring your immediate attention and action. We understand everyone is battling, both financially, physically and emotionally, but we need to keep the economy going as much as possible, to ensure it does not fall over. This includes paying our accounts, managing our money wisely, etc.

If you are on the UPCS Medical Aid (Discovery) or the UPCS Pension Fund, the below is of utmost importance and requires immediate action if not done so already.

We have not received many contributions for both the Medical Aid and Pension Fund and this is not only in contravention of the law, but members are placing both themselves and their families at risk.

Tiyo Soga House
28 Rhodes Ave, Parktown, 2193
PO Box 96188, **Brixton 2019**
Tel: +27 11 727 3500
Fax: +27 11 727 3506
Email: gensec@presbyterian.org.za

PBO 18/11/13/1612
Moderator: Rt Rev Dr PD Langerman BTh, MTh, DMin
General Secretary: The Rev L Mpetsheni PGDSS MTh
Clerk of Assembly: The Rev WV Mkhungo DipTh
General Treasurer: Mr R Johnson MCom (UP) MIRMSA, CIA

MEDICAL AID

For those members who are on the UPCS Discovery Medical Aid (and pay contributions via the Central Office) **please ensure your contributions are UP TO DATE and that they are paid into our bank account by tomorrow evening (31 March 2020).**

This is extremely urgent that your medical aid contributions remain up to date, as **falling behind with your contribution puts you and your family at risk in that you are NOT covered**, and any doctor, hospital or pharmacy visit WILL be rejected from the 1st of April if your contribution is not paid and is not up to date.

This is not a UPCS rule, but a Medical Scheme Act rule. Please ensure your contributions are paid on time, and that you do the necessary to ensure that both you and your dependents on your medical aid are covered!

PENSION FUND

Pension Fund contributions are also due and payable into the UPCS Bank Account by the end of the month, i.e. tomorrow evening (31st March 2020). These in turn are paid over to the Pension Fund.

Again, very little contributions have come into our bank account, and we are unable at this stage to contractually meet our payment obligation to the Pension Fund. Please ensure if you are able to that your contribution reaches the Central Office Bank account too, by tomorrow evening to ensure the UPCS can pay your Pension Fund contribution across.

Once again, when contributions are not paid, the insurance premiums in respect of the insured death and disability benefits cannot be paid, which means the insurer will repudiate claims submitted during this period. It is important that your contributions are paid and remain up to date.

Should the contributions not come in by tomorrow evening, the Trustees through this communication have indicated their intent to apply for a rule amendment to the Pension Fund, allowing the employer to delay payment of contributions. This is not something we want, but if members and congregations do not heed this call, we will get a penalty for late contributions so this is done as a precautionary measure.

Please ensure your Pension Fund contributions are up to date if you are able to, as you are contractually obligated to pay each month, but furthermore, when they are not up to date, you are not covered for certain benefits, thus placing both you and your family at risk.

CONCLUSION

Please treat this communication as urgent and assist us as much as possible. Please do not place you or your family's health and well-being at risk for failing to pay contributions over in time.

Please share this communication with as many colleagues and Ministers as possible to ensure we reach as many people as possible to limit the risk our members are at.

If for whatever reason you cannot pay, you have to immediately email the following persons notifying them of such, so that we are aware which members are at risk:

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The General Secretary – Rev. L. Mpetsheni – Impetsheni@upsa.org.za

The General Treasurer – Mr. R Johnson – ryan.j@live.co.za

The Chief Financial Officer – Rev. M. Jita – finance@presbyterian.org.za

The Accountant – Ms. B. Mahlangu – accounts@presbyterian.org.za

The Chairman - Pension Fund – Mr. Allan Wentzel – allan@cdtrust.co.za

The Pension Fund Principal Officer – Mr Morne Olivier – morne@seshego.co.za and Petrus Theron – petrus@seshego.co.za

Please communicate with us indicating if you cannot pay, so that we have it on record, that you acknowledge the risk you have taken, but that we can also assess the risk impact of the entire denomination.

Yours in Christ.



Ryan Johnson

GENERAL TREASURER

On behalf of the Finance Committee of the General Assembly