

**THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMISSION HELD AT GREENACRES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CENTRAL CAPE PRESBYTERY FROM THE 23RD SEPTEMBER
TO 26TH SEPTEMBER 2019**

FIRST SESSION

At the Greenacres Presbyterian Church, within the bounds of the Central Cape Presbytery, on Monday 23 September, 2019 at 09h30, the Ministers and Elders, as Commissioners of the Executive Commission appointed to meet this day, convened.

CONSTITUTING SERVICE

The Clerk of Assembly called the Executive Commission to worship.

Welcome

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev Tony Robinson welcomed all present commissioners, non-commissioners and all visitors to the Executive Commission 2019.

Worship

The Rev Kim Brown led the Executive Commission in prayer of adoration and confession.

Prayer of Illumination and Reading of the Word

The Moderator's Chaplain the Rev Tony Robinson led the Executive Commission in prayer of Illumination. The following scriptures were read:

Old Testament: Isaiah 44:6-8

Epistle: Romans 8:14-17

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30

The Service of the Word/The Moderator's Address

The Moderator delivered his address on the theme: "Live your legacy".

The Moderator's Chaplain the Rev Tony Robinson thanked all those who had participated in making the service a success and explained that the offering would go towards a Presbytery project.

INTRODUCTION OF MODERATOR'S CHAPLAINS

The Moderator introduced his chaplains to the Executive Commission and apologised for the Rev Lydia Neshangwe who was unavailable because of her trip to America. The Rev Kim Brown stood in her place. The Moderator prayed for the chaplains.

Holy Communion

The Moderator led the Executive Commission in the Celebration of Holy Communion.

In Memoriam Minutes

The Clerk of the General Assembly presented In Memoriam Minutes for the following Ministers who died between the 2018 General Assembly and the 2019 Executive Commission:

1. The Rev Donald Dowie
2. The Rev Hans Meyer
3. The Rev Agrippa Zolani Stuurman
4. The Rev William Ian Turnbull
5. The Rev Diane Alison Vorster
6. The Rev Joseph Zibi
7. The Rev Hebert Philemon Chikomo
8. Ms Nomxolisi Gloria Mzalisi (PAT Student)

Notices of Motion First Call

The Moderator called for the first call of the Notices of Motion. There were none offered.

Announcements

The Moderator of Assembly made an announcement that all were invited for tea at the hall after the service.

Adjournment

The Moderator closed the service with prayer and the benediction at 10h30.

The Executive Commission adjourned to meet again at the Greenacres Presbyterian Church Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of the Central Cape Presbytery on Monday 23 September 2019, at 11h00.

SECOND SESSION

At the Greenacres Presbyterian Church, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of the Central Cape Presbytery, on Monday

23 September 2019 at 11h10, the Ministers and Elders, as Commissioners of the Executive Commission appointed to meet this day, reconvened.

Roll of Executive Commissioners

The Moderator called upon the Clerk of the General Assembly to present the roll of commissioners to the Executive Commission.

The Clerk presented the roll of commissioners to the Executive Commission.

The Clerk moved:

The Executive Commission adopts the Roll of Commissioners as printed in the Papers, and the Supplementary Papers.

This was agreed.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Convener presented the report.

The Convener asked that proposals 1,3-9 be linked.

This was seconded and agreed.

The Convener asked for the addition of proposal 10 which reads:

The Executive Commission appoints the following people to form a committee that would draft a statement on violence against women and children and issues of xenophobia in South Africa:

1. The Rev Siphon Mtetwa - Moderator Designate (Convener)

2. The Rev Patricia Phiri

3. The Rev David Mushayavanhu

4. The Rev Zolile Mkentane

5. The Rev Ruth Armstrong

6. The Rev Mzwamadoda Mtyhobile

Notices of Motion Final Call

Notice of Motion 1

The Rev Awedzani Nemaikhwe gave notice that at a time convenient to the Executive Commission, he would move that the Executive Commission instructs Presbyteries to follow the General Assembly instructions on Gender representation at the meeting of the General Assembly and the Executive Commission meeting.

Seconder : Dr OMM Banda

Notice of Motion 2

ALLOCATION OF MINISTER EMERITUS STATUS TO THE REV TERRY SPARKS

At the time when the 2019 Executive Commission considers the allocation of Emeritus status to ministers, or at a time convenient to the Executive Commission, I shall move that:

The Executive Commission:

- a. grants the Rev Terry Sparks the status of Minister Emeritus backdated from 28 February 2018 and a seat on the Presbytery within whose bounds he may reside.
- b. directs that the Rev Terry Sparks be recognised as a retired minister at the 2020 General Assembly.

MOTIVATION

At the July 2018 General Assembly, in a Ministry Committee report proposal, it was noted by the General Assembly that the Secondment of the Rev Terry Sparks had fallen away.

As the Rev Terry Sparks turned 68 on 23 February 2018, what should also have taken place at the 2018 General Assembly was him being granted the status of Minister Emeritus and a seat in the Presbytery within whose bounds he resides. This Notice of Motion corrects that oversight.

Having ministered for some time in the UPCS in South Africa, the Rev Terry Sparks was seconded in 2001 as a minister of the UPCS to the United Reformed Church (URC) in the United Kingdom. He received a "certificate of eligibility" from the URC and was called as minister to Twickenham and Hampton Hill URC from 2001-2006 and then he took up a call to Bromley and Lee Green URC until 2012. From 2012 he entered the National Health Service as a Part Time Chaplain while continuing as the minister at Lee Green URC until February 2018, when he celebrated his 68th birthday.

Throughout the time he was seconded from the UPCS, he maintained his contact with the UPCS Ministry Committee and had annual recognition by the Assembly and Executive Commission as a seconded minister within the UPCS.

In February 2018 he requested the URC to send a letter to the UPCS General Secretary and Ministry Committee saying he was retiring as a minister and commending him to the care of the UPCS as he was returning to South Africa. From this point onwards there seems to have been a breakdown in communication, along with a series of misunderstandings. Rev Sparks settled in Betty's Bay in the Presbytery of the Western Cape in March 2018. Being concerned about his accreditation as a minister in the UPCS he was in touch with the UPCS Ministry Committee and received some advice on regaining his credentials and then on the 12th September 2019 he contacted the Clerk of the Presbytery of the Western Cape.

During the past two weeks there has been contact with various parties within the UPCS seeking the best way forward, so that the Rev Terry Sparks has recognition as a Minister Emeritus in the UPCS and this Notice of Motion

was proposed.

Rev M Mfene – Moderator – The Presbytery of the Western Cape
Rev C Campbell – Clerk – The Presbytery of the Western Cape

CLERK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Clerk of the General Assembly presented his report and proposed that all proposals be linked 1-5.
This was seconded and agreed.

CHANGES IN MINISTRY

The Clerk of the General Assembly presented the changes.
This was seconded and agreed.

The Clerk moved for the adoption of the changes in Ministry in the papers of the Executive Commission.
This was seconded and agreed.

The Moderator raised a concern on the non-submission of the changes in ministry by Presbyteries.

OVERTURES

None

The Moderator brought it to the attention of the Executive Commission that the rules were changing from the Westminster mode of debate to Consensus.

THIRD SESSION

At Greenacres Presbyterian Church, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of the Central Cape Presbytery, on Monday 23 September 2019 at 12h00, the Moderator ruled that the Executive Commission continues with the business as there was enough time to deal with the General Secretary's Report on listening session 1.

LISTENING SESSION 1

The Executive Commission considered the following reports in a listening session:

Allocation of the Notices Of Motion

Notice of Motion 1 under the General Secretary's report
Notice of Motion 2 under Ministry's report.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The General Secretary moved that the Executive Commission receives the report.
This was agreed by consensus.

The Moderator called for the Clerk of Assembly to move the proposals that were Transactional.
The Following proposals were moved: 1, 7 main papers, and in the Supplementary Report 2,3, 4
This was agreed by consensus

Adjournment

The Executive Commission adjourned at 12h30, to meet at 13h30 at Greenacres Presbyterian Church.

THIRD SESSION (continued)

At Greenacres Presbyterian Church, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of the Central Cape Presbytery, on Monday 23 September 2019 at 13h40, the Ministers and Elders, as Commissioners of the Executive Commission appointed to meet this day, reconvened.

FINANCE

The Treasurer Mr R Johnson presented the report.
The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Executive Commission receives the report.
This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk of Assembly moved the proposals that were transactional:
Proposal 2,3,11,13,14,16,17 and 18.
This was agreed by consensus.

AUDIT

The Treasurer presented the report

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

PENSION FUNDS

The Chairman Mr A Wentzel presented the report.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk of Assembly moved the proposal that were transactional:

Proposal 2

The Moderator thanked Mr Wentzel and all the trustees of the fund for the job well done.

CHURCH OFFICE

The Convener the Rev M Makalima presented the report.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk of Assembly moved those proposals that were transactional:

Proposal 1,3,5 in Supplementary papers.

This was agreed by consensus.

COURT OF ASSEMBLY

The Dr OMM Banda presented the report.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

MEDIATOR'S REPORT

The Rev Jeremy Smith, presented the report on behalf of the UPCSA representatives.

The Moderator advised the Executive Commission about the risk of receiving the report with parts that affected names of people and institutions who were not given opportunity to state their sides of the story.

After discussion, it was proposed that paragraphs 6 and 7 be expunged before the Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

ADJOURNMENT

The Executive Commission adjourned at 15h55, to meet again at 16h15 at the Greenacres Presbyterian Church.

THIRD SESSION (continued)

At Greenacres Presbyterian Church, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of the Central Cape Presbytery, on Monday 23 September 2019 at 16h15, the Ministers and Elders, as Commissioners of the Executive Commission appointed to meet this day, reconvened.

The Moderator called the Convener of the Priorities and Resources Committee to present the report.

PRIORITIES AND RESOURCES

The Convener presented the report

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk of Assembly moved the proposal that was transactional:

Proposal 3.

The Moderator made a ruling that the Executive Commission will go straight to the Insaka groups and that there was no adjournment necessary to reconvene for the devotions at 17h45.

FOURTH SESSION

Insaka Session 1

The following reports were dealt with by Insaka

Notices of Motion
General Secretary
Finance and Audit
Pensions Fund
Church Office
Court of Assembly
Mediator's report
Priorities and Resources

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

The Moderator's Chaplain the Rev Tony Robinson led the Executive Commission in devotion and Moderator pronounced the benediction

Adjournment

The Executive Commission adjourned at 19h05, to meet again at 08h30 at the Greenacres Presbyterian Church.

FIFTH SESSION

At Greenacres Presbyterian Church, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of Central Cape Presbytery, on Tuesday 24th September 2019 at 08h30, the Ministers and Elders as Commissioners of the Executive Commission of General Assembly appointed to meet this day reconvened.

Welcome

The Moderator's Chaplain the Rev Kim Brown welcomed everyone present and led the devotions.

Opening Devotions

The Moderator's Chaplain the Rev Kim Brown called the Executive Commission to worship and prayed. Scripture readings:

Romans 8: 5

The Moderator preached on the theme "**What it means to be blessed by the Holy Spirit**", and led the Executive Commission in prayer.

DECISION SESSION (1)

The Moderator called upon the Rev Siphon Ncapayi to explain the process that was followed in finalising the proposals by the drafting Committee. The Rev Siphon Ncapayi gave thorough explanation to the Executive Commission on how the proposals were formulated and the process to be followed by the Executive Commission to amend and or not to amend the presented proposals.

GENERAL SECRETARY

2. The Executive Commission notes that the Tiyo Soga House will continue with the focus area of "Building a community" and encourage all the structures of the denomination to support the focus area. This was agreed by consensus.
3. The Executive Commission instructs the Ministry Committee in collaboration with the Mission and Discipleship Committee to
 - a. study the changing dynamics of the environments in which the congregations and presbyteries operate, especially the demographic and financial changes; and
 - b. present a report to the 2020 General Assembly on the planning and the provision of ministry and the utilisation of ministers, on short, medium and long term bases.This was agreed by consensus.
4. The Executive Commission instructs the Assembly Business Committee and the Priorities and Resources Committee to present a comprehensive report at the next General Assembly on where the UPCSA stands in terms of the implementation of the decisions of the General Assemblies and Executive Commissions, especially the UPCSA strategic Plan. This was agreed by consensus.
5. The Executive Commission instructs the Priorities and Resources Committee to
 - a. explore ways of strengthening governance and accountability at all the levels of the denomination;
 - b. work with the presbyteries to enhance the capacities of presbyteries and congregations to deal with administration, leadership, management and spiritual issues; and
 - c. report at the 2020 General Assembly.This was agreed by consensus.

6. The Executive Commission instructs the Priorities and Resources Committee and the Doctrine Committee to

work towards providing a clear understanding and articulation of the faith and spirituality of the UPCSA, taking into consideration the contents of paragraphs 24 and 25 of the report.
This was agreed by consensus.

SUPPLEMENTARY

5. The Executive Commission, incensed by the rise in the incidents of violence against women, children and foreign nationals,
 - a) condemns with contempt any form of violence against humanity and creation;
 - b) issues a statement for public media and which will be read during the 20th anniversary celebrations;
 - c) encourages the structures of the UPCSA to have ongoing programs and activities towards redeeming humanity and creation from any form of violence;
 - d) instructs the Ethics and Discipline Committee to prepare a document that will guide the UPCSA on how to deal with violence and abuse, inclusive of sexual violence and abuse; and
 - e) agrees to adjure members of the UPCSA not to participate in any form of violence and abuse.

This was agreed by consensus.

Notice of Motion No. 1

Executive Commission instructs the Assembly Business Committee to monitor full compliance with the provisions of the Manual of Faith and Order (insert paragraph) regarding the appointment of Commissioners to the General Assembly/Executive Commission, in order to address gender balance.

This was POSTPONED, to be dealt with later.

REPORT BACK ON THE WOLMARANS MEDIATION PROCESS

- 2.a The Executive Commission accepts the outcome and the terms of the mediated settlement.
This was agreed by consensus.

- 2b. The Executive Commission apologizes to all the parties involved and affected by the matter.
This was agreed by consensus.

- 2c. The Executive Commission agrees to request the Moderator of General Assembly to establish a pastoral team that would work on healing and reconciliation to all the parties that are affected.
This was agreed by consensus.

3. The Executive Commission confirms the doctrinal standards of the UPCSA as an expression of our unity.
This was agreed by Consensus.

5. The Executive Commission agrees to thank Advocate Rean Fourie for the pro bono legal assistance to the UPCSA representatives.
This was agreed by consensus.

6. The Executive Commission dismisses the representatives, the Revds. Jeremy Smith and Brent Russell with thanks.
This was agreed by consensus.

The Moderator led the Executive Commission in prayer.

FINANCE

4. The Executive Commission again instructs all associations to submit their final annual audited reports, as at December 2018, by no later than 30th December 2019.
This was agreed by consensus.

5. The Executive Commission again instructs Presbyteries to submit reports on non-contributory congregations with reasons for non-compliance, by 31st December 2019 at the latest.
This was agreed by consensus.

6. The Executive Commission endorses that Moderators, Clerks and Treasurers must be held accountable in both Presbyteries and at General Assembly and that the appropriate remedial action is taken where necessary.
This was agreed by consensus.

7. The Executive Commission again instructs all Presbyteries again to assist congregations in transferring the property and obtaining title deeds and PTO (permission to occupy) from their local municipal offices for properties still in the local municipality's name.
This was agreed by consensus.

8. The Executive Commission again instructs all Presbyteries and Congregations to submit certified copies of their title deeds and PTO (permission to occupy) to the Central Office by latest 29 February 2020, together with a notarised letter stating they will not sell their property without the consent of both the Presbytery and General Assembly Finance Committee, if not done so already.
This was agreed by consensus.

10. The Executive Commission through its various committees appoints members to the business wing

committee by latest 31 December 2019, and to report back at next year's General Assembly on work done in this regard.

It was proposed that this proposal be REFERED BACK TO FINANCE COMMITTEE

This was agreed by consensus.

12. The Executive Commission (a) again extends the current procedure to write off all outstanding assessment arrears for those congregations, supported by their Presbytery, who can bring 2014 to current up to date and to show ability to meet future assessments in full; and (b) extends 2% rebate until next General Assembly.

This was agreed by consensus

15. The Executive Commission approves the budget for 2019/20 endorsing the need for more stringent financial controls at all levels.

This was agreed by consensus.

AUDIT

2. The Executive Commission instructs the Audit Committee to work with Finance Committee, P&R and ABC to establish a steering Committee which will formulate a risk management framework.

This was agreed by consensus.

3. The Executive Commission adopts the Risk analysis and corresponding risk matrix.

This was agreed by consensus.

PENSION FUND

All proposals were transactional

CHURCH OFFICE

4. The Executive Commission grants the Rev Vusi Mkhungo another five year's term as Clerk of Assembly, effective from 1st August 2020

This was agreed by consensus.

6. The Executive Commission notes the efforts to establish a Gender and Youth desk in the UPCSAs, and asks Presbyteries to do the same.

This was agreed by consensus.

COURT OF ASSEMBLY

Proposals were transactional

PRIORITIES & RESOURCES

4. The Executive Commission

- a. notes the intention of the P&R Committee to recommend to the 2020 General Assembly a new structure of Committees as contained in the Appendix to this report; and

- b. instructs the Nomination Committee to prepare for its possible implementation at the 2020 General Assembly, should it be approved by the Assembly.

These were agreed by consensus.

5. The Executive Commission instructs the Priorities and Resources Committee to begin discussions with all the Committees of the General Assembly about this proposed structure and then to bring a report to the 2020 General Assembly.

This was agreed by consensus.

6. Anticipating that the 2020 General Assembly might approve this new structure, the Executive Commission instructs the Priorities and Resources Committee to be prepared to bring proposals to the Assembly for the positions of Cluster Heads.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Moderator led the Executive Commission in prayer. He offered the prayers for the Clerk of Assembly asking God to guide him for the next five years in his Job, as the Executive Commission agreed to the extension of his contract.

ADJOURNMENT

The Executive Commission adjourned at 10h32, to meet again at 11h00 at the Greenacres Presbyterian Church.

SIXTH SESSION

At Greenacres Presbyterian Church, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of Central Cape Presbytery, on Tuesday 24th September 2019 at 11h07, the Ministers and Elders as Commissioners of the Executive Commission of General Assembly appointed to meet this day reconvened. This session was moderated by the Rev Dr R Munthali at the request of the Moderator.

The Moderator's Chaplain Tony Robinson led the Executive commission in prayer.

LISTENING SESSION 2

The Executive Commission considered the following reports in a listening session:

MINISTRY

The Convener, Rev Siphon Ncapayi presented the report.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Executive Commission receives the report.

This was **agreed** by consensus.

The Clerk of General Assembly moved the proposals that were transactional:

Proposal from Main report 2,3,4,5,7,20,21,22,23,24

Supplementary Report, 10 and 11

Task Team on forms of ministry 3,4,8,9 and 10

The Clerk of the General Assembly moved that the following proposals be removed from the list of proposals 15-19

This was agreed by consensus.

Notice of Motion 2

The mover withdrew the NOM.

GAWGA

The Convener presented the report.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

CHURCH ASSOCIATIONS

Convener presented the report.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Convener of the Business Committee advised the leaders of the Insaka groups to consider both reports in the main papers and in supplementary papers.

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

The Rev Vuyo Mbaru presented the report on behalf of the Convener who could not be part of the Executive Commission.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener presented the report

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Executive Commission receives the report.

The Business Convener advised the Executive Commission that the ERC report will be presented fully after lunch, that only a part of the report was to be presented at this stage.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS COMMITTEE

Bible Society

The Rev Hein Barnard presented the part of the report that dealt with the Bible Society.

ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator's Chaplain the Rev Kim Brown closed the session in prayer.

The Executive Commission Adjourned at 13:08.

SIXTH SESSION (Continued)

At Greenacres Presbyterian Church, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of Central Cape Presbytery, on Tuesday 24th September 2019 at 14h00, the Ministers and Elders as Commissioners of the Executive Commission of General Assembly appointed to meet this day reconvened.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

The Convener presented the report.

The Convener invited the Rev Dr Peter Langerman and the Rev Sikawu Makubalo to present the part of the report that dealt with Church Unity Commission (CUC), which they did.

The Rev Makubalo went on to introduce formally to the Executive Commission that the Dutch Reformed Church has been granted the membership of the CUC. The representative of the Dutch Reformed Church could not attend.

Ecumenical Delegates

The General Secretary introduced the following delegates to the Executive Commission:

The Moderator received the Ecumenical delegates and invited them to address the Executive Commission, which they did.

Fraternal Delegate	Title	Church/Institution
Rev Sikawu Makubalo	General Secretary CUC	Methodist
The Rev. Edmond Gatima	Representative	Church of Scotland
The Rev Khethang Posholi and Spouse	Executive Secretary	Lesotho Evangelical Church In Southern Africa

The Moderator thanked all the Ecumenical partners.

The Convener proposed that the Executive Commission receives the report. This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk of General Assembly moved the proposals that were transactional: Proposal 2,6,8.

The Business Convener advised the Executive Commission that the Executive Commission was to adjourn to meet at the INSAKA groups and to come back at 16:30 from the Insaka.

The Bible Society presented a gift of 5 bibles to the Moderator of the General Assembly to be given to the 5 new Fellowships on the 27th September when the Fellowships would be established.

The Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Peter Langerman received the bibles and thanked the Bible Society for the gifts.

The Acting Moderator the Rev Munthali invited the Rev Sikawu Makubalo to come forward and thanked him for representing the CUC and the job he is doing at the CUC, after which the Rev Makubalo requested to leave the Executive Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator's Chaplain the Rev Kim closed the session in prayer.

The Executive Commission Adjourned at 14:50.

SEVENTH SESSION

At Greenacres Presbyterian Church, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of Central Cape Presbytery, on Tuesday 24th September 2019 at 15h00, the Ministers and Elders as Commissioners of the Executive Commission of General Assembly appointed to meet this day reconvened.

INSAKA SESSION 2

The Following report were considered

Ministry

Working group on Associations

Church Associations

Church in Society

Communications Committee

Ecumenical Relationships

At Greenacres Presbyterian Church, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of Central Cape Presbytery, on Tuesday 24th September 2019 at 17h00, the Ministers and Elders as Commissioners of the Executive Commission of General Assembly appointed to meet this day reconvened.

The Rev Sipho Mtetwa presented the first draft of the statement on violence against women, children and fellow Africans. After discussion it was proposed that members of the Executive Commission should go through the statement and submit inputs towards the final product to the team on Wednesday morning, the 25th September 2019.

This was agreed by consensus

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

The Moderator's Chaplain the Rev Kim Brown led the Executive Commission in closing devotion and Moderator pronounced the benediction.

ADJOURNMENT

The Executive Commission adjourned at 18h30, to meet again at 08h30 at the Greenacres Presbyterian Church.

EIGHTH SESSION

At Greenacres Presbyterian Church, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of Central Cape Presbytery, on Wednesday 25 September 2019 at 08h40, the Ministers and Elders as Commissioners of the Executive Commission of General Assembly appointed to meet this day reconvened.

Welcome

The Moderator's Chaplain the Rev Tony Robinson lead the Executive Commission in prayer.

Opening Devotions

The Moderator's Chaplain the Rev Kim Brown read from Romans 8:18-27

The Moderator delivered his address on the **Theme "To be broken with the Holy Son"**

DECISION SESSION 2

The Convener of the Drafting Committee presented the proposed decisions

MINISTRY COMMITTEE

2. The Executive Commission notes the work being done by ministers to develop a student formation manual for students for the ministry and encourages ministers to contribute an article towards the formation of students for the ministry.

This was agreed by consensus.

6. The Executive Commission approves the increment of maximum support of probationers grants to congregations from R3,000 to R5,000 per month.

This was agreed by consensus.

8. The Executive Commission confirms the admission of Rev Daniel Kitenge to the UPCS ministry according to Manual 17.55.

This was received by consensus.

9. The Executive Commission provisionally admits Rev Christopher Lawrence to the UPCS ministry according to Manual 17.55.

This was agreed by consensus.

10. The Executive Commission provisionally admits Rev Patrick Ndibongo to the UPCS ministry according to Manual 17.55.

This was agreed by Consensus.

11. The Executive Commission provisionally admits Rev Mteteleli Ngcambu to the UPCS ministry according to Manual 17.55.

This was agreed by consensus.

12. The Executive Commission provisionally admits Rev Elries Fortuin to the UPCS ministry according to Manual 17.55.

This was agreed by consensus.

13. The Executive Commission provisionally re- admits Rev Simiso Mncwabe to the UPCS ministry according to Manual 17.55.

This was agreed by consensus.

14. The Executive Commission provisionally re-admits Rev Patrick Mafa to the UPCS ministry according to Manual 17.55. (M)

This was agreed by consensus.

TASK TEAM ON FORMS OF MINISTRY

2. The Executive Commission adopts the definitions for forms of Ministry included in Appendix A of the report, and instructs the Manual Committee to include them in the MFO

This was agreed by consensus.

6. The Executive Commission instructs the Priorities & Resources Committee to include an item on APEST and bi-vocational forms of ministry on the programme for the next Ministers' Conference.

This was agreed by consensus.

7. The Executive Commission encourages the General Secretary to include an item on APEST and bi-vocational forms of ministry on the programme for the next consultation of the General Assembly Committees Conveners.

This was agreed by consensus.

SUPPLEMENTARY

2. The Executive Commission provisionally re-admits the Rev. Simon Malefetsane Matli to the Ministry of the UPCSA according to the Manual of Faith and Order (17.61).
This was agreed by consensus.
3. The Executive Commission provisionally re-admits the Rev. Chris Nissen to the ministry of the UPCSA according to the Manual of Faith and Order (17.61).
This was agreed by consensus.
4. The Executive Commission provisionally re-admits the Rev. Edwin Louw to the ministry of the UPCSA according to the Manual of Faith and Order (17.61).
This was agreed by consensus.
5. The Executive Commission provisionally re-admits the Rev. Thumakele Gosa to the ministry of the UPCSA according to the Manual of Faith and Order (17.61).
This was agreed by consensus.
6. The Executive Commission provisionally re-admits the Rev. Bukelwa Hans to the ministry of the UPCSA according to the Manual of Faith and Order (17.61).
This was agreed by consensus.
7. The Executive Commission provisionally re-admits the Rev. B. Finca to the ministry of the UPCSA according to the Manual of Faith and Order (17.61).
This was agreed by consensus.
8. The Executive Commission urges Presbyteries to read the document on credentials by Rev Dr Graham Duncan and send their comments to the Rev. Dr. Pat Baxter by 7th January 2020.
This was agreed by consensus.
9. The Executive Commission approves a writers' workshop to be held by the Ministry Committee in 2020.
This was agreed by consensus.

ASSEMBLY WORKING GROUP (GAWGA)

2. The Executive Commission:
 - 2.1 Notes the process and wide consultation undertaken by the General Assembly Working Group on Associations (GAWGA) to draw up a new constitution for all the Associations within the UPCSA,
This was agreed by consensus.
 - 2.2. Approves the draft constitution as the new one for Associations within the denomination, and
This was agreed by consensus.
 - 2.3. Agrees to include the constitution in the Manual of Faith and Order.
This was agreed by consensus.
3. The Executive Commission approves and recognises as Fellowships in terms of Chapter X the five fellowships about to be constituted by union between existing church Associations:
 - i. The Fellowship of Men
 - ii. The Fellowship of Women
 - iii. The Fellowship of Young Women
 - iv. The Fellowship of Youth
 - v. The Fellowship of Church Choirs and Musicians.
This was agreed by consensus.
4. The Executive Commission designates the General Assembly Moderator to preside at each inaugural/uniting general meeting of the five Fellowships referred to above
This was agreed by consensus.
5. The Executive Commission:
 - 5.1 Designates and authorises the respective Task Teams established by GAWGA to be the interim denominational executive bodies of each of the five Fellowships referred to above, respectively, until their first conference in 2020, where new leadership will be elected.
This was agreed by consensus.
 - 5.2 Appoints the two Presidents of the Associations in the respective Task Teams to serve as co-leaders of the new Fellowship until the 2020 Conference.
This was agreed by consensus.
 - 5.3 Mandates the respective Task Teams, in consultation with GAWGA, to attend to all matters leading to the first conferences of the Fellowships in 2020, at each level of jurisdiction, denominational, Presbyterian and congregational.
This was agreed by consensus.
6. The Executive Commission urges Presbyteries, through their PWGA where applicable, to assist the Task

Teams of the respective Fellowships to constitute the new Fellowships within their bounds before the end of November 2019.

This was agreed by consensus.

7. The Executive Commission instructs the GAWGA to continue to oversee the processes of leading the respective Fellowships to their first Conferences in 2020, and to present a final report to the 2021 Executive Commission.

This was agreed by consensus.

CHURCH ASSOCIATIONS

2. The Executive Commission instructs Associations to:

- a. Invite or visit UCCSA Associations at all levels for the purposes of fellowship and getting to know each other better.
- b. Share this information (para 5.2) to all members at all levels.

These were agreed by consensus.

3. The Executive Commission notes the presentation made during the Consultation pertaining to patriarchy in the UPCSA and within Associations (para 7.3) and instructs its Councils and Committees to engage further and act on it.

This was agreed by consensus.

CHURCH IN SOCIETY (CIS)

3. The Executive Commission instructs GA Committees and encourage Presbyteries, Sessions and other structurers of the UPCSA to implement the plan to address inequalities and inequities (Injustices) in the UPCSA, and the Committees to report to the 2020 General Assembly

This was agreed by consensus.

COMMUNICATIONS

2. The Executive Commission adopts the Policy of the Communications Committee.

This was agreed by consensus.

3. The Executive Commission instructs the Communications Committee to develop a policy to control the use of social media for matters affecting the denomination.

This was agreed by consensus.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

3. The Executive Commission adopts the reports of the Church Unity Commission and the Bible Society and agrees that the reports should be shared with the presbyteries and congregations in South Africa for edification.

This was agreed by consensus.

4. The Executive Commission encourages the UPCSA ministers, leadership and membership to follow and share the developments on the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification.

This was agreed by consensus.

5. The Executive Commission continues to encourage ministers, congregations, and presbyteries to comprehend and, as far as it may be possible, teach and apply the tenets of the Church Unity Commission covenant.

This was agreed by consensus.

9. The Executive Commission continues to encourage the denomination to support the work of the Bible Societies in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

This was agreed by consensus.

10. The Executive Commission encourages the structures of the UPCSA to join the Bible Society in observing 2020 as the "Year of the Bible" and actively participate with the Bible Society in all its planned activities to celebrate 200 years of Bible distribution in South Africa.

This was agreed by consensus.

11. The Executive Commission agrees to urge all in the denomination to celebrate Bible Sunday on 27 October 2019.

This was agreed by consensus.

12. The Executive Commission receives sincere gratitude from the Bible Societies for the support and continues to encourage congregations to support the Bible Societies financially on an annual basis.

This was agreed by consensus.

13. The Executive Commission encourages every member to commit him/herself to the cost of one Bible per annum.

This was agreed by consensus.

ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator's Chaplain the Rev Kim Brown closed the session in prayer.
The Executive Commission adjourned at 10h04, for tea to meet at 10h30.

NINTH SESSION

At Greenacres Presbyterian Church, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of Central Cape Presbytery, on Wednesday 25th September at 10h37, the Ministers and Elders as Commissioners of the Executive Commission of General Assembly appointed to meet this day reconvened.

The Moderator's Chaplain the Rev Kim Brown led the Executive Commission in prayer

LISTENING SESSION 3

The Executive Commission considered the following reports in a listening session:

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Rev Galela-Thema presented the report on behalf of the Convener.

The Clerk of the General Assembly proposed that the Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk of General Assembly moved those proposals that were Transactional:

Proposals 2,4,5,

This was agreed by consensus.

MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP

The Convener presented the report.

The Clerk of General Assembly moved that the Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Convener advised the Executive Commission that proposal 8 was withdrawn.

MANUAL

No Report

The Moderator advised the Executive Commission that the business of the Executive Commission will continue as there was still enough time to deal with other reports.

TENTH SESSION

At Greenacres Presbyterian Church, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of Central Cape Presbytery, on Wednesday 25th September at 10h37, the Ministers and Elders as Commissioners of the Executive Commission of General Assembly appointed to meet this day continued with the business of the day.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Rev Victor Letuka presented the report on behalf of the Convener.

The Clerk of the General Assembly moved that the Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by Consensus.

The Clerk of the General Assembly moved the proposals that were transactional:

Proposal 2,3,4,5,9 and 10

This was agreed by consensus.

WORSHIP

The Convener presented the report.

The Clerk of the General Assembly moved that the Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by Consensus.

DOCTRINE

The Clerk of the General Assembly presented the report.

The Clerk of the General Assembly moved that the Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by Consensus.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON CONFESSIONS

The Moderator advised the Executive Commission that, after the restructuring of Committees in 2016, there was no

provision for the establishment of the Ad hoc Committee on Confessions. This Committee, therefore, does not exist. The Moderator of the General Assembly, then, ruled that the report would not be received by the Executive Commission and that it should be referred to the Doctrine Committee.

NOMINATIONS

The Convener presented the report.

The Clerk of the General Assembly moved that the Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by Consensus.

ELEVENTH SESSION

At Greenacres Presbyterian Church, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of Central Cape Presbytery, on Wednesday 24th September 2019, 12h20, the Ministers and Elders as Commissioners of the Executive Commission of General Assembly appointed to meet this day reconvened.

INSAKA

The Executive Commission considered the following reports in the INSAKA groups.

Education and training

Stewardship

Mission and Discipleship

Health and Wellness

Worship

Doctrine

Nominations

Second draft of the statement on violence on women, children and fellow Africans.

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

The Moderator's Chaplain the Rev Tony Robinson led the Executive Commission in devotion and Moderator pronounced the benediction.

TWELFTH SESSION

At Greenacres Presbyterian Church, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of Central Cape Presbytery, on Thursday 26th September 2019, 08h30, the Ministers and Elders as Commissioners of the Executive Commission of General Assembly appointed to meet this day reconvened.

DECISION MAKING SESSION 3

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2. The Executive Commission condones the decision of the committee to let the UCS School in Yeoville be but to respond in an appropriate manner to any invitation from the school, as and when we receive such.

This was agreed by consensus.

3. The Executive Commission encourages Presbyteries and Congregations to take advantage of the Eldership enrichment and Session Management courses being made available.

This was agreed by consensus.

4. The Executive Commission encourages Presbyteries and Congregations to be on the lookout for the KIDS ALIVE website and to download and use the teaching materials available.

This was agreed by consensus.

6. The Executive Commission reminds congregations of the GA decision that Sunday June 16, 2019 was declared PEF Sunday and requests all congregations still to hold a retiring offering for the PEF if they missed June 16, 2019 before the end of 2019.

This was agreed by consensus.

7. The Executive Commission declares Sunday, June 14, 2020, PEF Sunday and requests all congregations to hold a retiring offering for the PEF on that Sunday or another of the congregation's choosing in June 2020.

This was agreed by consensus.

8. The Executive Commission instructs all Presbyteries to set up Education and Training Committees.

This was agreed by consensus.

9. The Executive Commission instructs all ministers and Session Clerks to screen PEF applications stringently, by checking that applicants have completed the forms correctly and in full, and have included all required documentation, before signing the forms.

This was agreed by consensus.

11. The Executive Commission commends and thanks the donor for sponsoring the two students and further encourages other members to do likewise.

This was agreed by consensus.

STEWARDSHIP

3. The Executive Commission reminds all Presbyteries that stewardship is the mission priority of the denomination and instructs them to appoint Presbytery stewardship committees and should support them financially.

This was agreed by consensus.

MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP

4. The Executive Commission encourages Presbyteries and Congregations to identify candidates to develop through the OLM.
This was agreed by consensus.
5. The Executive Commission urges Presbyteries to maintain continuity in the appointment of Mission and Discipleship Conveners in order to maximise the value of the training the committee gives to conveners.
This was agreed by consensus.
6. The Executive Commission adopts the preaching programme and readings for the month of Mission and sets October as the Month of Mission.
This was agreed by consensus.
8. The Executive Commission assigns the task of determining Minimum Stipends, Travel Allowances and Pulpit Supply to the Ministry Committee.
This was agreed by consensus.
9. The Executive Commission adopts the recommended Minimum Stipends, Pulpit Supply and Travel Allowances for 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2020 as reflected in section 4.2 of the report.
This was agreed by consensus.
10. The Executive Commission encourages UPCSA members and congregations to support the work of the Leprosy Mission.
This was agreed by consensus.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

6. The Executive Commission encourages Presbyteries and Congregations to establish HWC.
This was agreed by consensus.
7. The Executive Commission adopts and supports the HWC slogan, "Health Today, Wellness Forever" for the health and wellbeing of UPCSA members.
This was agreed by consensus.
8. Refer the "adoption of the health and welfare banner" to the Committee because there was no banner provided.
This was agreed by consensus.

WORSHIP

2. The Executive Commission adopts the change to the rubric for the Licensing and Appointment of a Probationer as set out in the report.
This was agreed by consensus.
3. The Executive Commission agrees to replace the document Guidelines for conducting a Marriage with the document Directions and Guidelines for conducting a Marriage (Appendix A).
This was agreed by consensus.
4. The Executive Commission instructs the Presbytery of Zimbabwe and Synod of Zambia to submit their legal requirements for conducting marriages to the Worship Committee by February 2020.
This was agreed by consensus.

DOCTRINE

2. That the Executive Commission appreciates the unfolding terms of references as our guide for the Doctrine Committee.
This was agreed by consensus.
3. That the Executive Committee accepts the priority of gender, patriarchal issues and young people in our work as the Doctrine Committee.
This was agreed by consensus.
4. That the Executive Commission encourages ministers and our congregants to participate in the Baptism Survey.
This was agreed by consensus.
5. That the Executive Commission requests those ministers who are willing to assist the Committee to contact the Convener who is tasked to coordinate the Survey on Baptism by 31 December 2019.
This was agreed by consensus.

NOMINATIONS

Supplementary Report of Nominations Committee

Moderator and Commissioners, the Nominations Committee was approached to make the following changes to committees:

1. Mission and Discipleship - replace Zama Gebeda who suffers from ill-health with Melanie Cook.
2. Health and Wellness to include Rev. Victor Letuka who was co-opted by the Committee.
3. Priorities and Resources Committee, replace the Rev. Dr. David Mhlambeni with the Moderator of Presbytery of Zimbabwe, as Dr. Mhlambeni has resigned and add the name of Mrs. M. Piroe who was co-opted by the Committee for gender balance.

The following proposal was made:

1. The Executive Commission adopts the Policy on the Nomination and Appointment of Committees and Commissions of Assembly.

This was agreed by consensus.

MINISTERS EMERITI

1. The Executive Commission grants the Rev. Prof. GA Duncan the status of Minister Emeritus from 30th June 2019 and a seat on the Presbytery within whose bounds he may reside.

This was agreed by consensus.

2. The Executive Commission grants the Rev. A Cameron the status of Minister Emeritus from 31st March 2020 and a seat on the Presbytery within whose bounds he may reside.

This was agreed by consensus.

3. The Executive Commission grants the Rev. M Mohapi the status of Minister Emeritus from 31st December 2019 and a seat on the Presbytery within whose bounds he may reside.

This was agreed by consensus.

4. The Executive Commission grants the Rev. HL Kohler the status of Minister Emeritus from 31st December 2019 and a seat on the Presbytery within whose bounds he may reside.

This was agreed by consensus.

5. The Executive Commission grants the Rev. Dr AJ Spence the status of Minister Emeritus from 30th September 2019 and a seat on the Presbytery within whose bounds he may reside.

This was agreed by consensus.

6. The Executive Commission grants the Rev. EJ van Zyl the status of Minister Emeritus from 30th September 2019 and a seat on the Presbytery within whose bounds he may reside.

This was agreed by consensus.

7. The Executive Commission grants the Rev. *Rodney Brits* the status of Minister Emeritus from 31st May 2020 and a seat on the Presbytery within whose bounds he may reside.

This was agreed by consensus.

8. The Executive Commission grants the Rev. *Mario van Zyl* the status of Minister Emeritus from 31st December 2019 and a seat on the Presbytery within whose bounds he may reside.

This was agreed by consensus.

9. The Executive Commission grants the Rev. *Peter Fox* the status of Minister Emeritus from 31st December 2019 and a seat on the Presbytery within whose bounds he may reside.

This was agreed by consensus.

10. The Executive Commission agrees:

- a. to inform the Presbytery of eGoli about the outcome of the mediation process on the matter between the UPCSA and Prof. Wolmarans; and
- b. that the Presbytery of eGoli should make a recommendation on the granting of Minister Emeritus status to Prof Wolmarans at the 2020 General Assembly.

This was agreed by consensus.

STATEMENT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, CHILDREN AND FELLOW AFRICANS

The Rev Mtetwa presented a final draft of the statement.

UPCSA STATEMENT ON FEMICIDE, KILLING OF CHILDREN, AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN. CONFESSION AND PLEDGE

We, the UPCSA members, meeting as the Executive Commission of the General Assembly in Port Elizabeth from 23rd to 29th September 2019,

- recognising that our societies face growing crises of men committing femicide and killing children, and abusing women and children;
- understanding that the root cause of these crises emanates, in part, from our conduct as men in relation to women and children, in our homes, our workplaces and/or in society;
- acknowledging that we cannot continuously blame the history of colonisation and apartheid for dehumanising people, while contributing to the extraordinary levels of violence experienced in our societies today;
- acknowledging that by doing nothing, men are complicit in perpetuating violence against women and children, and in abusing human rights and the rights of our fellow Africans; and

- recommitting ourselves to the ideals of the reign of God and the constitutional values of human dignity, equality and freedom;

Hereby pledge to

- uphold, protect and defend the rights of women and children to safety, dignity, equality and freedom;
- conduct ourselves in our homes, our workplaces, churches and in society in a manner that demonstrates that women and children are deserving all the respect and fair treatment and are created in the image of God;
- speak out against and oppose any conduct within the UPCSA and beyond that perpetuates the objectification and oppression of women in any manner and the abuse of children;
- participate in initiating and executing programmes designed to reverse the scourge of violence by men against women and children;
- name and shame all those known to have abused their spouses, especially ministers as leaders in the UPCSA;
- encourage women and children to break the silence and report all cases of abuse;
- intercede in all our worship services on behalf of all those who suffer xenophobic and gender-based violence;
- confess our sin against God, against women and children, and against fellow Africans;
- repent and change from violence in all its manifestations;
- affirm those men who set a good example by promoting conviviality of life;
- advocate for peace, justice and integrity of all creation; and
- proclaim to all of humanity the love of God that is in Jesus Christ.

THE UPCSA STATEMENT ON THE RECENT XENOPHOBIC VIOLENCE AGAINST FELLOW AFRICANS

We, the UPCSA members, meeting as the Executive Commission of the General Assembly in Port Elizabeth from 23rd to 29th September 2019,

NOTING

- the saddening horrific wave of xenophobic violence, attacks and murders of fellow Africans, migrant workers and refugees occurring in Southern Africa (*including Zambia and South Africa*) and other parts of Africa;
- that increasing numbers of people live in multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-lingual societies;
- that in different places, people are forced to leave their home countries because of political, economic or social reasons in the hope of a better future for them and their families elsewhere; and
- the imperative to respect the human dignity of every migrant and give holistic consideration to their needs, their strengths and the economic, social and cultural contributions they make to society.

THEREFORE:

- We urge the governments, especially South Africa, to demonstrate leadership by bringing to an end this murderous cycle of violence and promote the observance of human rights and adherence to the standards and norms as enshrined in international human rights instruments.
- We call for the enforcement of the human-rights-based legal framework in order to prevent and redress human rights violations against migrants and for the promotion of training on migrants' rights and against xenophobia.
- We believe that South Africa can and should unambiguously promote security, political stability and broad-based economic development in the region, as well as to ensure a more equitable sharing of resources and delivery of services in the nation.
- We acknowledge the right of nations to maintain the sanctity and security of their borders.
- We further call on the government to take deliberate and practical steps to stem the tide of carnage, brutality and violence of any form.
- We declare that our churches and schools are safe places for the vulnerable groups.
- We will use our liturgies, catechesis and homilies to sensitize the perpetrators about the evils of xenophobic and gender-based violence.
- We call on the church to raise public awareness of human rights and enforcement of existing 'laws' without fear or favour, to ensure that perpetrators are brought to book.
- We encourage fellow Africans to break the silence on xenophobia and Afrophobia and report all cases of such abuse to the police.
- We recommit ourselves to the oneness of human life across the continent of Africa.

The following proposals were made:

1. The Executive Commission agrees to adopt the statement.

This was agreed by consensus.

2. The Executive Commission instructs the General Secretary to circulate the statement broadly.

This was agreed by consensus.

3. The Executive Commission authorises the General Secretary to speak on the statement. This was agreed by consensus.

ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator's chaplain the Rev Kim Brown closed the session in prayer. The Executive Commission adjourned at 10h04, for tea to meet at 10h30.

RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Scrutineers: G.C. Kelly (Robin) Convenor
Rev Patricia Phiri – Zambia

PRESBYTERY MINUTE BOOKS RECEIVED	COMMITTEE BOOKS RECEIVED
Amathole	Finance
Central Cape	Education and Training
Drakensburg	Mission and Discipleship
East Griqualand	
Highveld	
Lekoa	
Limpopo	
Thukela	
Tiyo Soga Memorial	
Tshwane	
Western Cape	

It is disappointing to note that despite numerous requests to do so 9 Presbyteries, 11 Committees and 2 Synods failed to present their minute books for scrutineering.

It is pleasing to see that in most cases the standard of minute keeping and minute books is taken seriously by clerks of presbyteries. What is disturbing is that the scrutineers reports in the minute books are being ignored and the same errors and omissions occur year after year. The records committee is of the opinion that clerks of presbyteries should read the scrutineers report to the full Presbytery meeting after General Assembly or Executive Commission.

Clerks should be encouraged to read the Manual of Faith and Order to acquaint themselves with the various sections of the Manual pertaining to record keeping.

The following is a list of the main errors and omissions:

1. Pages of minute books must be numbered.
2. Pages pasted into a book should be initialled across the edge of the page, preferably top and bottom.
3. Apologies are not sustained.
4. Minutes of previous meetings need to be proposed and seconded before they are adopted.
5. All proposals need to be seconded before they are approved or rejected.
6. Signatures of Moderator or Clerk are missing.
7. Date of the next meeting not included in minutes.
8. Not all presbytery meetings are opened with devotions.

There are other omissions that are of concern. Minutes are legal documents and need to be complete:

- a. In order to account for the full roll of members and commissioners apart from present apologies, an item 'absent without apology' should be included to account for those absent.
- b. Presbyteries have Financial Committees who report regularly at meetings but few Presbyteries record the receipt and approval of Annual Financial Statements.
- c. Presbyteries call for special meetings for the induction or licensing of ministers and probationers. In some instances, no minutes of the special meetings are in the minute book and in many instances the signed "Declaration of Vows" are not in the minute book immediately after the minutes.
- d. Most Presbyteries do not report on the attestation of congregational minutes books. It is difficult to determine if all Presbyteries have Rolls & Records Committees.
- e. Many Presbyteries do not record the Roll of Commissions at their meeting after General Assembly.
- f. Many Presbyteries do not record the election of Conveners of the various Church Committees.
- g. If a Presbytery has an Executive (or Executive Commission) minutes of the Commission cannot be approved at an ordinary meeting of Presbytery, this approval must be done at the next meeting of the Executive. Minutes of the Executive are simply 'noted' in the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Presbytery. If the Executive is given power to make decisions, must be ratified at an ordinary meeting of Presbytery.
- h. Presbyteries should discuss the comments made by Records Committee and encourage the Clerk to follow the recommendations made.
- i. Clerks should be encouraged to acquaint themselves with Manual of Faith and Order and in particular the sections relating to record keeping:
10.63 – 10.76; 14.1 – 14.2; 7.84 – 7.87;
Appendix D(4) Rules for record keeping
D(8) Minutes of Ordinary meetings of Presbytery
D(9) Minutes of Special meetings of Presbytery
D(10) Minutes of Presbytery sitting as a Council in the cases of Discipline

D(11) Minutes of Presbytery sitting as a Court in cases of Discipline

Presbyteries are encouraged to try the consensus form of procedure at meetings in place of the Westminster form of procedure that is still used by many presbyteries. The consensus form is used at General Assembly and Executive Commission.

**GC KELLY
CONVENER**

PROPOSALS

1. The Executive receives the report.
This was agreed by consensus.
2. The Executive commends those Presbyteries and Committees for bringing the Minute Books to the 2019 Executive Commission.
This was agreed by consensus.
3. The Executive encourages those Presbyteries and Committees to make arrangements to deliver their Minute Books to Central Office where attestation can take place.
This was agreed by consensus.
4. The Executive encourages Clerks to note the comments made by the Records Committee and to read comments to the full meeting of Presbytery.
This was agreed by consensus.
5. The Executive encourages clerks to read the various sections of the Manual of Faith and order on record keeping.
This was agreed by consensus.
6. The Executive encourages presbyteries to adopt the consensus form of procedure at their meetings.
This was agreed by consensus.
7. The Executive reminds Presbytery Clerks and Committee Conveners that their Minute Books are to be submitted annually.
This was agreed by consensus.

ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator's chaplain, the Rev. Kim Brown closed the session in prayer.
The Executive Commission adjourned at 10h04, for tea to meet at 10h30.

THIRTEENTH SESSION

At Greenacres Presbyterian Church, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of Central Cape Presbytery, on Thursday 26th September 2019, 10h30, the Ministers and Elders as Commissioners of the Executive Commission of General Assembly appointed to meet this day reconvened.

VALEDICTORY SERVICE

The Clerk of Assembly called the Executive Commission to worship. The Moderator's procession entered the sanctuary.

The Moderator's Chaplain the Rev Kim Brown greeted and welcomed all in the service. She then led the Executive Commission in prayer.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

The following scripture readings were read:

Old Testament: 1Kings 3:5-12

Epistle: Romans 8:31-39

Gospel Matthew 13:31-35

The Moderator preached on the following theme: "Live your Legacy"

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer.

PRESENTATION OF THE RETIRED MINISTERS NARRATIVE TRIBUTES

All tributes, in the summarised version were read by the Moderator's chaplains

1. The Rev Prof Dr Graham Duncan
2. The Rev Z Alan Cameroon
3. The Rev Mantsi Mohapi
4. The Rev. HL Kohler
5. The Rev. Dr AJ Spence
6. The Rev. EJ van Zyl

7. The Rev. Rodney Brits
8. The Rev. Mario van Zyl
9. The Rev. Peter Fox

The Moderator led the Executive Commission in prayer.

PLAQUE PRESENTATION

The Moderator presented all the retiring ministers with a plaque. Moderator then addressed the Executive Commission, asking the Ministers who were not retiring to stand and renew their vows, which they did.

The Moderator's Chaplain the Rev Kim Brown prayed the prayers of intercession.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Local Organising Committee Convener made announcements on the logistic arrangements, including the details of the events up to Sunday the 29th September 2019.

The Moderator of Assembly reminded the commissioners that all the events that were to follow were the business of the Executive Commission and, therefore, commissioners as representatives of the Executive Commission were expected to attend.

The Moderator closed the service with benediction

ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator announced that the Executive Commission was adjourned to reconvene at Nangoza Jebe Hall for the constitution of the Associations Conferences/AGMs at 14:30.

The Moderator's procession left the sanctuary.

SERVICE TO CONSTITUTE THE LAST CONFERENCES/AGMs OF THE CHURCH ASSOCIATIONS

At Nangoza Jebe Hall, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of Central Cape Presbytery, on Thursday 26th September 2019, 14h30, the Ministers and Elders as Commissioners of the Executive Commission of General Assembly appointed to meet this day reconvened and were joined by Associations' Executive Committees members and Presbytery Presidents of the Associations, ministers of the UPCSA, and ecumenical guests.

Gathering Service

The Clerk of Assembly called the congregation to worship.

The Moderator's procession entered the hall.
The Moderator greeted and welcomed all in the service.
The Moderator invited the Associations Convener to lead the service.

Service of the Word

The following scripture readings were read:
Old Testament: Jeremiah 29:10-14
Epistle: Ephesians 2:11-22, 4:1-6

The Convener of GAWGA, the Rev Prof. Dr. Jerry Pillay preached.
The Moderator led the congregation in prayer and, thereafter, declared the Conferences/AGMs of the Associations duly constituted.

Announcements

Announcements were made on where the different associations would meet.

Adjournment

The Moderator closed the service with prayer and the benediction at 16h00.

The Executive Commission adjourned to meet again at the Nangoza Jebe Hall, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of the Central Cape Presbytery on Friday 27 September 2019, at 08:30.

SERVICE TO ESTABLISH NEW FELLOWSHIPS AND CONSTITUTE THEIR FIRST MEETINGS

At the Nangoza Jebe Hall, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of Central Cape Presbytery, on Friday 27th September 2019, the Ministers and Elders as Commissioners of the Executive Commission of General Assembly appointed to

meet this day reconvened and were joined by Task Teams, ministers of the UPCSA, and ecumenical guests.

Worship

The CAC Convener, the Rev Sibusiso Zungu led the service.

Prayer of Illumination and Reading of the Word

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev Kim Brown led the Executive Commission in prayer of Illumination. The following scriptures were read:

Old Testament: Isaiah 44:6-8

Epistle: Romans 8:14-17

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30

The Service of the Word/The Moderator's Address

The Moderator delivered his address.

Holy Communion

The Moderator led the congregation in the celebration of Holy Communion.

Formal Dissolution of the Associations

The Moderator announced that the associations were dissolved officially. He invited the members who were chosen by the Associations to hand over the symbols as a sign of the "old is gone". Those included banners and badges.

Establishment of the Five New Fellowships

The Moderator announced that the five new Fellowships were established and they are:

Fellowship of Men

Fellowship of Women

Fellowship of Young Women

Fellowship of Youth

Fellowship of Church Choirs and Musicians

The occasion was marked by members exchanging some items of uniform, including jackets and hats.

The Moderator handed over to each of the five Fellowships the following new symbols:

- Bible
- Copy of the constitution of the Fellowships
- Banner

The Moderator requested all the ministers to stand and pledge their support to the work of the new Fellowships, which they did.

The Moderator declared the first meetings of the new Fellowships duly constituted.

The keynote speaker was the Rev Prof Allan Boesak.

Announcements

The following announcements were made:

The first meetings of all the Fellowships would be held jointly at Nangoza Jebe Hall.

The celebrations would start at Nangoza Jebe Hall on Friday 27th September 2019 at 14:30.

The festivities on Saturday would take place at the Isaac Wolfson Stadium at 09:00.

Adjournment

The Moderator closed the service with prayer and the benediction

The Executive Commission adjourned to meet again at Nangoza Jebe Hall Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of the Central Cape Presbytery on Sunday the 29th September 08:30.

UPCSA 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

At the Isaac Wolfson Stadium, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of Central Cape Presbytery, on Saturday 28th September 2019, the members of the UPCSA met for the celebrations of the UPCSA's 20th anniversary.

Opening Prayer

The Moderator of the Central Cape Presbytery, the Rev Andile George opened the celebrations in prayer.

Program for celebrations followed, with the following highlights:

All the Presbytery made their shows as the roll was called.

The Speaker of the Nelson Mandela Metro welcomed the UPCSA to the Metro.

The family of the late Rev John Knox Bokwe conveyed their greetings and shared some moments of the Rev. Bokwe's life and ministry.

The Ecumenical partners conveyed greetings.

The General Secretary read the UPCSA statement on Violence Against Women, Children and Fellow Africans.

Thereafter, with all joining hands, the Moderator prayed.
The Moderator gave the keynote address to the UPCSA.
The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly presented to the representatives of all the Presbyteries certificates of honour for all the UPCSA ministers for their contribution to the ministry of the UPCSA over the last twenty years.
The Rev Vuyo Mbaru, on behalf of Church in Society Committee, introduced a community outreach project that was organised by the Fellowship of Women (uniforms to school children and the recipients would come from all the congregations within the Presbytery of Central Cape).
Entertainment items were rendered by various groups.
The Rev Dr Christopher Mkandawire passed the vote of thanks and prayed.
The Moderator closed the festivities with benediction.

THE REVIVAL SERVICE

At the Nangoza Jebe Hall, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of Central Cape Presbytery, on Saturday 28th September 2019, the members of the UPCSA met for the revival service at 21:00

The service was led by the Rev Dr Wonke Buqa.
The scripture reading was taken from Joshua 23 and the text was on verse 8: "But you are to hold fast to the Lord your God, as you have until now."
The service was closed on Sunday morning at 01:30.

CLOSING SERVICE

At the Nangoza Jebe Hall, Port Elizabeth, within the bounds of Central Cape Presbytery, on Sunday 29th September 2019, the Ministers and Elders as Commissioners of the Executive Commission of General Assembly appointed to meet this day reconvened and were joined by ministers of the UPCSA, and ecumenical guests.

The Clerk of Assembly made a call to worship and the Moderator's procession entered the hall.

The Moderator's Chaplains, Rev Tony Robinson and Rev Kim Brown led the service interchangeably. They invited other ministers to participate in the liturgy.

Scripture Readings:

The following scripture readings were read:

Old Testament: Isaiah 65: 12 – 25
Gospel Matthew 18:1 - 5

Sermon

The General Secretary of the Council for World Mission, the Rev Dr Colin Cowan preached.

Holy Communion

The Moderator assisted by ministers dispensed the Holy Communion.

The Moderator declared that the Executive Commission was adjourned and that the General Assembly would meet within the bounds of the Presbytery of Drakensberg in June 2020.

The Moderator pronounced benediction and his procession exited the hall.

CONFIRMED this _____ day of _____ 2019

MODERATOR

CLERK