

GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECISIONS AFFECTING MINISTERS AND CONGREGATIONS – 2021

1. The General Assembly instructs the Presbyteries and Fellowships to
 - a. give attention to planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting in line with the strategic plan of the UPCSA; and
 - b. submit their plans to the office of the General Secretary by the *end of February 2022*.

2. The General Assembly
 - a. adopts the report on patriarchy and unequal gender relations in the UPCSA;
 - b. concedes the urgent need for equal representation in all church councils;
 - c. Instructs the ABC to work with the Gender Desk before the General Assembly/Executive Commission in ensuring equal representation; and
 - d. instructs the Clerk of Assembly to send the report down to congregations for information and action.

3. The General Assembly
 - a. notes the development of a resource for Bible study by women in the church on women of the Bible; and
 - b. instructs all presbyteries and congregations to avail themselves of this resource in its draft form and to promote its use by their women, providing feedback for improvements to the Women’s Consultation and its Resource Team.

4. The General Assembly instructs all councils in the church to read this report and develop a system to achieve equal representation in church leadership, reciprocity, and mutual partnership with immediate effect.

5. The General Assembly encourages all councils and fellowships to create spaces that allow the perpetrators of gender-based violence in the structures of the church (local church, Presbytery and GA) to confess and the victims to speak out, so that there could be healing and reconciliation.

6. The General Assembly instructs the ministers in the UPCSA congregations to, regularly, facilitate discussions and update on the life and work of the Youth Desk in all the levels of the denomination.

7. The General Assembly resolves that the Finance Committee should NOT approve any applications for assessment relief unless