

TO ALL IN THE UPCSA,

MEMORIAL SERVICE GLEN CRAIG

Dear Family, Friends, Esteemed Office Bearers and Colleagues in the UPCSA and the wider Church.

As many of you have heard, the Rev Glen Craig passed away on 8 May at the age of almost 86 this month, after being in heart failure for well over a year. Glen was a past Moderator of the PCSA, beloved pastor of Fish Hoek, Ladysmith, Trinity Grahamstown, Fort Beaufort, Adelaide, Port Alfred (as I.M.) and Salem congregations. Recently he assisted the Methodist Church in caring for a number of congregations in the Salem Circuit.

Four years ago, Glen and Jeanette Craig sat with Brenda and I and asked me to facilitate their funerals. Their concern was that while they understood the tradition of the church that the Presbytery and Assembly Office Bearers often take a prominent role in the arrangements of a minister's funeral, they were concerned that they wanted their family to be the focus of pastoral care and that their needs and wishes be of primary importance. While they did not in any way want to disrespect the wider church, they both wanted to have a simple service that was not too long or complex and that comfort for the family and God's glory would be the focus.

In line with Glen and the family's wishes, there will only be one memorial service which will be at 11h00 on Sat 13 May and it will be held at Port Alfred Presbyterian (which was planted by Glen and the late Rev Edwin Pons) and that it be facilitated by the local minister, the Rev Christel Erasmus and myself. The practical constraint is that the church seats a maximum of 200 people. So, while we appreciate that many people would like to attend the service, it is going to be a challenge. To mitigate this we will record the service and make it available online. We contemplated live-stream, but the severity of load-shedding will make this almost impossible. We will endeavour to have the service recorded and published on the same day and send the link far and wide.

Another reality is that if everyone who wanted to say something about Glen's life were given a chance to speak, the service would probably last all day.

We are, however, very aware that many people have beautiful memories to share and so we have created an email address RememberingGlenCraig@gmail.com and we would invite you to send your memories and tributes to this address. After the service we will compile all the memories into a memorial book that we can print for the family.

The family would like to express their appreciation for the love and care that has already been shown and are grateful for the prayers and support of so many. We do hope that all will understand and recognise Glen's wishes that the family be the focus in this time of loss.

Yours in Christ,
Theo Groeneveld.