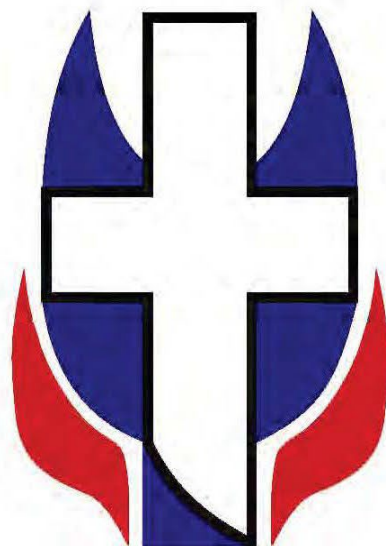


THE UNITING
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA



NEC TAMEN CONSUMEBATUR

**SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS
FOR THE 15TH GENERAL
ASSEMBLY 2023**

**HARARE, ZIMBABWE AND HYBRID
VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM
24 - 30 June 2023**

THEME: "STRONGER TOGETHER"

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ROLL OF COMMISSIONER TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

Report to the General Assembly 2023

First Name /Surname	M/F
Ex Officio	
The Rt Rev Lydia C Neshangwe	F
The Rev Sipho Mtetwa	M
The Rev Dr Lungile Mpetsheni	M
The Rev WV Mkhungo	M
The Rev Melanie I Cook	F
Mr Ryan Johnson	M
Amathole Ministers	
Mvuyo Dick	M
Mzwabantu Christopher Jibilili	M
Siviwe Ngam	M
Yolisa Mlalandle	F
Neziswa Elenor Ngogela	F
John Mzanywa Mpongoshe	M
Mark Langston	M
Allan Nyoni	M
Elders	
Asanda Mjobo	F
Thembisile Tembani	M
Siyanda Mqalo	M
Zubakazi Njemla-Dibela	F
Ayanda Oliphant	M
Vuyolwethu Mndawo	F
Linda Bovana	F
Siyabulela Dukashe	M
Alternates	
A van Blydenstein	
L Dick	
BZ Mkentane	
MM Khetsi	
ND Mpahlwa	
N Kula	
Z Moses	
SP Sam	
L Mdingi	
S Mpengu	
S Cockroft	
DA Arthur-Boateng	
G Fihla	
W Mdlungu	
N Mpambani	
CN Ndudula	
Central Cape Ministers	
Rev Sandiso Njeza	M
Rev Armando Sontange	M
Rev Zukisani Sotashe	M
Rev Christel Erasmus	F
Rev Boitumelo Gaborone	F
Rev Nzimane Jita	M
Rev Isak Williams	M
Elders	
Miss Phumla Mngxilo	F
Miss Thandiwe Danster	F
Mr Zola Gebeda	M
Mrs Nomathemba Qabaka	F

Mr Vusumzi Mazimela	M
Mr Zandisile Magogo	F
Elder Pamela Njobe	F
Alternates	
Rex X Mashibini	M
Rev N Khalipa	M
Rev A George	M
Mr Solomzi Shayi	M
Elder M Mange	
Copperbelt Ministers	
Rev Richard Mkandawire	M
Rev Amos Nyirenda	M
Elders	
Mr Jeremiah Ndlovu	M
Mr Nondo Zombe	M
Democratic Republic of Congo Ministers	
Rev Dr Alain Zibondo	M
Drakensberg Ministers	
Bhengu, Nicholas	M
Madlala Nozinhle	F
Tati Nonyamezela	F
Elders	
Ngubane Moses	M
Majozi Lucky	M
Stuurman Mvikelu	M
Ministers Alternates	
Mabaso Innocent	M
Ndawonde Nobuhle	F
Sokhela Lindani	M
Elders Alternates	
Magoso Mzwandile	M
Khonyane Elsie	F
Zuma Ntombikhona	F
East Griqualand Ministers	
Rev Shona van der Lingen	F
Rev Luyanda J Ruka	M
Elders	
Elder N Xhelithole	F
Elder P Nonkonyana	F
Alternates	
Rev XP Mlotshwa	F
Rev JV Mdlalose	M
Elder L Mondli	M
Elder WD Linga	M
eGoli Ministers	
Barker, Jacqueline	F
Nopapaza, Thembinkosi	M
Buqa, Wonke	M
Letsheleha, Tieho	M
Lock, Gavin	M
Petersen, Heidi	F
Elders	
Dinake, Lucky	M
Manaka, Kobela	F
Masekela, Sarah	F
Mtwa, Sisa	M

Steynberg, Vernon	M
Stopforth, Eddie	F
Alternates	
Gordon, John	M
Xhinti, Sandisele	M
Mntambo, Senelisiwe	F
Mphuthi, Selby	M
Mathabatha, Golebilwe	M
Highveld Ministers	
Rev Ziphilile Lubambo	M
Rev Nelson Manabile	M
Elders	
Elder Tom Borrill	M
Elder Evam Tsotetsi	F
Alternates	
Rev Fezeka Jobela	F
Rev Malinge Njeza	M
Elder Kefiloe Masiteng	F
Elder Loraine Kubeka	F
Lekoa Ministers	
Rev Robert Thema	M
Rev Nomonde Mkencele	F
Rev Xolelwa Kobese	F
Rev Tsholofelo Sello	F
Elders	
Meissie E Mokena	F
Tshepo Mafisa	M
Tefo Khunong	M
Prince Dibate	M
Limpopo Ministers	
Rev Awedzani Nemaikhwe	M
Rev L Dikobe Molaba	M
Rev Issau Pandelani	M
Elders	
Elder Sarah S Dikgale	F
Elder Mokgadi Modiba	F
Elder Tutu Poopedi	F
Alternates	
Rev Mary Anne Molifi	F
Rev Seani Mavhina	F
Rev Mukundi Maselesele	M
Elder Khensani B Matumba	F
Elder M Irene Mukwevho	F
Elder H Mafora Maboja	M
M'chinga Ministers	
Rev Edward Chirwa	M
Rev Jennie Nyirongo Moyo	F
Elders	
Elder Jessy Phiri Chambeshi	F
Ms Rhoda Manda Mtande	F
Alternates	
Rev. James Lungu	M
Rev. Sonye Banda	M
Elder Morton Nyirenda	M
Mr Benson Njobvu	M
Mthatha Ministers	

Rev Lulama M Mshumpela	M
Rev Dr Victor S Letuka	M
Rev Nkululeko Nojoko	M
Rev Mthobi H Jita	M
Elders	
Mr Joseph Magekeni	M
Adv L.D Halam	M
Ms Nonkanyiso Ngeleni	F
Ms Nomtandazo .S Tukayi	F
Alternates	
Rev T.Nkululo Jonga	M
Rev Bulelani Thupha	M
Ms Nambitha Msomi-Jita	F
Mr Sandile M Boyce	M
Munali Ministers	
Rev Kennedy M'hone	M
Rev Judith Mkandawire	F
Elders	
Ms Anna Chulu	F
Mr Mathew Mkandawire	M
Alternates	
Rev Allan Mchulu	M
Rev Patricia Phiri	F
Mrs Monica Ngulube	F
Mr Lazarus Nyirongo	M
Thekwini Ministers	
Rev Dr Amon Kasambala	M
Rev Matemba Tati	M
Rev Mthokozisi Hlela	M
Elders	
Mrs Valmai du Toit	F
Mr Aaron Nhlabathi	M
Dr William Mngoma	M
Alternates	
Rev Brett Williams	M
Ms Dr Nomzi Zibi-Hlophe	F
Mr David Humphrey	M
Rev Sibusiso Zungu	M
Thukela Ministers	
Rev Thamsanqa Memela	M
Rev Andile Nyawo	M
Rev Asanda Hlongwe	M
Elders	
Elder Nompumelelo Vanessa Mthembu	F
Elder Sphephelo Mhlongo	
Elder Matandi Mbhense	
Alternates	
Rev Nobuhle Mbatha	F
Rev Sthembiso Ndlela	M
Elder Mkhonzeni Ntuli	
Elder Khanyisile Ngubane	
Elder Fikile	
Tiyo Soga Memorial Ministers	
Rev Xola Mluma	M
Rev Sibusiso Gwala	M
Rev Thabo Noti	M
Rev Chumisa Makalima	F

Elders	
Elder Nomsa Ndiki	F
Elder TR Mzendana	
Elder FI Qithini	
Elder T Mbandazayo	M
Alternates	
Rev Bongani Mshumpela	M
Rev Ndimpiwe Qupuna	M
Rev Zamani Maqoko	M
Elder VM Qwabe	
Elder P Mdleleni	
Elder N Mangele	
Rev Peter Mpeke	M
Trans Xhariep Ministers	
Rev Charles M.M Letseleha	M
Rev Thembazana Ngalwana	F
Rev Zukiswa Klaas	F
Rev Gregory Howse	M
Rev Sello Mamabolo	M
Elders	
Mr Lewatle J Ramokopu	
Mr Tau A Nkitseng	M
Mrs Mercy L Taaibos	F
Ms Nonzengo. Cekiso	F
Mr M.G Mosime	M
Alternates	
Rev Simon M Matli	M
Rev Stephen L Seoe	M
Rev Jaques Murphy	M
Rev Celani Mbele	M
Rev Mncedisi Ngqungwana	M
Mrs Nolly Vellem	F
Ms Bridgette Kelebogile Gaborone	F
Mr T.Danny Kole	M
Mrs S.Nomafu Manyana-Chiro	F
Mrs Moroa Serathi	F
Tshwane Ministers	
Rev. Graham Fryer	M
Rev Matshidiso Piroe	F
Rev Patrick Nyawuza	M
Rev Sisanda Mpafi	M
Rev Sharon Nomasonto Simelane	F
Elders	
Elder Kgomotso Kgwale	F
Elder Thabo Masete	M
Elder Nonceba Mashalaba	F
Elder Peter Silwimba	M
Alternates	
Rev Frikkie Botha	M
Rev Wayne van Heerden	M
Elder Harry Bopape	M
Elder Norma Maja	F
Western Cape Ministers	
The Rev Douglas Bower	M
The Rev Colin Campbell	M
The Rev Natalie Gordon	F
The Rev Unathi Ntseke	F
The Rev Bongiwe Ngebulana	F

The Rev Glynis Goyns	F
The Rev Mike Muller	M
The Rev Douglas Bax	M
The Rev John Comninos	M
The Rev Bonisile Mdyesha	M
ELDERS	
Mrs Lillian Hiedeman	F
Mr Eddie Nielsen	M
Mr Sakhele Plaatjie	M
Mr Malibongwe Gwele	M
Mr Gary Thompson	M
Mrs Beauty Ndzima-Tyobile	F
Mrs Buyiswa Maqubela	F
Mrs Gladys Mbongu	F
Ms Thulani Nayo	F
Zimbabwe	
Ministers	
Miriam Musengezi Masaraure	F
Tatenda Garande	M
Garikai Gwangwava	M
Talkmore Chilanga	M
Gleness M Magovere	F
Anna Banda	F
Elders	
Joseph Chirara	M
Fannie Mkorongo	F
Gibson Bulazo	M
Onifaro Mususa	M
Henry Chivhanga	M
Sheilah Yesaya	F
Alternates	
Rev Dephine Murove	F
Rev Norest Ajapa	M
Partson Samu	M
Estery Dewa Pangwana	F
SYNOD OF ZAMBIA	
Ministers	
Rev Thompson Mkandawire	M
Rev Sauros Phaika	M
Elders	
Mr Lawrence Makani	M
Mr Tronie Nyirenda	M

INSAKA GROUPS FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023
Report to the General Assembly 2023

Group One

The Rev Douglas Bower (Facilitator)	M
Rev Mvuyo Dick	M
Linda Bovana	F
Miss Zandisile Magogo	F
Elder P Nonkonyana	F
Elder Tom Borrill	M
Elder Tutu Poopedi	F
Rev Edward Chirwa	M
Rev Sibusiso Gwala	M
Mrs Gladys Mbongu	F
Rev Tatenda Garande	M

Group Two

Rev Colin Campbell (Facilitator)	M
Rev Mzwabantu Chris Jibilili	M
Siyabulela Dukashe	M
Elder Pamela Njobe	F
Elder Evam Tsotetsi	F
Elder Mokgadi Modiba	F
Rev Jennie Nyirongo Moyo	F
Adv L.D Halam	M
Rev Xola Mluma	M
Rev Barker, Jacqueline	F
Mrs Buyiswa Maqubela	F
Rev Garikai Gwangwava	M

Group Three

Rev Richard Mkandawire (Facilitator)	M
Rev Siviwe Ngam	M
Rev Sandiso Njeza	M
Rev Nopapaza Thembinkosi	M
Rev Robert Thema	M
Ms Nonkanyiso Ngeleni	F
Elder T Mbandazayo	M
Mr M.G Mosime	M
The Rev Natalie Gordon	F
Mrs Lillian Hiedeman	F
Sheilah Yesaya	F

Group Four

Mr Henry Chivhanga (Facilitator)	M
Rev Yolisa Mlalandle	F
Rev Armando Sontange	M
Mr Jeremiah Ndlovu	M
Rev Nomonde Mkencele	F
Ms Nomtandazo S Tukayi	F
Rev Sello Mamabolo	M
Elder FI Qithini	
Mr Eddie Nielsen	M
Rev Dr Wonke Buqa	M

Group Five

Rev Letsheleha, Tieho (Facilitator)	M
Ms Anna Chulu	F
Rev Neziswa Elenor Ngogela	F
Rev Zukisani Sotashe	M
Rev Dr Alain Zibondo	M
Rev Xolelwa Kobese	F
Elder TR Mzendana	
Ms Nonzengo. Cekiso	F
Elder Peter Silwimba	M
Mr Sakhele Plaatjie	M
Rev Mirriam Musengezi Masaraure	F

Group Six

Elder Nonceba Mashalaba (Facilitator)	F
Rev John Mzanywa Mpongoshe	M
Rev Christel Erasmus	F
Rev Bhengu, Nicholas	M
Rev Lock, Gavin	M
Rev Tsholofelo Sello	F
Mrs Jessie Phiri	F
Elder Matandi Mbhense	
Elder Nomsa Ndiki	F
Mrs Mercia L Taaibos	F
Mr Malibongwe Gwele	M
Rev Talkmore Chilanga	M

Group Seven

Rev Gregory Howse (Facilitator)	M
Rev Mark Langston	M
Rev Boitumelo Gaborone	F
Rev Madlala Nozinhle	F
Dinake, Lucky	M
Meissie E Mokena	F
Mr Mathew Mkandawire	M
Elder Sphephelo Mhlongo	
Rev Thabo Noti	M
Elder Thabo Masete	M
The Rev Bonisile Mdyesha	M

Group Eight

Mr Lewatle J Ramokopu (Facilitator)	M
Rev Allan Nyoni	M
Rev Nzimane Jita	M
Rev Nonyamezela C Tati	F
Rev Petersen, Heidi	F
Tshepo Mafisa	M
Rev Jennie Nyirongo Moyo	F
Mrs Valmai du Toit	F
Ms Nompumelelo V Mthembu	F
Elder Kgomotso Kgwale	F
Onifaro Mususa	M
Mrs Beauty Ndzima-Tyobile	F
Rev Gleness M Magovere	F

Group Nine

Ms Rhoda Manda Mtande (Facilitator)	F
Asanda Mjobo	F
Rev Isak Williams	M
Mr Moses Ngubane	M
Manaka, Kobela	F
Tefo Khunong	M
Rev Dr Amon Kasambala	M
Rev Asanda Hlongwe	M
Rev Chumisa Makalima	F
Rev. Graham Fryer	M
Mr Tau A Nkitseng	M
The Rev John Comninos	M
Ms Thulani Nayo	F

Group Ten

Rev Matshidiso Piroe (Facilitator)	F
Thembisile Tembani	M
Miss Phumla Mngxilo	F
Majozi Lucky	M
Masekela, Sarah	F
Prince Dibate	M
Rev Lulama M Mshumpela	M
Rev Matemba Tati	M
Rev Charles M.M Letseleha	M
The Rev Unathi Ntseke	F

Group Eleven

Mr Sisa Mtwla (Facilitator)	M
Siyanda Mqalo	M
Miss Thandiwe Danster	F
Stuurman Mvikeli	M
Rev Dr Victor Letuka	M
Rev Awedzani Nemaunkwe	M
Rev Mthokozisi Hlela	M
Rev Andile Nyawo	M
Rev Patrick Nyawuza	M
Rev Bongwiwe Ngebulana	F
Mr Gary Thompson	M
Joseph Chirara	M

Group Twelve

Mr Zola Gebeda (Facilitator)	M
Zubakazi Njemla-Dibela	F
Rev Shona van der Lingen	F
Rev Zipilile Lubambo	M
Rev Dikobe Molaba	M
Rev Nkululeko Nojoko	M
Mr Aaron Nhlabathi	M
Rev Sharon N Simelane	F
The Rev Douglas Bax	M
Gibson Bulazo	M

Group Thirteen

The Rev Glynis Goyns (Facilitator)	F
Ayanda Oliphant	M
Mrs Nomathemba Qabaka	F
Rev Luyanda J Ruka	M
Steynberg, Vernon	M
Rev Nelson Manabile	M
Rev Issau Pandelani	M
Rev Mthobi H Jita	M
Mr Joseph Masekeni	M
Rev Thembazana Ngalwana	F
Fannie Mkorongo	F

Group Fourteen

Dr William Mngoma (Facilitator)	M
Vuyolwethu Mndawo	F
Mr Vusumzi Mazimela	M
Ms Ntombivelle Xhelithole	F
Stopforth, Eddie	F
Elder Sarah S Dikgale	F
Rev Mthobi H Jita	M
Rev Thamsanqa Memela	M
Rev Zukiswa Klaas	F
The Rev Mike Muller	M
Mr Malibongwe Gwele	M
Rev Anna Banda	F

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE HYBRID 2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

MEMBERSHIP:

The following are the members of the Assembly Business Committee (ABC):

Revs, MI Cook (Convener), Siphon Mtetwa (Moderator) L Neshangwe, (Moderator Designate) Dr. Lungile Mpetsheni (General Secretary), Vusi Mkhungo (Clerk of Assembly), Z Makalima, D Nanyane, and Ms' E Poto, and Y Faba.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The following are the terms of reference for the ABC:

- a) To organise meetings of the General Assembly and Executive Commission.
- b) To draw the agenda for the General Assembly and the Executive Commission.
- c) Formulate the Standing Orders of the General Assembly and the Executive Commission.
- d) Taking responsibility for conducting the business of the General Assembly and Executive Commission.
- e) Ensure communication and implementation of decisions of General Assembly and Executive Commission.
- f) Attend to matters that may arise between the sitting of General Assembly and Executive Commission.
- g) Ensure the preservation of the UPCSA's organizational memory (Repository) as drawn from the decisions of the General Assembly and Executive Commission.

► The committee did review these TOR's and felt that they were adequate in terms of their scope and detail.

SET GOALS FOR THE ABC 2022- 2023

- To support and monitor the preparations for the General Assembly 2023 in Harare, Zimbabwe and to begin preparations for the Executive Commission 2024 which is to be hosted by Central Office.
- To prepare for the virtual nature of the General Assembly, including the Committee Conveners and Commissioners.
- To distribute the papers of Executive Commission 2022 and ensure implementation of its decisions, through Committees of GA, Presbyteries and congregations.
- To ensure that there was support offered to the Moderator and his team during the period between Executive Commission 2022 and General Assembly 2023.
- To assist the Moderator Designate with preparations for the upcoming General Assembly.
- To Monitor and Evaluate the UPCSA strategic plan with P&R committee.
- To build a virtual repository of all the past decisions taken by the General Assembly and Executive Commissions.

HOSTING OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Early in 2022 the committee received an invitation from the Presbytery of Zimbabwe to host the next General Assembly 2023, and it was agreed by the committee that this was in order, as the Moderator Designate, that would be inducted would be from Zimbabwe. It was also noted that it had been some time since the UPCSA council had visited Zimbabwe.

ORIENTATION (DRY RUNS & PROCEDURES)

The Orientation booklet and the Zoom Etiquette document was sent out to all commissioners, which outlines the meeting format of the GA as a church council online. We encouraged all commissioners to familiarize themselves with the new way we are meeting, and the etiquette of using a digital platform. Usually, the ABC would hold an orientation the day before the Assembly sat, but because we are meeting virtually, we undertook to set 3 online meetings which were called "Dry Runs". We attempted to make sure everyone was able to create a Zoom account, register for the General Assembly, and become familiar as to how the sessions would look and feel. We also talked through the appropriate etiquette on this platform, as well as ensuring the commissioners had the

correct UPCS background. We also did a test run of the Widget that was created at a previous General Assembly, in order for commissioners to show their cards (orange or blue) while building consensus, further we also talked through how commissioners would be able to indicate if they wanted to speak using the widget. We were determined to make this sitting of the General Assembly a success, which meant that each and every commissioner was important to us, and their ability to participate was pivotal.

We have 14 Insaka groups that have been created for the General Assembly, each with around 11 participants, selected randomly. Each Insaka group has a facilitator and a scribe that have been elected from the group.

This meeting will use the Westminster model of decision making during the first Executive session and then the rest shall be under the Consensus decision making Model. We wish to encourage all commissioners to ensure that they attend all the sessions of the consensus model namely the **Listening Session**, the **Insaka Session** and the **Decision Session**.

All the proceedings of this General Assembly shall be recorded and stored on the UPCS's created cloud-based repository; this is in standing with the 2018 General Assembly decision.

Each day will start and end with Devotions, as we centre ourselves in God's presence and Spirit, these are of vital importance as we embark on making good and sound decisions about the work and future of the denomination, and its presence in the world.

ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA

The preliminary Draft agenda was sent to all commissioners with the General Assembly papers. You will note that the agenda has some major differences compared to previous agendas, as we are using the new cluster model with the committees of General Assembly. The reports are now being given in accordance with the cluster that the committee is a member. We are hoping that this will make it easier for commissioners and delegates, as we discuss committees that are doing similar or even overlapping work. And most days we will discuss one cluster and their reports.

STANDING ORDERS

The current Standing Orders which were developed for the 2021 General Assembly and the 2022 Executive Commission, include the virtual dimension of our meeting, the ABC has fine-tuned a few elements, as we have learned new lessons and better ways of conducting our business. The committee considers this document a living document that needs to be adjusted to fit the context of the meeting and decision-making in the UPCS. The ABC wants to highlight the process of bringing a Notice of Motion in the Standing Orders, as the procedure is outlined in the document and was not modified by the current committee but will be enforced during the sitting of the Executive Commission 2022 and General Assembly 2023. We would also like to draw your attention to the changes made with regards to the election procedure of the Moderator Designate and the AARP.

RECORDS

The ABC is working on a workable solution with regards to checking the minute books of Presbyteries and General Assembly standing committees. We are inviting suggestions from the different parties, as to how this process could happen. If you have a suggestion, please would you communicate with myself as convener.

CONVENERS CONSULTATION/NEW CLUSTER STRUCTURE

At the sitting of the General Assembly 2021, a new committee structure was agreed upon, which would put committees into one of five clusters, with a Cluster Co-ordinator to facilitate the meeting of the committees in the clusters. Although we have run this model for more than a year, it still has potential to do more, and our hope is to work with the

P&R committee to make it even more successful. The committee has seen that with this new structure, the committees of General Assembly can move forward together, cooperating with other committees that do similar work. It has also cut back on the overall number of meetings and helped the Clerk of Assembly and Central Office with conveners submitting reports and passing on communication, through the cluster coordinators.

DECISIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The decisions of the Executive Commission 2022 were reconfigured into categories, the categories included Committees of GA, Presbyteries and congregations. The decisions affecting each of the different categories was sent out by the Clerk of Assembly to the relevant parties. Meetings were held with the Conveners of GA Committees, to alert them to those decisions and to request that they would attend to their matters, there was also follow up reminding conveners. Meetings were held with Presbytery Moderators, Clerks, and Planners to make them aware of the decisions affecting Presbyteries; and we requested that Presbyteries allocate decisions to committees and other structures to make sure that they were attended to. Through the Clerks of Presbyteries, the decisions affecting congregations were also sent, with the recommendation that Presbyteries follow up with congregations, with regards to progress made. There has been an ongoing problem of non-compliance in the denomination, but we are hoping that each stakeholder has taken the process seriously.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE UPCSА STRATEGIC PLAN

The UPCSА strategic plan was extended for another 5 years at the sitting of the General Assembly 2021, and the ABC and P&R committees continue to work with one another and other stakeholders to monitor and evaluate these, and the hope is that the strategic plan will also show some movement through the new cluster structure, as committees take responsibility for elements that apply to their work.

Executive Commission 2024

Last year, due to a number of factors the Central Office ended up hosting the Executive Commission in Johannesburg. The team did such good work, and we were able to save on the expenditure and resources instead of a Presbytery hosting. The ABC is looking at the possibility of the Central Office hosting the Executive once again for 2024.

The proposed dates are 23 to 27 June 2024.

FACILITATING TEAMS

We wish to present the following as members of the facilitating teams:

1. Drafting team:
 - Mamolotje Magagane (Convener)
 - Lungile Mpetsheni (GS)
 - Vusi Mkhungo (Clerk)
 - David Mushayavanhu
 - Thompson Nota
 - Rose Musonzah
 - Vusi Mabo
2. Minute Clerks: Rev. Z. Mtyhobile and Rev Norest Ajapa
3. Minute Scrutineers: Rev. Thembinkosi Nopapaza and Rev Tatenda Garande
4. IT Team: Melanie Cook, Christine Kasambara, Ryan Johnson, Theo Groeneveld and all Presbyteries IT support personnel.

PROPOSALS

1. The General Assembly receives the report.
2. The General Assembly adopts the proposed Draft Agenda as the final Agenda for the 2023 General Assembly.
3. The General Assembly adopts the Standing orders of the 2023 General Assembly and the ZOOM Etiquette document as contained in the circulated papers, to be the guide for the ordering of its business.
4. The General Assembly notes the voting and notice of motion procedures as outlined in the body of the Standing Orders.
5. The General Assembly thanks the Presbytery of Zimbabwe for hosting and making arrangements for the Assembly to meet, in Harare.
6. The General Assembly notes that the decisions of the Executive Commission 2022 were sent to all the relevant stakeholders for attention and action.
7. The General Assembly notes that the ABC is working on a workable solution for attesting the records of GA Committees and Presbyteries and invites anyone with ideas about how the Assembly could do this effectively, to make contact with the convener.
8. The General Assembly notes that the Executive Commission 2024 will be hosted by the Central Office Team in Gauteng and sets the dates as Sunday 23 to Thursday 27 June 2024.
9. The General Assembly appoints the following as facilitating team:
 - Drafting Team:
 - Mamolotje Magagane (Convener)
 - Lungile Mpetsheni (GS)
 - Vusi Mkhungo (Clerk)
 - David Mushayavanhu
 - Thompson Nota
 - Rose Musonzah
 - Vusi Mabo
 - Minutes Clerks: Rev. Zwai Mtyobile and Rev Norest Ajapa
 - Minute Scrutineers: : Rev. Thembinkosi Nopapaza and Rev Tatenda Garande
 - IT Team: Melanie Cook, Christine Kasambara, Ryan Johnson, Theo Groeneveld and all Presbyteries IT support personnel.

Rev Melanie Cook
Convener

RETIREMENT

Presbytery of Central Cape

Dear Clerk

The Presbytery of Central Cape at it's Special Meeting held on the 18th February 2023

"Presbytery received an application from Rev Hein Barnard on his impending retirement and agreed to give him permission to retire on the 31st July 2023". This was seconded and Agreed.

Kind regards

Isak

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND HEINRICH BARNARD

He was born in Pretoria on the 1st of April 1958. He attended the Meyerspark Primary School in 1964, Silverton High School from 1971 – 1973 and Ben Viljoen High School, Groblersdal, from 1974. He received his calling to the ministry during his Matric year in 1975. He was one of three school friends called into ministry and retiring in 2023.

He started his studies at the University of Pretoria and the BA and BD degrees, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Theology had been awarded. He married Elna Boshoff at the end of 1982. He served two years as a National Service chaplain in Potchefstroom.

His active ministry started in January 1986 in the Dutch Reformed Church in Potchefstroom where his 3 daughters had been born. He joined the Defence Force during 1993 – 1994 as a Contract Chaplain before he moved to Trinity Presbyterian Church in February 1995. He served as Clerk of the Lekoa Presbytery after 1999 with the Unification of the PCSA and PRPCSA to the UPCS. He received a call from the Port Alfred Presbyterian Church and moved to them in July 2004. He served for a few years as Clerk of Presbytery as well as a member, vice chairman and chairman of the Eastern Cape Board of the Bible Society. He applied for the post of Organising Secretary upon a vacancy and had been appointed on 1 September 2014 in the Kempton Park Office. He was offered a similar post in Port Elizabeth upon the death of a colleague and moved in October 2017 back to the Eastern Cape. He served as a member of the ERC and later as a member of the M&D Committee.

TRIBUTE TO THE REV DR PATRICIA BAXTER

Rev Dr Baxter was born in Johannesburg, and she lived in Northcliff for some years, then in Pretoria. She has one brother, Neville, who is three years older than herself. Rev Dr Baxter attended the Catholic convent Loreto in Hillcrest, Pretoria, and she admits that some of her disciplined, "foot washing" catholic principles are deeply ingrained in her spirituality albeit that she later changed to Presbyterianism. Her mother was a strong role model for her and helped supplement the family income by working in an administrative position at UNISA.

Rev Dr Baxter loved school, made very good friends, and was often described as the "class clown." Dr Baxter was involved in youth mission work and directed plays at school, and her happiest times in high school were her involvement in teaching literacy classes, making clothes for the poor, and leading youth camps. She always had a special concern for the poor and apparently learned to develop strategies for effective mission projects in her high school years.

After matriculating in 1975, Rev Dr Baxter enrolled at the Johannesburg College of Education for her Teacher's Diploma and obtained her TTHD (Transvaal Teacher's Training Higher Diploma) at the end of 1979, majoring in History, Biology, Speech, and Drama. The following year she started teaching Standard 2 at Lynnwood Ridge Primary School, Pretoria.

Rev Baxter then received and responded to a call to the Ministry.

She joined St Columba's Presbyterian Church in Parkview in 1981 (Fellowship of Vocation to test the call) and started her part-time BA (in Theology) through UNISA, majoring in Biblical Studies and Psychology. She obtained her BA in 1984. During this time she also ran the Youth Ministry at St Columba's. She was then offered an opportunity to study in the United States. She was appointed Chaplain at the Richmond Memorial Hospital in Richmond, Virginia USA in 1986, and that year she completed her Masters in Theology, Bible and Education through the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Virginia, United States of America – now called Union Theological Seminary.

Rev Dr Baxter returned to South Africa in 1987 when she was ordained in 1987 as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of SA. She was the third woman to be ordained in the PCSA (after the merger with the Reformed Presbyterian Church in 1999 the name changed to UPCSA). Rev Dr Baxter was appointed at St Columba's in Johannesburg where she worked as a Minister until the end of 1988. She then accepted a call at St Columba's in Pretoria (coincidentally the same name) in 1989 where she worked until 1992. She obtained her Masters in Theology through UNISA in 1992.

Rev Dr Baxter joined the Hanil Theological Seminary in Chonju, Korea in 1992 as a Theological English Teacher.

In 1995 she accepted a call back to St Columba's Church in Pretoria. She also accepted a part-time position at UNISA as Researcher for the *Missionalia* Journal at UNISA and wrote theological abstracts, she was Chaplain, Project Director for student service projects and she taught biblical studies and theology.

Rev Dr Baxter completed a Masters in Theology in 1997 at the Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, USA. She then accepted a position as Chaplain of Lyon College, Batesville AR, USA in 1999 where she worked until 2002. She states in her CV that she had a budget to develop and expand the service projects and spiritual growth of the students. She also taught courses such as the Myers Briggs at the Seminary and notes that one of her Masters' dissertations was entitled "*Interracial Communication and local Church Participation*."

In 2002 she accepted a position at Desert Palms Presbyterian Church, Sun City West, AZ, USA, a Church with 1100 members, starting out as Associate Pastor of Christian Education and Congregational Care. Her CV refers to her managing a local church budget of over a million dollars to develop the spiritual programs of the church and in Presbytery. She developed multiple programs for what she described as "a bright and demanding congregation." The church is a retirement community and Rev Dr Baxter had the opportunity of working with different aspects of aging. She wrote in her work situation essay: *"Finding ways to help people synthesize their experiences, feelings and thoughts and look forward to the future was my passion and joy."* Rev Dr Baxter loved *"living a life of compassion,"* and she found her role to be innovative and challenging. She enjoyed *"interpreting and sharing the Word and words of God, managing resources and people,"* and *"inviting people to discover God's strength in them."* According to Rev Dr Baxter she was especially able to add value through her *"compassion and synthesizing people's thoughts and feelings as well as creating new and innovating programs."*

She received her doctorate (D.Min, focusing in Spirituality), in 2007 through Columbia Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Her doctoral thesis was on how spirituality can help alleviate loneliness in aging people. In 2008 she was appointed Interim Head of Staff, Moderator of Session and Presbytery Chair of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

As indicated in her CV, Rev Dr Baxter has three Masters and one doctorate degree. She has also published a few short books and numerous articles.

Rev Dr Baxter returned to South Africa at the end of 2010 to care for her aging parents. In 2017 Rev Dr Baxter was appointed to the General Assembly as Ministry Secretary, and was responsible for the personal and ecclesial spiritual formation of students and probationers, as well as enriching ministers through post-academic training grants and developing the Fellowship of Vocation in 17 Presbyteries.

In 2022 Rev Dr Baxter responded to a call at St John The Evangelist United Church in Benmore, Sandton, and served as senior minister.

Below are the credentials that she earned in her Educational career.

EDUCATION

2007, D. Min, (Spirituality), Columbia Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

2000, M. Th, Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, USA.

1992, M.Th, University of South Africa, RSA.

1986, MA, Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, Virginia., USA.

1984, BA, University of South Africa, RSA.

1979, TTHD (Transvaal Teacher's Training Higher Diploma), Johannesburg, RSA.

MINISTRY WORK

1999-2002, Lyon College, Batesville, AR. Chaplain, taught bible and theology, 1st-year students

- Director of Service Projects for Lyon College (100 programmes and assessments) – Each college student participated in an annual service project.
- Member of Commissions in the Grand Canyon Presbytery

1995, St. Columba's Church, Pretoria, RSA

- Associate Pastor of Congregational Life
- Researcher for Missionalia Journal, UNISA
- Writer of Theological Abstracts
- 1992 - Hanil Theological Seminary, Chonju, Korea.
Theological English Teacher

1987-1992, St. Columba's Church, Parkview, JHB

- Associate Pastor of Education and Congregational Life, Director of Spiritual Life, Street Children, Hillbrow, South Africa
- Chair, Presbytery Christian Education Committee (General Assembly Committee)

1986, Richmond Memorial Hospital, Richmond, VA

Chaplain, USA

Clinical Pastoral Education Training

MINISTRY WORK IN THE UPCSA

- 2017-2021, General Assembly Office, Ministry Secretary
Responsible for Personal and Ecclesial Spiritual Formation of students and probationers, and responsible for the enriching of ministers through post-academic grants, Development of Fellowship of Vocation in 17 Presbyteries
- Developed criteria for understanding the contributions of 7 Theological institutions.
- Developed guidelines for students to grow in the knowledge of the practices of the church.
- Wrote guidelines for understanding the process from candidates applying for Ministry to ordination. Develop annual year-long probationer training programmes.
- Wrote sermons and liturgies for *Word and Worship* Resource book for Ministers.
- Preached on Radio Pulpit and honoured preaching requests at various churches.
- Visited probationers in South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe giving feedback on ministerial etiquette and practice.
- Developed a Bible Study for persons about to retire.
- Examined systemic inequalities in ministry.
- Participated in a Leadership Conference in Scotland for Probationers
- Led a retreat for Conveners of General Assembly Committees as well as numerous retreats at churches.
- Sat on the AARP [Assembly Administrative Review Panel of the General Assembly]
- Participated in resolving conflicts in local congregations and participated in some commissions to churches.
- Secretary to Ministry Committee of General Assembly, involved in numerous task teams, Development of different forms of ministry, ie. Bi-vocational Ministry
- Participated in the transformation of student curriculum at 6 theological institutions.
- Manage staff at Sedibeng House of Studies
- Assist students with academic and ecclesial issues!
- Developed an on-line training course for probationers.

2016, Saints Presbyterian Church, Centurion, Minister

- Member of the General Assembly Court of Assembly 2010 –
- Highveld Presbyterian Church, Irene, Minister

- Developing Mission Strategies for Small Churches 2008 –
- 2010, Desert Palms Presbyterian Church, Sun City West, USA. Interim Head of Staff, Moderator of Session (2,000 member congregation)
- Presbytery Chair of Committee on Preparation for Ministry
- Building of Habitat for Humanity Houses on the border of Mexico who had never owned a house and involved in 26 other mission programmes.
- 2002-2010. Associate Pastor of Education and Congregational Care Desert Palms Presbyterian Church, Sun City West, AZ
- Presbytery Chair of Committee on Preparation for Ministry Development of comprehensive educational and care programmes

PUBLICATIONS

2021, *40 Days: Time with God: A Devotional for Everyday Life* (Porcupine Press).

Writing of Sermons and Liturgies for Minsters, *Word and Worship*

2010, *Spirituality with Style* (Bloomington, Indiana: Xlibris)

1997, *Signs of Love* Cape Town: Lux Verbi)

1993, *Talking with God* (Cape Town: Lux Verbi)

1992, *Precious Moments with God* (Cape Town; Lux Verbi)

Numerous articles in magazines and excerpts from books

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Observing the Rev Dr Alan Maker was a great experience and educational journey which challenged her ministry. This is where Pat did her Post Academic Training (PAT), note that the abbreviation of her name is PAT which connects with PAT = Post Academic Training.

No wonder she became a great teacher and trainer of Sunday School teachers through her training at the School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia.

In Memoriam Minute: Rev Dr Glen Craig

The Rev Glen Craig passed away on 8 May at the age of almost 86, 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, Adelaide, Port Alfred (as I.M. and supervisor to their Probationer). Recently he assisted the Methodist Church in caring for a number of congregations in the Salem Circuit.

Glen was born in Grahamstown on 30 May 1937 into a fine Christian family, his father, Keith, being one of Trinity's most outstanding Elders and his mother, Florence, being a Sunday School Teacher for many years. After school he completed a BSc (Agric) degree in 1957. Thereafter he became a Professional Officer at Onderstepoort for four years.

While in Pretoria Glen was ordained as an Elder in St Andrew's in 1958 and during this period felt called into the Holy Ministry. He was asked by Assembly's Ministry Committee to remain in his agricultural post while he took two years of Greek and of Hebrew and one of Philosophy at Pretoria University, this being a standard requirement for all students seeking to become Ministers in those days. In Pretoria, too, he met Jeanette Bentley, whom he married in December 1961. She also at the time was a member of St Andrew's and involved in the Sunday School, Youth work, the Women's Association and the Choir.

Shortly after being married, Glen and Jeanette came to Grahamstown where he took a three-year post-graduate BD degree at Rhodes University doing his final year in Old Testament. They have five children Wendy, Alan (who passed away in 1984), Carol, Rosie and Roy. At his memorial service, it was striking to hear the children speak of the high level of support, love and involvement Glen had in their lives in spite of the massive contribution he always made to Church and society. Jeanette and Glen have always functioned as a team and Jeanette supported Glen with her secretarial and admin skills and also in the practical loving care and attention to detail she would lavish on congregation members.

Glen has been the Minister in three Congregations, St Kieran's in Fish Hoek (1965-1975), Ladysmith (Natal) (1976-1987) and Trinity Grahamstown (1988-2005). After retirement he took care of Addelaide Congregation, Port Alfred and also congregations in the Salem circuit of the Methodist Church. All of these congregations flourished under his and Jeanette's care.

The Congregation of St Kieran's was in the process of formation when Glen was appointed as its first Minister, being ordained on 15-01-1965. He later became the Moderator of the Presbytery and played a prominent role in a vibrant youth movement in the Presbytery at that time. He volunteered to fulfil the duties of Chaplain to Robben Island for eight years regularly visited the prisoners there and got to know many of today's leaders, including Nelson Mandela. He also played an active role in the Life and Work committee of Assembly.

Glen believed in being active in the local community and became a Rotarian and later became the National Chaplain to ToCH. In 1995 he was made a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow, for his outstanding services.

While in Ladysmith, he was Chairman of the Board of Mission of the PCSA from 1978-1981, Moderator of Drakensberg Presbytery for 1979-1980, and Moderator of The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa in the year 1985-1986. During his Moderatorial year he visited most of the smaller Congregations and every Congregation in the Presbyteries he toured, ie Zambia and Port Elizabeth. He sought to bring them the knowledge that they, too, were very important to the Denomination. Another feature of his year as Moderator was that he sought to be a pastor pastorum to as many Ministers, retired Ministers and Ministers' Widows as possible.

While he was in Ladysmith, Glen was Chaplain to the 5th South African Infantry Battalion and in 1982 was awarded the Chaplain-General's Commendation for Meritorious Service. He was also Mayor's Chaplain on a number of occasions. In 1984 the Ladysmith Town Council awarded him a Civic Citation for "Community Involvement and Reconciliation

Work". In 2003 he was named Grahamstown's "Citizen of the year."

In 1988 Glen accepted a Call from Trinity Presbyterian Church, Grahamstown. The main characteristics of his work in his earlier years continued: meticulous caring for, and service to, his Congregation, service in the Councils of the Church, and involvement in the community in which he lived. It has been his ambition to make the Congregation a caring fellowship, which can be regarded as a family.

During his time at Trinity, Glen was the informal chaplain to the students for the ministry and many students remember his "chuckle and chat" sessions, the love with which Glen and Jeanette supported them and the great example Glen set as a Pastor-Teacher. There were 58 Students for the Ministry who passed through his care. In addition he has supervised nine Probationers, including the current Moderator of General Assembly.

His sermons characteristically had both a strong Biblical base and contemporary relevance. Thus in 2003, preaching on Isaiah 45, he said that the chapter is "a message that, because it is the Word of God, is relevant, timeless, and pertinent to every age, whether to you as an individual, your family, your Church or Community, or to the nation".

From 1993 to 1995 Glen was Co-Chairman of Grahamstown's Regional Peace Committee. This was a very volatile time, in which role his skills in mediation and reconciliation were invaluable in easing the transition.

After union in 1999 of the PCSA and RPC, Glen became the first Moderator of the new Presbytery of Central Cape. By virtue of his wise decision not to rely on the technicalities of the Interim Manual's rules on the conduct of debates, as well as his ability to see and deal with the essence of any problem that arose, the transition was accomplished without difficulty. So much so that when the Assembly wanted to help the neighbouring Presbytery of Amatola to deal with some problems, it appointed Glen and the Rev Dr De Villiers Soga to help that Presbytery by becoming Assessors to it for a few years.

Glen's CV is almost three pages long and is an intimidating list of the roles he played and the committees he served on. But the most important thing about Glen's ministry in the church has not been that he was moderator or that he was minister of a number of congregations, all of which grew and flourished under his care, or that he served on many committees - the most important contribution was his *influence*.

Glen is one of the most known, loved and respected ministers in our church and he has left footprints, fingerprints, sayings, and good practices in countless lives.

Firstly, he was respected and loved by his colleagues who often sought out his advice.

Secondly, he was loved and deeply valued by the congregations he served, even for years after he left.

Thirdly, he had a significant influence in the communities in which he served, in the country through his radio and tv work and in the world through his recent you tube ministry. He had a remarkable ability to translate and live the Good News of the Gospel from the church to his community and to the world.

Fourthly, he was a powerful influence in peace-making and reconciliation. He brokered peace in marriage counselling, in tense political situations in 1992-93, in the courts and assemblies of the church and everywhere he was active.

Fifthly, his influence as a mentor. He mentored 9 probationers and chaplained 58 ministry students during all the years that they were in Grahamstown. They all talk about the influence Glen had on them. There are elders, colleagues and congregants who are living and leading better because of that they learned from his messages and the example of his life.

In the **sixth** place comes the time and talent he offered to the church through his service in a massive variety of ways. Wherever he was called to serve, whether as Interim Moderator to a rural village, convener of the significant visionary "Board of Mission" or as Moderator, Glen served diligently and with excellence.

In **conclusion** it is fair to say that the church has lost a giant, who through faithful servant-hearted hard work and attractive integrity was

- a GA Moderator who inspired a church in troubled times to be a "River of Life",
- pastor-teacher who served and loved local churches so that that they grew,
- faithful servant who helped many to be good ministers by his example,
- and an example who, by his words and example, inspired us to be more like Jesus.

MODERATOR OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S REPORT (2023)

1. Introduction

I was first approached to consider accepting the nomination for the position of Moderator of General Assembly in January 2016. I was still recovering from my cardiac surgery and was in my fifth week in hospital following sixteen (16) days of total comatose and life support. During this life-threatening comatose I had been under the care and in the company of dolphins, deep down the blue sea. It was so peaceful under the ocean that I could have stayed there for the next three hundred years, without a care. My response in declining the request for nomination as Moderator was genuine and authentic in that I was still extremely sick and unstable and would therefore need another eighteen (18) to twenty-four (24) months to recover. Only then could I have the doctors assess my post-surgery condition to affirm or deny my suitability and readiness to stand the vicissitudes and rigor of this position. In the meantime, I was praying for divine affirmation at whether or not God was planning to use me as one of the leaders of our denomination in the near future. At the beginning of 2018, I was again approached to consider my name being put forward for the position of Moderator of General Assembly and this time around I had more people (ministers and elders) planning to nominate me. I eventually reluctantly agreed. I was elected on the first ballot of the Moderator's election in July 2018. My prayerfully considered theme was: **GOING BACK TO THE BASICS.**

2. Moderatorial Tenure (2018-2022)

2.1 Moderator Designate (2018-2021)

My election in 2018 meant that, as per our systemic routine, I would be Moderator-Designate between July 2018 and June 2020, at which point I would then be inducted into the office as Moderator. In March 2020, there was an outbreak of a global pandemic – namely, the Corona-Virus or briefly in medical lingua Covid-19, which threw the entire world into an emergency health tailspin. South Africa was immediately brought to a total national shutdown by the political leadership executive. In fact, all four countries within which the UPCSA has a presence were grossly affected by Covid-19 as heavy fatalities and losses were incurred across the clergy and lay leaders within all the Presbyteries. Therefore, whilst Covid-19 rigged havoc and brought a global catastrophe, the resultant trail of destruction caused us to request a postponement by one year, so that I did not commence with my tenure in June 2020 and instead negotiated being inducted into the office in June 2021. That arrangement had grave implications for my predecessor, the Rev Dr Peter Langerman, because it meant that he would have had to serve three years in total instead of the mandatory two years. The other unwritten reality was that both his tenure and mine too, would be defined in the main by the impact Covid-19 would have upon the denomination during terms. Thus, it came as no surprise that my Service of Induction to office in June 2021 was restricted to fifty (50) people in total.

The leadership of the UPCSA comprising of the Moderator of General Assembly, the General Secretary, the Clerk of Assembly, sometimes the Convener of the Ministry Committee and General Treasurer, and at other times members of the Ecumenical Relations Committee, foregrounded specific strategic and sensitive issues over which I had to preside – way ahead of my induction into office. There were some serious ethical, cultural, and political issues and developments that needed urgent attention and the Moderator deferred those specific issues and developments to me to handle – even with him present. Sometimes, he would call on me to stand in for him and I would do that whether it was a service or a meeting or a committee consultation. The implication of these periodic institutional arrangements was my exposure to some of the vexed issues that would be carried over from Dr Langerman's term to mine. It, therefore, gave me a heads-up advantage in devising individual and collective strategies with some of the potentially divisive issues of the church. These developments were attended to, mainly between June 2018 and June 2021, and covered major family disputes, explosive conflicts within Presbyteries as well global ecumenical matters.

2.2 Moderator of General Assembly (2021-2023)

2.1.1 Preliminary Considerations

There were three determinations that I had to deal with in lieu of the work that lay ahead:

- ❖ Operationalize the Moderator's Theme: **GOING BACK TO BASICS**
- ❖ Select two (2) Presbyteries that I would tour during the term
- ❖ Choose and name the Moderator's Chaplains namely: Rev. Kimberly Brown (Minister of Elgin United Church in the Presbytery of Western Cape) and Rev. Thabani Masikane (Minister of Newcastle Presbyterian Church and Moderator of the Presbytery of Uthukela)

2.2 Problematics that Dominated the Moderatorial Term

- ❖ Disputes, a trend of dissenting with complaints and conflict within Presbyteries as a way of settling personal conflicts and disaffection between individuals and groups.
- ❖ Disastrous breakdown in relationships between ministers, elders, and Presbytery Executive Committee officials in the process contaminating every attempt at building the UPCSA into a community.
- ❖ Continued adverse and unstable race relations characterizing past racial tensions.
- ❖ Political and constitutional implications on Homosexuality and Homophobia in Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- ❖ Continued financial deficit in meeting the annual budget targets from the previous term to the term ending in June 2023.
- ❖ Scarcity of resources for Ministry and Mission as well as Pensions across the denomination.
- ❖ Contextual implications and complications of 'Grey-listing' in South Africa for Zimbabwe, Zambia, and the Congo in executing transnational financial transactions.
- ❖ Inertia and irresponsible behaviour from some Conveners of Assembly Committees who did not convene any Committee meetings from July 2021 to June 2023 with no consequences from the denomination or from any remedial structure for the gross lack of accountability.
- ❖ Material inequalities, dichotomies and differentials between affluent and rich congregations on the one hand and financially struggling and incapable congregations on the other

2.3 Positive Developments and commendable outcomes

The term has not been defined only by adverse developments where conflict and breakdown in relationships dominated the ecclesial and relational space. On the contrary, there were commendable developments that equally positively distinguished the Moderatorial period under review. The following are some of the elements that shone a bright light:

- ❖ Presbyteries that were visited for any one event or another were the Western Cape and Trans-Xariep (they were part of the mandatory touring schedule)
- ❖ Presbyteries that were visited for the dedication of church halls and sanctuaries; Conferences of Fellowships; Renaming of congregations; Funerals of Ministers and/or Spouses; Ecumenical Services and Engagements as well as Covenant Services at congregational and presbyterial levels:
 - ❖ **Amathole Presbytery:**
 - Church Hall at C Koti Memorial Congregation in Dimbaza
 - Nohle Makwabe Church Hall at Auld Memorial in Mdantsane
 - Rededication of the Sanctuary at Dr Ntsikelelo Katiya Memorial in Mdantsane
 - Conference of the UPCSA Young Women's Executive Committee (Election and Induction) at EN Bono Congregation in Gompo, East London
 - Opening Conference of the Fellowship of Men at Semple Memorial Congregation in King Williamstown

❖ **Highveld Presbytery:**

- Covenant Service at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Katlehong
- Fellowship of Women Conference at Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg
- Commissioning Service for the new World Council of Churches General Secretary – the Rev Prof Dr Jerry Pillay at St Andrews UPCSA in Benoni
- Moderators of Presbyteries Consultation with the Moderator at Bredell outside Kempton Park
- UPCSA Ministers' Retreat at Emseni Methodist Conference Centre in Benoni

❖ **Tshwane Presbytery**

- Funeral of Rev Tebogo Thobejane-Makhurupetsi at Ga-Rankuwa UPCSA in Ga-Rankuwa
- Dedication of the Church Sanctuary at Soshanguve Presbyterian Church

❖ **Central Cape Presbytery**

- Consultation of the Moderator and his Chaplain with the officials of the Presbytery at the GAP Church in Gqeberha
- Consultation with the Fellowships Presbyterial Task Teams at the JY Hliso Memorial UPCSA in New Brighton
- The Onesimus Project Launch and Dinner at Bethelsdorp at the behest of the Council for World Mission with the CWM General Secretary and Executive
- UPCSA Conference of the Fellowship of Women at the Nongoza Jebe Centenary Hall in New Brighton
- Meeting with the Moderator's Pastoral Team (Assessors) and different Presbytery stakeholders on the resolution of conflict and tensions within the Central Cape
- Turning of the sod at Themba lethu UPCSA in George
- Dedication of the Garden Route Church Sanctuary in Knysna
- Dedication of the Manse and Rededication and Renaming of the Church Sanctuary to David Mahomana Memorial Congregation

❖ **Ethekwini Presbytery**

- Consultation of the Moderator with the Presbytery Executive and Commissioners on the protocols and processes for Renaming the Durban Congregation at Frere Road UPCSA
- Renaming Service at VH Mabaso Memorial Congregation in Lamontville
- Attending the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ) at the Methodist Church Central in Ethekwini

❖ **Mthatha Presbytery**

- Election of the UPCSA Fellowship of Church Choirs and Musicians (FCCM) in Mthatha
- Induction of the UPCSA Executive Committee of the FCCM at Erskine UPCSA in Mthatha

❖ **Egoli Presbytery**

- Hosting of the UPCSA Executive Commission at the Rosebank Hotel
- Opening Service of the Executive Commission at St Columba's Parkview
- Renaming of the Johannesburg Congregation to BE Ngubane Memorial Congregation at Alexandra in Johannesburg

❖ **Drakensberg Presbytery**

- Hosting the 2021 UPCSA General Assembly at the Golden Horse Hotel and Sweetwaters Congregation in Pietermaritzburg
- Covenant Service at the Pholela District Congregation in Pholela, Bulwer
- Covenant Service at the Glenbain UPCSA in Ixopo

- Celebration of the JDDJ at the Metropolitan Methodist Church in Pietermaritzburg
 - Thanksgiving Service for the Moderator's unpredictable and precarious health throughout the tenure and Celebrating the Moderator whose Induction Service was impaired by Covid-19 stringent restrictions
 - Celebrating the Moderator's 38th Wedding Anniversary in June 2023
 - Dedication of the Church Sanctuary at the Abraham Maraman Memorial Congregation in Impendle
- ❖ **East Griqualand Presbytery**
- Consultation with the Presbytery Commission at the Gillespie Congregation in Mount Ayliff (EmaXesibeni)
 - Meeting with Presbytery ministers at St Columba's UPCSA in Kokstad
 - Dedication of the Church Sanctuary at Stirling Congregation in Matatiele
 - Presbytery Retreat in lieu of restoring broken relationships and reconciling estranged parties within the Presbytery at the Hibberdene Catholic Church Retreat Centre outside Port Shepstone
- ❖ **Tiyo Soga Memorial Presbytery**
- Consultation with the Presbytery Executive Committee at the Butterworth Lodge in Butterworth
 - Meeting with ministers within this Presbytery to mitigate tensions and broken relations between and among ministers at the Gcuwa Congregation
- ❖ **Uthukela Presbytery**
- Holy Communion Service at Newcastle Presbyterian Church at the Chaplain's Congregation about his constant absence from the congregation whilst accompanying the Moderator at Madadeni in Newcastle
 - Jubilee Celebration Service for the 50 years of existence of the Ladysmith Presbyterian Church in Ladysmith
 - Sharing with the whole Presbytery, contextual permutations and nuances of the Moderator's Theme of **Going Back to Basics** at Ladysmith Presbyterian Church in Ladysmith
 - Covenant Service with the Presbytery of Uthukela at Steadville outside Ladysmith
 - Conducting the Induction for Rev. Willingmore Mhlanga to the joint ministry of Ladysmith Presbyterian Church and Steadville Congregation in Ladysmith
- ❖ **Lekoa Presbytery**
- Covenant Service of the whole Lekoa Presbytery at the Kanana Presbyterian Church in Orkney
- ❖ **Trans-Xhariep Presbytery (Presbytery toured by the Moderator)**
(First Leg of the Tour)
- Consultation with Ministers and Spouses at Izekhaya Guest Lodge in Maokeng, Kroonstad
 - Renaming of the Welkom Presbyterian Church into Rev Prof Dr Vuyani Vellem Memorial at Motse-Thabong in Welkom
 - Consultation and Holy Communion Service with Presbytery Fellowships and all congregations within the Presbytery at Constantia Presbyterian Church in Kroonstad
 - Gala Dinner at Ikageng Presbyterian Church in Kimberley
 - Celebrating Holy Communion at Ikageng Presbyterian Church in Kimberley
- (Second Leg of the Tour)**
- Consultative Meeting with Presbytery Commissioners to follow up on developments from the First Leg of the Tour) at the Constantia Congregation in Maokeng

- Moderator's Meeting with the Ministers of the Presbytery ONLY Constantia Congregation Vestry
- Meeting of the Moderator's Chaplain with Session Clerks and Treasurers at the Constantia Congregation
- Holy Communion Service with all congregations of the Trans-Xhariep at the Constantia Congregation

❖ ***Western Cape Presbytery (Presbytery toured by the Moderator)***

The Moderator visited the Western Cape Presbytery in October 2022 and was able to meet with sixteen (16) congregations, organizations, and groups of people for the one-week duration of his visit to the Presbytery. Also visited and conducted special services during the tour of the Presbytery and spent a day at a 107-year-old congregation in Darling, which congregation had never been visited by a Moderator of General Assembly for its entire 107 years of its establishment and existence.

- Attending 16 congregations, meetings with the local leadership, breakfasts, and dinners, as well as projects, programmes and business enterprises
- Attending the Induction Service of the Rev. MM Matya as minister to LJ Zwane Memorial Congregation in Gugulethu
- Visitation at the Eleanor Murray Residence of the Elderly in Woodstock
- Conducting the Commissioning Service to Rev Dr Dirk Gevers for his new appointment as Director-General of the World Bible Societies in England at the Bellville Presbyterian Church
- High Tea with Rev Dr Dirk Gevers at the Bible Society of South Africa Headquarters in Cape Town
- Attending the Church Unity Commission Ecumenical Service on the JDDJ at St George's Anglican Cathedral in Cape Town
- Breakfast with over twenty (20) Retired Ministers of the UPCSA at Somerset United Church in Somerset West
- Lunch with four (4) past Moderators of General Assembly in Bellville

3. Special Highlights and Critical Reflections

- The Moderator's Call in November 2021 to Presbytery Moderators and their Presbyteries to make a special donation to ameliorate the plight of placing probationers when the UPCSA had no financial means to meet that calamitous dire strait. Presbyteries responded favorably and all the probationers were placed in congregations for their respective periods.
- The Moderator invited all Moderators of Presbyteries across the UPCSA in January 2023 to a first-time Consultative Roundtable where they could share their stories, pain and challenges, success stories, and best practices. The Moderator-Designate, the General Secretary, and the Clerk of Assembly were also invited. It would be worth exploring if this Consultation can be systemically built as part of the Moderator of General Assembly itinerary, at least once during their term of office.
- The Moderator and Clerk of General Assembly attended the Installation Service of Rev Prof Dr Jerry Pillay as the new General Secretary of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland in February 2023. This was done to affirm and validate our appreciation and approval as a denomination towards Prof Pillay's appointment to this most strategic and diplomatic ecumenical position in the world. This was acknowledged by the Moderators of the WCC who were present during this milestone occasion.
- Most of the work undertaken and recorded in this report was accomplished in part because the Moderator had opted to engage do his work full-time. The frequency of travel and the availability of the Moderator to undo most of the damage sustained during Covid-19 was possible because of the full-time commitment. We as a denomination need to further explore whether it will not be beneficial to us to

have our Moderators elected to do a full-time term of office of at least four (4) years after the two (2) years as Moderator-Designate.

- In engaging and cascading the theme of Going Back to Basics to all structures, Councils, Fellowships, and all levels of the UPCSA, it became succinctly clear that the term of two (2) years in the Moderatorial tenure is grossly inadequate in accomplishing all that needed undivided attention. But mainly, this is more relevant to operationalizing the Moderator's theme and ensuring its massified application across the denomination.
- There is a serious systemic challenge and gap in accountability for Conveners of Committees who do not lead their committees as per their mandate and in so doing fulfil the strategic and operational mandate of their committees. This was more acute at the level of General Assembly where, whilst it was difficult and hazardous to call physical meetings of committee members, not even one Virtual Meeting of the committee was called. This is a dereliction of duty to the extreme and should be examined very closely by this General Assembly in lieu of remedial consequence management options currently unavailable across the UPCSA.
- There is a greater need for strategic involvement of the Moderator's Chaplains in the life and work of the Moderator's Office beyond the General Assembly and Executive Commission meeting times. This was brought to sharp focus when the Moderator travelled with his Chaplains at different times, for different engagements, especially during the tours of the Presbyteries. Their roles extend beyond serving the Moderator during meetings and encompass praying with and for, counselling, accompanying, advising, and protecting the Moderator at different material times. They also have a specific supportive role to play towards the family of the Moderator, especially the spouse. Both Rev Kim Brown and Rev Thabani Masikane were and did all of the above with exceptional patience and skills and with the utmost respect and regard for the Moderator's comprehensive welfare. A specific word of heartfelt gratitude to both my Chaplains
- This report would not be complete without acknowledging the roles played by both the General Secretary of the UPCSA Rev Dr Lungile Mpetsheni, the Clerk of Assembly of the UPCSA Rev Vusumuzi Mkhungo, and the Administrative Team at the Central Office. Their strategic engagements with the Moderator both individually and collectively in large measure for the successes garnered and accomplished during my term of office. The patience of the Clerk and the diplomacy of the General Secretary ensured that all work set for my term was realized and accomplished to the best of our collective ability. To both of them another word of heartfelt gratitude. Nangamso Rhadebe noNdosi! Siyabonga kakhulu!
- Finally, let me pay tribute to our General Treasurer Mr Ryan Johnson, the outgoing Chief Financial Officer Rev Malungelo Jita, the new CFO Rev Thembinkosi Nopapaza, and the entire Financial Team. Mr Johnson is a rare find and a special gift to our denomination. If it was not for his acumen, the confluence of both business and ecclesial approach, his steadfast faith and sense of faithfulness to God and to his denomination, we would have faced a real precipice of possible total financial collapse as the UPCSA. He and the CFOs directed the Finance Committee of our church and commandeered the entire fiscal direction of our precarious financial position. Thank you that he could juggle the demands of a SADC regional position for his employer with the demands of a transnational denomination like ours - with all its inherent contextual and material complexities – competently and professionally. Thank you kindly to you Mr Johnson and your team.

Rev Sipho J Mtetwa

Proposals:

1. The Assembly receives the report.
2. The Assembly refers the Moderator's report to the Priorities and Resources Committee for action, and to report progress at the 2024 Executive Commission.

NOMINATIONS TO THE COURT OF ASSEMBLY AND AARP

The Presbytery of Mthatha Statutory Meeting of the UPSCA that convened at Lower Ngqwara on the 06th day of May 2023 and was constituted with devotional exercise by the Revd. V.P Theophilus, Moderator, *Inter Alia*, deliberated and resolved as follows:-

1. COURT OF ASSEMBLY AND AARP

The Presbytery nominated the following ministers, elders for the Court and ARP of Assembly.

Revs T Masikane, L.M Mshumpela, C Mkandawire, Dr B Hans, and Advocate L.D Haram.

Extracted from the records of Mthatha Presbytery on the 31th day of May 2023 by,

V.S Letuka (The Revd Dr)

Presbytery Clerk

CURRICULUM VITAE

DR B.G. MBULAWA-HANS

PERSONAL PROFILE

- Innovative general management and administration skills.
- High personal integrity, and able to relate to and create trust in all.
- Highly articulate, confident and persuasive team-builder, able to motivate and communicate to achieve set goals
- Dependable and reliable in supporting and enabling team effort to produce genuine long-term sustainable development.
- Devoted Christian and always operating in God's presence and guided by Biblical principles in whatever she does
- Committed to Reformed principles
- Caring and loving person

* EXPERIENCE

- Background in people management especially in conflict situations
- Served on Hospital Boards at Provincial Hospital Port Elizabeth, Dora Nginza Hospital and Jose Pearson Hospital where conflicts between staff and management had to be resolved
- Management of change
- Strategic planning and implementation
- Mentoring and Training
- Serving in the Audit Committee

* RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

MEDICAL INVOLVEMENT:

Registered with the HPCSA : MP 0221422

A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA -
1994 –1997

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE HOSPITAL DOCTORS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA 1993 – 1995
 A MEMBER OF THE HOSPITAL BOARD OF PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN PORT ELIZABETH - 1995 – 1997
 A MEMBER OF THE HOSPITAL BOARD OF THE JOSE PEARSON SANTA HOSPITAL IN PORT ELIZABETH FROM 2000 TO 2002
 SERVED ON DISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE THEN SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL AND DENTAL COUNCIL
 SERVE AS A FACILITATOR IN THE FAITH BASED ORGANISATION SECTOR FACILITATING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN UPCS AND TB HOSPITALS FOCUSING SPECIFICALLY ON TB AND HIV – 2008 TO DATE

OUTSIDE INVOLVEMENT IN THE CHURCH:

MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE WORLD ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES - 1997 TO 2004
 VICE MODERATOR OF THE SOUTHERN ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES – 1993 – 2002
 MODERATOR OF THE SOUTHERN ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES - 2003-2004
 VICE- PRESIDENT OF THE ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES IN AFRICA - 2003 TO 2004
 A MEMBER OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON AIDS OF THE COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION
 VICE- PRESIDENT OF TUMKUTANA WOMENS GROUPING AFRICA - 2003 TO 2018

WITHIN UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SOUTHERN AFRICA

CONVENER OF THE HIV / AIDS COMMITTEE OF THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA 2002 TO 2004 - responsible for crafting the first UPCS HIV Policy in response to HIV and Aids
 CONVENER OF THE JUSTICE AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL CAPE PRESBYTERY OF THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA 2001 TO 2004
 MEMBER OF THE REFORMATION TEAM OF THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA - A COMMITTEE LOOKING AT THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE DENOMINATION 2002 TO 2004
 MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE OF MANUAL AND ORDER OF THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
 MEMBER OF THE PRIORITIES AND RESOURCE COMMITTEE OF THE UPCS
 A PROBATIONER OF THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AT THE HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH , CENTRAL PORT ELIZABETH 2003 – 2004 – A cross-cultural experience and ability to relate to other cultures
 A PROBATIONER OF THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AT MAKANASKOP AND TANTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES, GRAHAMSTOWN FOR THE YEAR : 2008
 AN ELDER ; A LAY PREACHER ; A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER AT
 ST MATTHEWS UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN MOTHERWELL PORT ELIZABETH : 2001 – 2004
 PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION AT
 ST MATTHEWS UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN MOTHERWELL PORT ELIZABETH : 1998 to 2008 and resumed March 2010
 PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION AT
 JY HLISO MEMORIAL , PORT ELIZABETH : 2002 to 2010 June(Interim)
 PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION AT
 UITENHAGE CONGREGATION : 2003 to February 2010
 ORDAINED AS MINISTER AND PLACED TO A CHARGE AT THE UITENHAGE CONGREGATION : 2008 DECEMBER TO 2009
 PRESIDENT OF THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP OF CENTRAL CAPE PRESBYTERY : 2009 TO 2012
 VICE GENERAL PRESIDENT OF THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 2009 TO 2012
 CLERK OF THE CENTRAL CAPE REGION OF THE UPCS:2020-2022
 MEMBER OF THE GENDER DESK OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY - 2020 TO DATE
 MEMBER OF THE GLOBAL REFORMED ADVOCACY PLATFORM FOR ENGAGEMENT DESIGNER GROUP – 2022 TO DATE

CAREER HISTORY

CECELIA MAKIWANE HOSPITAL : 1980 – 1982

Internship : December 1980 ---1981 November

Medical officer : December 1981 -- March 1982 (Obstetrics and Gynaecology)

PRIVATE PRACTICE IN DIMBAZA , a rural village outside King Williamstown : April 1982 – December 1992 – left as family moved to Port Elizabeth

PART TIME MEDICAL OFFICER MT COKE HOSPITAL responsible mainly for Gynaecology Clinic and Medical Outpatient Department

PRIVATE PRACTICE (Port Elizabeth) Jan- June.1993 - left because of corruption taking place in private practises in the area- defrauding medical aids

DORA NGINZA HOSPITAL (P. E .) : 1993 - 1995

Principal medical officer – Obstetrics and Gynaecology

- Medical Outpatient – chronic clinic

- Casualty

CARE (MANAGED CARE ORG.) : 1995 – 1997

General Practice and minor operations

Attended in 1997 and 2008 : Advanced Course in Diabetes Care with Centre for Diabetes and Endocrinology

Occupational Medicine with University of Cape Town 1996-1997 (course not completed)

Family Planning with University of Cape Town - 1993

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY) : 1998 TO 2004

Served in the following Portfolio Committees

1. Health – legislation especially regarding Health Act and Termination of Pregnancy Act
2. Welfare – mainly regarding Child Care Act
3. Public Service and Administration
4. Public Works
5. Subcommittee on Members Interests
6. Joint Monitoring Committee on Youth , Children and Disabled
7. Powers and Privileges
8. Sports and Recreation

AMBASSADOR TO REPUBLICS OF FINLAND AND ESTONIA - 2004 – 2007(Department of Foreign Affairs)

Served as Accounting Officer

PART TIME MEDICAL OFFICER FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FOR THE NELSON MANDELA METRO - 2008 TO AUGUST 2009- Responsible for chronic clinics at Soweto township in Port Elizabeth, KwaDwesi ,New Brighton and Gqebera Clinics

MEMBER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROVINCE OF THE EASTERN CAPE: FROM 2008 TO 2013

CLINICIAN FOR FOUNDATION FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORTING GQEBERA , GOVAN MBEKI AND MISSIONVALE CLINICS (ARV both Adult and Paediatric, STI,TB and OI)- 01 AUGUST 2009 TO 31 JULY 2010 end of contract)

CLINICIAN AND MENTOR - KHETHIMPILO NGO

Laetitia Bam Community Health Centre, Edamini Clinic, Isolomzi Clinic and Nomangesi Jayiya Clinic in Uitenhage – and DuPreez Clinic in Despatch 1 October 2010 to date . Initiating and Experience in both Adult and Paediatric HIV,TB/HIV,STI, PMTCT, Opportunistic Infections and working in Integrated Services. Has been training , coaching and mentoring both nurses(NIMART,TB,STI, Maternal and Child Health, OI's Management) and Patients Advocate(adherence counselling) to 31 January 2013 - no funding

CLINICIAN FOR IYDSA AT MOTHERWELL HEALTH CENTRE – 01 FEBRUARY 2013 TO 31 MARCH 2013

ACTING CEO AND SENIOR MANAGER MEDICAL SERVICES DORA NGINZA HOSPITAL 01 APRIL 2013 TO DECEMBER 2015

ACTING CEO AND MEDICAL MANAGER OF LIVINGSTONE HOSPITAL: because all the senior

managers , including CEO, Human Resource Director, Senior Medical Manager , Finance Director, Nursing Service Manager were suspended because of labour unrest: 2018-April 2019.

MEDICAL MANAGER : PORT ELIZABETH PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL 2015 TO APRIL 2019 – responsible for moving all tertiary services housed in PEPH to Livingstone Tertiary Hospital to make way for PEPH to be a district hospital as gazetted.

Chairperson of Bid Evaluation Committee to evaluate all bids to present to IBAC.

Member of the Institutional Cost Containment Committee. Responsible for renovations at the hospital to create a 72hour Mental Ward to alleviate overflow of Psychiatric Wards in Livingstone Accident and Emergency Unit.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name/S : Bukelwa Gilberta
Surname : Hans (born Mbulawa)
Gender : Female
ID Number : 540419 0778 08 3
Date of birth : 19 April 1954
Place of birth : Krugersdorp
Marital Status : Married
Dependents : Three
Language : Xhosa Mother Tongue
English – speak, read and write
Afrikaans – speak, read and write
Address : 25 Silver Sands , Erasmus Drive
Summerstrand. Port Elizabeth
6001
Home Tel : +27 41 5833723
Mobile : +27 826515070
E-mail : stukie@iafrica.com

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

ETTRICK FARM SCHOOL- IDA : Grade 1- Grade 4 1963

ARTHUR TSENGIWE HIGHER PRIMARY, CALA : Grade 5 -Grade 7 1963- 1967

HEALDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL FORT BEAUFORT : Grade 8- Grade 12 1968- 1972

UNIVERSITY OF NATAL : MB ChB 1973 - 1979.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE OF SA : DIPLOMA IN OBSTETRICS 1993

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION BY EXTENSION COLLEGE : DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY
1999 - 2002

References : Advocate Luvuyo Bono –0826515428 -luvb@me.com

Rev S Loni : 0827848558 Minister in Charge St Andrews Uniting Presbyterian Church -
sibaloni@gmail.com

Mr Michael Byrnes: Finance Director Livingstone Tertiary Hospital 0835610424

07 June 2023

**CONSENT FOR NOMINATION INTO THE ASSEMBLY ADMINISTRATIVE
REVIEW PANEL AND COURT OF ASSEMBLY**

I **Bukelwa Gilberta Hans**, ID **5404190778083** , residing at **25 Silver Sands,
Erasmus Drive , Summerstrand, Gqeberha**, in the Central Cape Presbytery,
hereby give consent and acceptance for my name to be used for nomination to
serve as a member of the AARP and Court of Assembly

Thank you

_____ B. Hans. 07/06/2023

Rev Dr BG Hans

CURRICULUM VITAE FOR REV. DR. CHRISTOPHER M'KANDAWIRE

NAME: CHRISTOPHER M'KANDAWIRE
CONTACT: +260977799201, +260966799201
NRC. ID: 535991/11/1
DATE OF BIRTH: 29/09/1971
GENDA: MALE.
RESIDENTIAL: 420 MWANDI EXTENTION LIVINGSTONE ZAMBIA

FAMILY LIFE

1996 MARRIED TO RHODAH T. M'KANDAWIRE
1998 BLESSED WITH TWINS KONDWANI AND WANANGWA
2006 BLESSED WITH A DAUGHTER WONGANI DOROTHY M'KANDAWIRE

EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS

1979 - 1987: FULL SCHOOL CERTIFICATE AT KAUNDA SQUARE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN LUSAKA.
1988 -1992: FULL HIGH SCHOOL CERTIFICATE AT MUNALI BOYS SECONDARY SCHOOL IN LUSAKA.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

1993 – 1996: DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY AT ST. PAUL'S UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE, LIMURU KENYA.
2004 – 2005: BACHELOR DEGREE IN THEOLOGY AT UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN CAPE, RSA.
2010 – 2011: DOCTOR OF DIVINITY AT LOUISIANA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY, LOUISIANA USA.

OTHER QUALIFICATION

1994 TUTORS CERTIFICATE WITH THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION BY EXTENSION OF ZAMBIA.
1995 CERTIFICATE IN BEE KEEPING AT MWEKELA BEE KEEPING COLLEGE.
2006 CERTIFICATE IN IMS AT MAYCOM COMPUTERS.

WORK

1993 WORKSHOP RECEPTIONIST AT TOYOTA ZAMBIA.
1996 – 1998: PROBATION FOR THE MINISTRY AT CHILANGA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
1998 DECEMBER ORDINATION FOR THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT UPCS
1999 – DATE SENIOR PASTOR AT DAVID LIVINGSTONE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (UPCSA)
2001 – DATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WITH ROCK OF AFRICA MISSIONS, PART TIME.

POSITIONS HELD IN CHURCH AND IN COMMUNITY

1990 – 1991: PRAYER SECRETARY SCRIPTURE UNION AT MUNALI SECONDARY SCHOOL IN LUSAKA
1991 – 1992: CHAIRPERSON SCRIPTURE UNION AT MUNALI SECONDARY SCHOOL LUSAKA.
1991 – 1992: CHAIRPERSON KAUNDA SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH YOUTH FELLOWSHIP.
1997 – 1998: CONVENER MINISTRY CENTRAL ZAMBIA PRESBYTERY
1998 – 1999: MODERATOR CENTRAL ZAMBIA PRESBYTERY
1999 – 2000: CONVENER MINISTRY COMMITTEE SYNOD OF ZAMBIA
2002 – DATE MEMBER OF NATIONAL RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING ORGANIZATION

	USA.
2001 – 2003:	MAYOR’S CHAPLAIN LIVINGSTONE CITY COUNCIL, ZAMBIA.
2001 – 2002:	CONVENER CROSS CULTURAL MISSION GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPCSA.
2003 – 2006:	MODERATOR CENTRAL ZAMBIA PRESBYTERY
2004 – 2005:	COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION GLOBAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE UPCSA GA.
2004 – 2007:	VISITING LECTURER YOUTH WITH A MISSION LIVINGSTONE BASE.
2004 – 2005:	CHAIRPERSON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN ZAMBIA, LIVINGSTONE BRANCH.
2005 – 2006:	VICE CHAIRPERSON ZAMBIA INTERFAITH NETWORKING GROUPINGS AGAINST AIDS/HIV LIVINGSTONE BRANCH.
2005 – 2008:	SECRETARY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN ZAMBIA LIVINGSTONE BRANCH.
2006 – 2008:	MODERATOR DESIGNATE UPCSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2008 – 2010:	MODERATOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPCSA.
2011 – 2014:	CHAIRPERSON YMCA LIVINGSTONE BRANCH
2013 – 2016:	CHAIRPERSON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN ZAMBIA LIVINGSTONE ZAMBIA.
2015 TO DATE	TRUSTEE MEMBER PASTORS FELLOWSHIP LIVINGSTONE.
2016 – 2020:	CONVENER ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE UPCSA
2018 – 2020:	CONVENER MINISTRY COMMITTEE SYNOD OF ZAMBIA
2021 – DATE	CONVENER MINISTRY COMMITTEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2019 - 2021:	VICE CHAIRPERSON YMCA LIVINGSTONE BRANCH
2021- DATE	CONVENER MINISTRY COMMITTEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2021- DATE	COMMUNITY MEMBER TENDER BOARD MOH LIVINGSTONE DISTRICT
2022-DATE	COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTO MWALE UNIVERSITY LUSAKA
2023-DATE	BOARD MEMBER LIVINGSTONE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS STUDIES

NOMINATION FROM LIMPOPO PRESBYTERY FOR THE COURT OF ASSEMBLY AND AARP

Elder M.Thema
Elder M.I Mukwevho

NOMINATIONS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF ZIMBABWE

COURT OF ASSEMBLY/AARP:
Rev Dr Garikai Mufanabadza
Rev Dr David Mushayavanhu
Elder Mr Elisha Gobvu

MODERATOR DESIGNATE: Rev Dr Amon Kasambala.

CURRICULUM VITAE OF ADVOCATE LULAMA DAVID HALAM

CONTACT: 060 330 2642
072 048 1804

PERSONAL DETAILS

SURNAME : Halam
NAME : Lulama David
DATE OF BIRTH : 22 May 1964
ID NUMBER : 640522 5161 087
GENDER : Male
MARITAL STATUS : Married
RELIGION : Elder UPCS: Ross Mission
HEALTH : Good and energetic
NATIONALITY : South African
LANGUAGE : IsiXhosa and English
CONTACT DETAILS : 060 330 2642/ 072 048 1804
EMAIL : ntingamagcina@gmail.com
HOME ADDRESS : Lwandlane Location, Mthatha
WORK ADDRESS : 3RD Floor Metropolitan Place
 Corner Leeds and Craister Street
 Mthatha, 5099

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

SECONDARY EDUCATION

QUALIFICATION : Senior Certificate
SCHOOL : Jumba Senior Secondary School
YEAR : 1982

TERTIARY EDUCATION

QUALIFICATION : B-JURIS Degree
INSTITUTION : University of Transkei
YEAR : 1991
QUALIFICATION : LLB
INSTITUTION : UNISA
YEAR : 1996

WORK EXPERIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

RANK : Constable to Captain
YEAR : 1984 – 1996

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DUTIES : State Prosecutor: Mdantsane
 Regional Court, East London
YEAR : 01/09/1996 – 06/02/2000
 : State Advocate: Bisho High
 Court, Mdantsane Circuit.
YEAR : 07/02/2000 – 30/06/2001

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

PUPILLAGE COURSE: Johannesburg Bar
PERIOD : 01/07/2001 – 15/12/2001
ADVOCATE : Johannesburg Bar
PERIOD : 2002 – 2015

ADVOCATE : Mthatha Bar, Mthatha
PERIOD : 2016 to date
ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE
INVESTIGATOR : Jali Commission of Inquiry on
Correctional Service Matters
PERIOD : 01/03/2003 – 30/06/2004

INVOLVEMENT IN THE UPCS

ELDRSHIP: Ordained as an Elder in 2008 at Ross Mission, Mthatha.

SECRETARY: Fellowship of Men at Ross Mission: 2022 to date.

COMMISSIONER: Mthatha Presbytery: 2021 to date.

: General Assembly: 2021 to 2023, alternate.

: General Assembly: 2023.

COMMITTEE MEMBER: Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and
Evaluation Committee: JH Soga Memorial
Synod, Mthatha, 2022 to date.

: Church Office Committee, Mthatha Presbytery, 2021 to
2023.

: Priorities and Resources Committee, Mthatha Presbytery,
2021 to 2023.

: Audit Committee: General Assembly 2021 to 2023.

CONVENER: Church Fellowships Committee: Mthatha Presbytery
2022 to date.

AARP MEMBER: 2019 to 2021.

: 2021 to 2023, alternate.

PRESBYTERY COURT MEMBER: Mthatha Presbytery, 2021 to 2023.

REFERENCES

1. Adv EM Matanda
081 408 0874
2. Rev VP Mabo
064 509 3126

ADVOCATE LULAMA DAVID HALAM
THE OAK GROUP OF ADVOCATES

3RD Floor Metropolitan Place, No. 49 Leeds Road Corner Craister Street, Mthatha
Cell: 060 330 2642 and 072 048 1804 Email: ntingamagcina@gmail.com

07 June 2023

LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE: LD HALAM ROSS MISSION,
MTHATHA PRESBYTERY

I hereby accept my nomination as a member of the AARP.

Yours faithfully

L.D. Halam

Appendix A of the Manual Committee Report to General Assembly 2023

The Assembly Standing Commission

1. Constitution

The Assembly Standing Commission is constituted by General Assembly as a Standing Commission ("permanent and continuing") in terms of para 13.1 (a) of the *Manual of Faith and Order*.

2. Membership

The Assembly Standing Committee's membership shall be as follows: The Moderator of General Assembly (as chair), the Immediate Former Moderator, the Moderator Designate, the General Secretary, the Clerk of Assembly (as Secretary), the General Treasurer, three ministers and three elders elected by every Assembly through the normal nomination process. The term of office of the Standing Committee shall be the period between meetings of the General Assembly.

3. Existing rules as per the Manual

The rules contained in 13.2 to 13.7, and 13.15 to 13.19 pertaining to membership, Moderator and Clerk, General Assembly's powers of referral, reporting, the AARP's supervision, quorum, power to convene and reporting apply.

4. Terms of Reference

- 4.1. To monitor the strategic plan of the UPCSA as provided and agreed by the General Assembly.
- 4.2. To ensure that Assembly committees and Presbyteries are actively aligning themselves with the strategic plan of the UPCSA.
- 4.3. To monitor and evaluate the implementation of decisions of the General Assembly.
- 4.4. To monitor and seek to promote the smooth functioning of Presbyteries.
- 4.5. To address and attend to situations where information is received that a Presbytery might be in an unsatisfactory state (as per the provisions of the Manual of Faith and Order).
- 4.6. To attend to urgent business that may arise between the meetings of the General Assembly or Executive Commission. Such business includes the following:
 - (a) Developments that may impact adversely on the workings of the UPCSA such as changes in the political and socioeconomic space;
 - (b) Developments that may bring challenge to the sitting of General Assembly (e.g. The recent Covid 19 pandemic);
 - (c) Responses to issues that may be raised by the ecumenical movements that the UPCSA is affiliated with (in consultation with the Ecumenical Relations committee);
 - (d) Nominations of a UPCSA member to serve in senior positions in ecumenical movements (in consultation with Ecumenical Relations Committee) or appointments at a Theological Faculty where the UPCSA is a partner (in consultation with the Ministry Committee). These appointments must be reported in full to the subsequent sitting of General Assembly or Executive Commission.
- 4.7. To approve Public Statements on the position of the UPCSA on issues of political, economic, social, and spiritual importance (in consultation with Church in Society or other appropriate Assembly Committee).

5. Powers of the Assembly Standing Commission

The Assembly Standing Commission may carry out its duties in the period between meetings of the General Assembly in terms of its Terms of Reference but is subject to the following provisos:

- (a) it has no inherent authority or jurisdiction, and in particular it does not have the powers of the General Assembly to deal with or dispose of matters otherwise than is directed in the *Manual*;
- (b) it is bound by any restrictions or conditions that the General Assembly imposes from time to time;
- (c) it does not rescind decisions of General Assembly.

The Assembly Standing Commission reports to the General Assembly, ordinarily through the Commission's Minutes, on the business it has handled and the decisions it has taken.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIPS COMMITTEE SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

In the original report document, the committee raised a number of issues but could not make concrete proposals due to the fact that those were the decisions taken by the consultation of this committee with the denominational executive committees of all fellowships. As much as we were all in agreement, but further consultation of the general membership was necessary. I write this report to request the General Assembly to make a decision in one of those very important matters that I am stating below.

2. THE UNIFORM

The consultation agreed that it will be helpful to remove the issue of the uniform from the discussion of the general membership but allow a situation where an outside body can deal with this matter and propose the new uniform to the General Assembly. This idea emanated from the fact that the issue of uniforms was at the centre of the whole Associations saga. The executives unanimously agreed that they want to focus on other things than spending time on uniforms. We are requesting that the General Assembly rule on this matter this year because the committee has consulted at least 70% of fellowship councils on this matter and they all warm up to the idea only if they will be represented in that body. The body we envisage is the body that will take the shape of the GAWGA where you have a core group plus fellowships representatives. We believe the church fellowships committee with powers to co-opt can set up that task team and together with the fellowships reps work on the new uniforms for all fellowships. This idea worked very well when the GAWGA Team presented and proposed names for all the fellowships to the General Assembly.

The second and very important reason for the committee to request the Assembly to rule on the matter is that almost all fellowships had started talking about the uniform and most of them wanted to start with the badge, some were hoping to present their badge at this Assembly for ratification. I can safely say we have experienced problems in some of the fellowships as they tackle this one item of the badge. One council meeting could not be finished because of the tension that arose at the discussion about the badge. At the council meeting of the other fellowship, the matter was discussed and everybody seemed to be happy but after the council meeting the denominational executive received the letter questioning the decision on the badge. To us, as a committee, this is a sign that fellowships are not ready to deal with this matter peacefully. The intervention of the General Assembly will be of great importance.

Proposals

1. That the General Assembly receive the report
2. That the General Assembly rescind clause 6.3.2 of the church fellowships constitution and mandate the church fellowships committee to establish a uniform task team which also includes (but is not limited to) the fellowships' representatives.

Rev Thabani Masikane
Acting Convenor

CHURCH OFFICE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE (COHRC): SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

Introduction:

There were two important issues pertaining to senior staff appointments in our Church Office that were still in process when we were due to submit our COHRC report for General Assembly. Updates on these two issues form the basis of this supplementary report.

Appointment of a New Ministry Secretary

We were obliged to search for a replacement for our newly appointed Ministry Secretary following the premature termination of the contract with Rev Dr Pakiso Tondi due to his unexpected appointment by Rhodes University as Director of Student Affairs. Details concerning his resignation and the emergency measures to ensure ongoing support and training of our students for the ministry are included in our other report. All that will be covered here are the details of the search and appointment process for his successor.

The position was widely advertised early in February 2023 with an emphasis on the need for demographic representivity and an initial closing date of 15 March 2023. However, there was concern about the limited number of applicants as well as the lack of racial and gender representivity so it was agreed, in liaison with the Ministry Committee (MinComm), to extend the deadline to 31 March and to re-advertise the post with a special request to the Gender Desk to play a role in encouraging women to apply for this position.

By the end of March, eight applications had been received, with a slightly better demographic spread of candidates. However, the only female applicant was unqualified for the job as she is not an ordained minister and does not have a qualification in theology. She, therefore, had to be excluded from the preselection process. Just before the closure of applications, two women were approached personally and asked to apply for the position to address the matter of gender balance, but neither responded to this invitation.

A joint interview panel was constituted, including six-panel members with three representatives from MinComm, one person who serves on both MinComm and the COHRC, and the General Secretary. Clear preselection criteria were set regarding qualifications, experience, and specific skills. A standardized four-point rating system was used to establish a shortlist of candidates for interviews. Three people were excluded from this preselection phase as they did not meet the minimum requirements in terms of qualifications and experience.

Five candidates were interviewed remotely via Zoom in April with an agreed set of questions, including the candidates' understanding of reformed theology and Presbyterianism, ecumenism, strategy, and vision of the UPSCA, student needs and challenges, experience with training and tertiary institutions, etc. A standardized four-point rating system was again used to score the responses of each candidate for each question. The consolidated results were then discussed at considerable length by the combined interview panel. Three candidates were closely rated, thus posing difficulty in the final selection. It was agreed that psychometric tests be conducted to provide additional input for a solid decision concerning which of the three would be best suited to the role of Ministry Secretary. The earliest dates that could be set for these tests was mid-May.

The psychometric tests were conducted with subsequent discussion of the results with the relevant candidates by Dr Taylor and the Convenors of the COHRC and Ministry Committee. A subsequent meeting was held with the full interview panel to reach an agreement concerning the preferred candidate and to formulate a recommendation for endorsement by the COHRC at its meeting on Tuesday 23 May 2023.

The name of the successful candidate will be made public by the time of General Assembly

in June to allow for full and fair completion of the entire procedure including personal notification of all the candidates concerning the outcome.

Future Considerations for a Successor to the General Secretary

Our General Secretary's contract comes to an end in August 2024. This means that the COHRC elected by General Assembly in June will have this senior appointment as one of its immediate goals, with the ratification of the appointment required by the Executive Commission in 2024.

There has been a clear instruction from General Assembly 2021 that a woman should be appointed to this position. The current Committee has put immense effort into seeking a gender balance in response to the senior positions under consideration but with very little success. Despite its willingness and concerted efforts, this might once again pose a problem with respect to a successor to the General Secretary. It is, therefore, strongly recommended that General Assembly agrees to waive the decision taken in 2021 to appoint a woman as his successor. However, every effort should be made to address the issue of gender equity for this position.

Proposals

It is proposed that General Assembly:

1. Receive this supplementary report.
2. Notes the appointment of Rev Mzwamadoda E Mtyhobile as the new Ministry Secretary.
3. Agrees to waive the decision taken at the 2021 General Assembly to appoint a woman as the successor to the current General Secretary.

MINISTRY

Supplementary Report to the General Assembly 2023

I. Call Discernment Conference

Given a large number of applications to become Minister of Word and Sacrament, the Ministry Committee decided at the May meeting to set up two discernment conferences in 2023, May and October conferences. A virtual Discernment Conference was held from 22nd – 26th May 2023 with minimal connectivity issues to discern the call of seventeen candidates. Out of the seventeen candidates, two of them were Ministers from other denominations. Both the Ministers from other denominations could not go through all panels because of some gaps in their application process, one has been active in the Ministry of the UPCSAs for over a year but had not attended any Fellowship of Vocation session, and the other one was still a Minister in his denomination and fell off the interviews and was not able to join again. Candidates were given the protocol for running the virtual conference. All protocols were duly observed, and a successful Conference was held. The remainder of the applicants will be discerned from 23rd – 27th October 2023.

The committee decided that seven candidates become students for the Ministry with effect from 1 January 2024; four candidates were deferred, and four were not successful.

The list of Candidates to go ahead in the discerning of the call is as follows:

1. Chikanya, Antony	Student
2. Ganje, Joshua	Student
3. Maarterns, Alet	Student
4. Mfunda, Lerato	Student
5. Mhlontlo, Odwa	Student
6. Nachengwa, Olivia	Student
7. Vaaiboom, Chwayita	Student

II. ADMISSION INTO MINISTRY OF THE UPCSAs

On the 16th May 2023 the Ministry Committee received and approved the recommendation of the Rev Sandile Dlamini to be fully accepted by the UPCSAs as a Minister in the denomination.

III. PRESBYTERY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

PROPOSAL FOR THE TRAINING OF THE DRC PRESBYTERY MINISTERS

1. Background

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Presbytery was constituted in April 2022. Currently, the Presbytery consists of fifty-seven (57) congregations and fifty-seven (57) ordained ministers that have been received into the UPCSAs fold. There are only six (6) ministers who have been through formal training. Most of the ministers require further training to obtain the present diploma or degree level held in all other UPCSAs Presbyteries. In this relation, the GA Ministry Committee has been tasked to explore the possibilities regarding the appropriate curriculum for the training of the fifty-one (51) ministers.

The purpose of training will be to enhance the already existing knowledge and ability of the fifty-one (51) ministers to practice and serve as Ministers of Word and Sacraments within the UPCSAs. As outlined in the Manual of Faith and Order of the UPCSAs a minister is someone who is called, trained, equipped, and ordained to preach the Word, administer the Sacraments, and care for those in his/her charge.

However, in providing the necessary training the church has a challenge in that the primary language for the ministers from the DRC Presbytery is French, and this means whatever

the training that will be organised will have to be in French. The other challenge is that the level of education of majority of the ministers is below what in South African education system is Grade 12. The fact that these ministers are ordained and already practising and serving as Ministers of Word and Sacraments within their Presbytery should be a starting point. In addition, it should be used to determine what kind of training is needed and the learning approach that can be used. The fact that all the ministers have been instrumental in establishing the fifty-seven (57) congregations is evident that they possess basic knowledge and practical work experience in evangelism and mission, and pastoral ministry.

Therefore, the approach that can be suitable in ensuring effective learning of the team is Outcomes Based Education (OBE). The approach recognises and make an emphasis of existing knowledge, which may not be from formal training. To validate their experience there will be a need for each one of the ministers to create a Portfolio of Evidence (PoE). The advantage of OBE approach is that learning will certainly “be rooted and applicable within its social context; and as a consequence of educational process, learners should possess usable knowledge” (Moodie 2008: 61).

2. Possibilities

There are a number of possibilities that can be explored by the GA Ministry Committee on behalf of the denomination.

- i. The UPCSAs can organise in-house training that will focus on specific critical areas, such as (a) Basic knowledge on Reformed Tradition, b) Brief history of the UPCSAs, (c) Pastoral Care, (d) Leadership and others. In this case, some learning materials can be developed and assessments conducted in line with the OBE approach.

OR

- ii. In collaboration with TEEC Southern Africa, Justo Mwale University, TEE in Zambia, or any of the theological institutions within DRC, develop a qualification that will capacitate and address some of the gaps that need immediate attention. Given the level of education of most of the ministers, the relevant qualification could be a Basic Certificate in Church Ministries, with the possibility of further studies. The other possibility is to engage the United Church of Zambia University (UCZU) and establish how their two (2) years Diploma in Decolonial and Christian Ministry (DipDiac) is something that can address our needs. The DipDiac is offered on both a full-time and distance basis.

The above-mentioned possibilities are not conclusive. As a matter of fact, as we engage in the project, we may come across other options that are more learner-centered and cost-effective. What all the options should bear in mind is the fact that the required training is not for the purposes of preparing the DRC Presbytery ministers for ordination, but to empower them so that they can be on par with the other ministers of the UPCSAs from other presbyteries.

3. Task Team

To be able to effectively and efficiently provide a way forward on this important issue a Task Team should be set up and have a clear mandate and timeline. In order to achieve the envisaged outcomes the Task Team should be led by the Convener of the GA Ministry Committee and Ministry Secretary, complemented by four (4) members who have some expertise in theological training, capacity building, and mission. The Ministry Committee would identify the four (4) members.

Funding

Considering the fact that whichever of the above-mentioned options the church may choose there will always be a need for financial resources. For this purpose, a funding proposal will have to be generated and submitted to organisations such as Council for World Mission (CWM) and any other organisation that has an interest in mission work. The

financial implication of the project will be clearly outlined as soon as an institution has been identified or a preferred option agreed upon.

4. Conclusion

As outlined above the purpose of this submission is to ensure that the UPCSA has a Plan that will be followed in supporting the Ministers from the DRC Presbytery to be adequately capacitated to function in the manner that is expected of all UPCSA ministers of Word and Sacraments. All the efforts to achieve this objective will be in collaboration and consultation with the Synod of Zambia.

Bibliography

Manual of Faith and Order of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa.
Moodie, T. 2008. TEE College of Southern Africa. In R Kinsler (ed.). *Diversified Theological Education: Equipping All God's People*. Pasadena, California: William Carey International University Press.

PROPOSALS

1. The General Assembly approves the names of the students as outlined in the report.
2. The General Assembly notes the second discernment conference scheduled for 23rd – 30th October 2023.
3. The General Assembly approves the full admission of Rev Sandile Dlamini into the Ministry of the UPCSA.
4. The General Assembly approves the proposal for the training of Ministers in the Democratic Republic of Congo Presbytery.

Rev Dr Chris Mkandawire
Convener

THE AD HOC CONFESSIONS TASK TEAM REPORT

(Appendage to the Report of the Doctrine Committee to the General Assembly 2023)

The Ad hoc Task Team on Confessions

This Task Team operates by email and at present consists of the following:

Local members: Douglas Bax (convener), Heinrich Asch, Douglas Bower, Eleanor Gaunt, Cornelis Jongeleen, Bonisile Mdyesha and Dave Smit.

Corresponding members: Andries Combrink, Glynis Goyns, Godfrey Msiska, Lita Madaka, William Pool and Knowledge Zinduru.

The UPCSA Confession of Faith: Clause 5.3 on the Trinity

Despite all the evidence for the Creator in the beauty and complexity of the created world and despite all their religious yearnings and seeking, human beings have no authentic natural knowledge of God. For sin corrupts their perception and cuts them off from any true knowledge of God (Rom. 1:18ff.) Thus God is “the unknown God” (Ac. 17:22f.) unless and until in grace God chooses to be revealed to them. This happened proleptically through Moses and the prophets but fully and adequately only in Jesus Christ.

This fuller knowledge began in the encounter with Jesus of those who first followed him, as they began to believe in his message and then also in him as the Messiah, as the Son of God, and finally, through their experience and the work of the Holy Spirit in them, as God incarnate (Jn. 1:1, 3;31, 8:58, 14:7-11, 20:28, Rom. 9:5, Phi. 2:9, Col. 1:15, 2:9, Tit. 2:13, Heb. 1:3,8, II Pet. 1:1, Rev. 19:16, 22:13 cf. 1:8).¹ The Christian concept of God was thus something first experienced, and only in the wake of that experience worked out notionally—as threefold: God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But the working out began in the context of the Jewish faith. And Israel had been brought through a long process, out of polytheism (e.g., Ex. 32:4,8, 33:4, Num. 25:2) through henotheism (e.g., Ex. 18:11, 20:3, 34:12-16, Deut. 5:7, 6:13-15, 10:17, 11:26-28, 13:6ff., 32:8, Jdg. 6:7-10, I Chr. 16:15, II Chr. 2:5, Ps. 96:4, 97:7,9, 135:5, Jer. 25:6, 35:15) and finally to strict monotheism (Isa. 44:6-8, 45:5f., 18,21, 46:9, Jer. 5:7, 10:11). The working out was therefore concerned to preserve inviolate, as an axiom, the monotheistic confession of the *Shema*, the Jewish creed, “Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord alone” (Deut. 6:4, cf. Mk. 12:29, Jn. 5:44, 17:3, Rom. 3:30, I Cor. 8:4,6, Gal. 3:20, Eph. 4:6, I Tim. 1:17, 2:5, Js. 2:19, 4:12, Jde 25 etc.). It therefore issued in the concept of God as *triune*.

After many years of discussion the Church in the East eventually settled on a verbal formula to express this: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit were three distinct *hypostaseis* who were not divided but one in *ousia*. The two Greek words *hypostasis* and *ousia* were originally synonyms, the former Stoic, the latter Platonic, both meaning that which is a thing is by virtue of its being or existence. But the great Christian scholar Origen (c.185-c.254 AD) gave to *hypostasis* the meaning of an individually subsisting or existing entity, which theologians after him retained—and also described the three *hypostaseis* of the Trinity as all existing from eternity.² *Ousia* on the other hand generally maintained its meaning of essence, or being (in the case of the Trinity the essence, or being, of the Godhead).³ The Councils of Nicaea (325 AD) and Constantinople (381 AD) in due course declared the *hypostaseis* to be of one and the same substance, or being (in Greek *homoousios*).

But how was this to be expressed in Latin, the language of the Western Church? The Latin word that in its etymological form was equivalent to *hypostasis* was *substantia*, but the meaning of *substantia* was equivalent to that of *ousia*. Tertullian (c.150-c.220 AD), who was also the first to use the Latin term *trinitas*, therefore resorted to the term *persona* in the place of *hypostasis*. Thus he spoke of *tres personae* in *una substantia* (“three *personae* in one substance”). But *persona* did not then mean what the word “person” means today. Its primary meaning in Latin was an external “mask” that an actor wore to identify his role in a play; but by Tertullian’s time it had come to mean:

- an actor’s role or a stage character (still the meaning of the word in the phrase “*Dramatis personae*” commonly printed as the heading for the list of roles or stage characters in a programme for a play and so
- the role or function of a person in society or a person’s public image (as we still speak of a person’s public *persona*).

The point was thus that one individual could act in, or have, more than one *persona* or objective role.

J.N.D. Kelly and G.L. Prestige thus both define the meaning of *persona* in Tertullian as “the concrete presentation of an individual”⁴. This is to put it somewhat abstrusely, however; it would be more comprehensible if slightly paraphrased as: an individual’s concrete presentation of him/herself or the concrete image of him/herself that a

¹ On some of these texts see D.B. Wallace: *Greek Grammar. Beyond the Basics* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan), p.256-270 and 270-290.

² J.N.D. Kelly: *Early Christian Doctrines* (London: A. & C. Black, 1958), p.129.

³ *Ibid.*, p.129-131.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p.115, G.L. Prestige: *God in Patristic Thought* (London: SPCK, 1964), p.159.

person projects. One must also understand that Tertullian meant that, unlike an actor able to play only one stage character at a time, God had three simultaneous *personae*.⁵

For some time after Tertullian the formula three *personae* in one *substantia* was accepted in the West. But the word *persona* continued to change its meaning. It later came to mean a person's character as such and finally to mean what the word "person" does in English today. Thus though some people still today speak of "one God in three persons", the change in meaning has made many who hear this formula understand it as *tritheistic*, i.e. as meaning three separate divine individuals or selves, that is really, three gods (a committee of three?) instead of one God and so one Person. The basic point is, as the Oxford theologian Alister McGrath spells it out, "When we talk about God as one person, we mean one person *in the modern sense of the word*, and when we talk about God as three persons, we mean three persons *in the ancient sense of the word*."⁶ Thus, for instance, Jesus Christ is not a Person beside the Person of God; in him Godself has taken on our humanity. Nor is the Spirit a Person beside the Person of God; the Spirit extends God's own self-revelation in Christ to us today and so is Godself in relation to us. It is the Father who reaches us in the Son and brings us by the Spirit to the Son and in him to the Father.⁷

A fundamental principle of the Reformation was that of *sola Scriptura*. Both Martin Luther and John Calvin emphasized and contended for this principle. As Calvin wrote:

let us not take it into our heads either to seek out God anywhere else than in his Sacred Word, or to think anything about him that is not prompted by his Word, or to speak anything that is not taken from the Word.⁸

Both Luther and Calvin stressed that God was a majestic and unfathomable mystery which human beings can know only through God's own self-revelation in Christ and which even then they can conceptualize only to the extent that the Spirit enables their very finite human ability to understand that revelation (I Cor. 13:12). As Hilary of Poitiers (c. 310-c.367) had put it, God "is the one fit witness to himself, and is not known except through himself".⁹

Particularly with regard to the doctrine of the Trinity, Calvin wrote, we should "use great caution that neither our thoughts nor our speech go beyond the limits to which the Word of God itself extends". We should thus strictly confine our thoughts and words to what is revealed in Scripture. But this did not mean that we had to confine our *language* strictly to the language of Scripture in explicating a doctrine like that of the Trinity, because nothing "prevents us from explaining in clearer words those matters in Scripture which perplex and hinder our understanding", so long as such words "faithfully serve the truth of Scripture itself, and are made use of sparingly and modestly".¹⁰ Thus Calvin, like Luther, accepted the traditional teaching of the Church fathers on the Trinity as faithfully interpreting and witnessing to Scripture. Especially in opposition to the anti-Trinitarians of his day (Michael Servetus being the most prominent) Calvin emphasized the witness of Scripture to the doctrine of the Trinity—and in that context to the deity of Christ and the deity of the Holy Spirit as both foundational to the knowledge of God. But for him it was not the particular traditional term that was important but the meaning and because he thought it a better translation of *hypostasis* (like Thomas Aquinas before him) he himself preferred to use the term "*a subsistentia* ('subsistence') in God's essence" rather than *persona*.¹¹

In the period of Reformed scholasticism after Calvin some Reformed theologians followed him in using *subsistentia* as a synonym, or substitute, for *hypostasis*. But this did not become a widely accepted solution. The Westminster Confession (1647), as one notable example, still persisted with the term "persons" (ch. 2.3). Several Reformed theologians instead used the Greek term *tropoi hyparxeōs* ("modes of being")¹²; and Bartholomäus Keckermann (d. 1609), a Pole, and Johannes Wolleb (d. 1629), a Swiss, used its Latin equivalent, *modus entis*.¹³ This was not a novel solution. Among the Cappadocian Fathers in the 4th century the term *tropoi hyparxeōs* had been used in referring to the different "modes of origin or coming to be" of the three *hypostaseis* in the Trinity (as ingenerate, begotten/generated and proceeding), and Amphilochius of Iconium, a friend of Basil of Caesarea, had used the same phrase in the sense of their modes of being or relation.¹⁴

Karl Barth, the great Reformed theologian of the 20th century (1886-1968), actually began his doctrine of revelation with the doctrine of the Trinity. *Inter alios* he quoted Herman Bavink, the Dutch Reformed theologian (1826-1909): "With the confession of God's triunity, stands and falls the whole of Christianity, the whole special revelation. It is the kernel of the Christian faith, the root of all dogmas, . . . the heart of the whole revelation of God for the redemption of humankind."¹⁵ This emphasizes not only the central importance of the doctrine but the need to get it right!

⁵ That is to say, Tertullian did not mean his use of the term *personae* to be understood in a Modalistic way. (See below.)

⁶ A. McGrath: *Understanding the Trinity* (Eastbourne: Kingsway), 1999, p.131. *Italics* original.

⁷ H. Berkhof: *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit* (London: Epworth, 1965), p. 121.

⁸ Calvin, *Inst.* I.xiii.21.

⁹ Hilary of Poitiers: *On the Trinity*, I.xviii, quoted in Calvin: *Institutes* I.xiii.21.

¹⁰ *Inst.* I.xiii.3 cf. IV.viii.16, III.xv.2.

¹¹ *Inst.* I.xiii.6. See the argument against quarrelling about words in I.xiii.5 and also B.B. Warfield: *Calvin and Augustine* (Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1980), p.213.

¹² The Greek term *tropos* meant "way, manner, style", and *hyparxis* meant "existence, being, reality, substance (or property, possessions)".

¹³ H. Berkhof: *op. cit.*, p.118 and 128 n.19.

¹⁴ J.N.D. Kelly: *op. cit.*, p.265f., cf. G.L. Prestige: *op.cit.*, p.245-249.

¹⁵ H. Bavink: *Gereformeerde Dogmatiek*, vol. II, 4th ed., 1918, p.346f., quoted in K. Barth: *Kirchliche Dogmatik*, I/1 (Zürich: Evangelischer Verlag, 7th ed.1955), §9 p.318, *Church Dogmatics* I/1 (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1969), §9 p.347. Translation slightly changed. Cf. also K. Barth: *The Göttingen Dogmatics. Instruction in the Christian Religion* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991), vol. I, p.97.

Like Calvin Barth sought to base his doctrine strictly on the Word of God (in contrast to the place that 19th century liberal and post-liberal theology gave to reason and universal human experience). Human knowledge of God can occur in the first place only because God is ready to be known, but human sin closes off human beings from knowing God, unless and until God chooses to reveal himself to them (in Jesus Christ) and enables them to repent and come to such knowledge (through the Holy Spirit). Thus God is known through God, and through God alone, for "God is seen, believed, recognized and known only in the act of his self-revelation . . . In the strictest sense revelation is God's own work, lying in his own hands."¹⁶

Barth saw God as the "Trinity in unity" and thus stressed "Christian monotheism"¹⁷. The very first point that he made in the section on *Gottes Dreieinigkeit* ("God's Three-in-Oneness") in his massive *Kirchliche Dogmatik* (*Church Dogmatics*) was: "God is One."¹⁸ For him "the distinction or arrangement [*Unterscheidung oder Ordnung*] of the three 'persons'"¹⁹ meant "the one God in threefold repetition"²⁰. Baptism in the name of the Trinity could thus not be more wrongly interpreted than as baptism into three divine names: it is baptism into the one name of the one and only God.²¹ He opposed both tritheism on the one hand and modalism on the other.²² (*Modalism*, or *Sabellianism*, is a view of God that from a one-sided emphasis on God's *oneness* saw the three *hypostaseis* as three *successive* and therefore each *temporary* modes or forms in which God appeared—first as the Father, then as the Son, then as the Spirit.²³)

Barth was thus concerned about the fact that "the ancient concept of Person . . . has become obsolete"²⁴, so that speaking of three persons in God today tends to lead people into the fallacy of tritheism. He also read about Keckermann and noted his use of the term "modes of existing", or being, in Heinrich Heppes *Reformed Dogmatics*²⁵. In the attempt to find a way to express the doctrine of the Trinity in more adequate terms for today he himself therefore resorted to the German word *Seinsweise* (which means mode/way of being/existence), pointing out that this was the literal translation of *tropos hyparxeōs*, which already in use in the Early Church,²⁶ and spoke of one God in three distinctive modes of being.

Barth thus stated:

The concept of the revealed unity of the revealed God thus does not exclude but includes a distinction (*distinctio* or *discretio*), an arrangement [*Ordnung*] (*disposition* or *oeconomia*), in the essence of God. This distinction or arrangement is the distinction or arrangement of the three "Persons"—we prefer to say, the three "modes of being" in God.²⁷

The statement "God is one in three modes of being, Father, Son and Holy Spirit" thus means that the one God, i.e., the one Lord, the one personal God is what He is not just in one mode only, but . . . in the mode of the Father, in the mode of the Son, in the mode of the Holy Spirit.²⁸

Because this language has found increasingly wide acceptance in modern theology²⁹ and seemed so apt, the Ad hoc Confessions Task Team in its first draft of the UPCA Confession of Faith proposed that the key clause on the Trinity (5.3) read:

God is one and the same being, yet threefold: one in three and three in one. The one indivisible God who said, "I am who I am," has always existed and will always exist in three distinct and different but inseparable modes of being, which some call Persons. Each is wholly and fully God, the same in majesty, glory and power, but distinguished by a different relation to the others. They exist eternally with, for, and in one another, in mutual self-giving; yet all retain their identities in personal relationship with one another . . . [etc.].

One Session in the UPCA, however, simply in reaction to the term "modes", objected that the use of it implied modalism. This objection did not stem from proper learning or understanding, however, and was indeed quite invalid. For the word "mode" by itself does not make for modalism; as we have seen, it is the defining of the three *hypostaseis* as three *successive* and therefore *temporary* modes, or forms—first as the Father, then as the Son, then as the Spirit—that does. And the proposed wording clearly and emphatically repudiated this view. But for the sake of avoiding an argument and completing the draft of the new Confession for the united Church, the Committee compromised by substituting the somewhat looser, or vaguer, wording that

¹⁶ K. Barth: *Göttingen Dogmatics*, vol. I, p.87,94.

¹⁷ KD I/1, §9 p.370, CD I/1, §9 p.403.

¹⁸ KD I/1, §9 p.367f., CD I/1, §9 p.400.

¹⁹ KD I/1, §9 p.374, CD I/1, §9 p.407.

²⁰ KD I/1, §9 p.369, CD I/1, §9 p.402.

²¹ KD I/1, §9 p.368f., CD I/1, §9 p.401f.

²² KD I/1, §9 p.367-404, CD I/1, §9 p.400-440.

²³ See J.N.D. Kelly: *op. cit.*, esp. p.119-126.

²⁴ KD I/1, §9 p.386, CD I/1, §9 p.420.

²⁵ See K. Barth: *Göttingen Dogmatics*, vol. I, p.96f. Heppes was a German Reformed theologian and historian. His *Reformed Dogmatics* (1861) is to a large extent a collection of the writings of the key Reformers of the 16th century and Reformed scholars of the 17th. Barth attributed much of his learning about Reformed orthodoxy to this book. First published in English translation in 1950, it was republished by Wipf & Stock in 2008.

²⁶ KD I/1, §9 p.379, CD I/1, §9 p.413.

²⁷ KD I/1, §9 p.374, CD I/1, §9 p.407.

²⁸ KD I/1, §9 p.379, CD I/1, §9 p.413.

²⁹ See, for instance, J.N.D. Kelly, *op. cit.*, p.264 (This is the standard textbook on early Christian doctrine in English).

God is one and the same being, yet threefold: one in three and three in one. The one indivisible God who said, "I am who I am," has always existed and will always exist in three distinct and different but inseparable ways of existence, which some call Persons. . . (*italics added*).

The amendment, however, left some unease in its wake, which has since grown. It may be criticized on the grounds that:

- "ways of existence" is a vaguer, less concrete way of saying "modes of being";
- at least *prima facie* it focuses on *the way a hypostasis exists* more than strictly, or exactly, supplying an equivalent synonym for *hypostasis* itself; and
- the existentialist movement in philosophy and theology has given the word "existence" some connotations that make it less appropriate to use with reference to God than the univocal word "being".³⁰

On further reflection, therefore, the Ad hoc Confessions Task Team proposes that this clause in the Confession of Faith revert to wording along the lines of its original draft, with some small additions, as in Proposal 2 below.

Other Work

[See the *Papers 2019*, pp.271f.]

The Task Team still faces the following work:

- revising the introductions to some of the confessions of faith that have been placed on the UPCS website, in order to make them more appropriate;
- drafting an introduction to the UPCS Confession of Faith;
- drafting a summary version of the UPCS Confession of Faith for use by lay, and especially young, people;
- considering the arguments for and against including the *filioque* ("and the Son") in the Nicene Creed (the Latin word added by the Second Council of Toledo in 589 AD);
- considering the critique of the Apostles' Creed by the well-known German Reformed theologian, Prof. Jürgen Moltmann, that in it "the earthly life of Jesus is reduced to a mere comma between 'born' and 'suffered'".³¹ and what, if anything, can and should be done about this;
- revising the old RPC catechism to align it more closely to the Confession of Faith, for use in the UPCS; and
- drafting further confirmation lessons, in accordance with the instruction of the Executive Commission in 2009 to the Confessions Task Team "to draft a course on the basics of the faith for use in preparing young people for believers' baptism or 'confirmation'—when it has finished its other work" (*Papers, Proceedings and Decisions* of the Executive Commission 2009, pp.49, 290).

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Proposals

1. The Assembly receives the Report.
2. The Assembly
 - a) adopts the following amendment to Clause 5.3 of the UPCS Confession of Faith:

God is one and the same being, yet threefold. The one indivisible God who said, "I am who I am," and is named Yahweh ("the One who is/will be") has always existed and will always exist in three distinct and different but inseparable modes of being: as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.³² Each mode is wholly and fully God, the same in majesty, glory and power, but distinguished by different relations to the others. They all exist eternally with, for, and in one another, in mutual self-giving; yet all retain their distinct identities in their personal relationships with one another. . . [etc.];
 - b) sends the amendment along with the argument for it in the section of the Report on "The UPCS Confession of Faith: Clause 5.3 on the Trinity" to all Presbyteries for their consideration and report in terms of the "barrier" procedure (*Manual*, par. 12.50).
 - c)

³⁰ See, e.g., the discussion in H. V. Hong's foreword to S. Kierkegaard: *Philosophical Fragments or a Fragment of Philosophy* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2nd ed. 1962), p.xiv.

³¹ J. Moltmann: *Wer ist Christus für uns heute?* (Gutersloh: Chr. Kaiser, 1994), p.8f.

³² The classic formula in Latin was "*tres personae una substantia*", which meant "in three roles but sharing one substance, or being", or "one being in three (eternal) roles" (not three individual persons).

Supplementary Document of Peoples with Disabilities

Forthwith here are our amended proposals for Supplementary Papers of General Assembly 2023, for submission.

Following our Zoom meeting on the 7th of June 2023 as a committee made a decision to the proposals on our report to GA, below please find the proposals which capture the content of our report:

PROPOSALS

1. General Assembly 2023 receives the report.
2. General Assembly 2023 approves the PWDs Baseline Survey on how inclusive our congregations are relating to accessibility to facilities and inclusion in the life and work of the church in all Presbyteries.

Convenor of People with Disabilities

Jonathan Langerman