

THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HYBRID 15TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD AT THE CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HARARE, WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE ZIMBABWE PRESBYTERY, FROM THE 24TH OF JUNE TO THE 29TH OF JUNE 2023

FIRST SESSION

At the City Presbyterian Church, Harare, within the bounds of Zimbabwe Presbytery, on Saturday 24th June 2023 at 11h00, the Ministers and Elders appointed to meet this day as Commissioners of the General Assembly convened, some physically, some virtually.

CONSTITUTING SERVICE OF WORSHIP

The Clerk of the General Assembly, the Rev. Vusi Mkhungo, read the call worship: Psalm 66:1-3.

GREETINGS AND WELCOME:

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Thabane Masikane, announced the list of all the Presbyteries of the UPCSA that were virtually connected to it.

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION:

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Thabane Masikane, led the General Assembly in a Prayer of Praise and Adoration.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Thabane Masikane, led the General Assembly in a Prayer of Confession of Sin.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

The Moderator, the Rev. Siphon Mtetwa, pronounced the Assurance of Grace.

The Rev. Thabane Masikane invited the Mbare Choir to render a musical item, which it did.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND READING OF THE WORD

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Thabane Masikane, led the General Assembly in a Prayer for Illumination. The following Scriptures were read:

The Rev. Dr Bukelwa Hans read the Old Testament lection: Deuteronomy 6: 1-15.

The Rev. Heidi Petersen read the Gospel lection: Matthew 6:25-34.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD: THE RETIRING MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

The Retiring Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Siphon Mtetwa, delivered his Address on the theme, "Getting back to basics: 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.'"

The Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Siphon Mtetwa, led the General Assembly in prayer.

The Moderator welcomed the President of the UCCSA and the other Ecumenical delegates who had joined the service late.

THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE:

The Moderator led the General Assembly in reciting the Apostle's Creed together.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND PETITION:

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Thabane Masikane, asked the General Assembly to observe a moment of silence to honour the memory of the late Rev. Dr Patricia Baxter, who had passed away on the 21st June 2023, and also for the Rev. Zola Matutu who was hospitalised and had not been responding well to treatment. He then led the General Assembly in prayers of Petition and Intercession.

CONSTITUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Moderator called on the Clerk of Assembly to read the Roll of Commissioners. The Clerk of Assembly did so and proposed that the Roll be accepted.

The proposal was seconded and agreed.

The Moderator of the General Assembly declared the General Assembly duly constituted.

INDUCTION OF THE MODERATOR

The past Moderators of the General Assembly, the Revs Mukondeleli Ramulondi and Dr Robert Munthali, brought the Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, the Moderator Designate, forward to be inducted as the Moderator of the General Assembly. The Rev. Dr Robert Munthali presented the Rev. Lydia Neshangwe to the General Assembly.

The Moderator-Designate took the Vows of Office.

The Moderator, together with the former Moderators of the General Assembly and the President of the UCCSA, prayed for the Moderator-Designate.

The Moderator-Designate was inducted to office in proper form.

The Congregation sang the Aaronic Blessing.

The Moderator signed the Moderator's Bible.

The retiring Moderator called upon Ms Samkeliso Siwela, who, on behalf of the Presbytery of Zimbabwe, presented the Moderator Designate with the Moderator's gown.

The Moderator, the Rev. Sipho Mtetwa, presented her with the Tokens of Office, namely the Moderator's Stole and the Ring, and the past Moderator robed her.

Rev Mtetwa invited the Rev. Couper from PC (USA) to pray for the Moderator and her family, which she did.

The retiring Moderator presented the Rev. Lydia Neshangwe to the General Assembly as its Moderator.

Mrs Mtetwa, the Retiring Moderator's Lady, presented the Moderator's husband, the Rev. Paul Neshangwe, with the Moderator's spouse's pin.

The Moderator, the Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, greeted the General Assembly.

The Moderator of the Zimbabwe Presbytery then presented her with gifts from the Zimbabwe Presbytery.

The General Assembly Business Convener, the Rev. Melanie Cook, invited the past Moderator, the Rev. Christopher Mkandawire, to thank the outgoing Moderator, who with his wife and his whole family were duly thanked.

The Moderator, the Rt Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, then also thanked the outgoing Moderator for his leadership and also thanked all those present.

The Moderator introduced her family of origin, the Chitukus, Chayitas and Sitholes, called her father to come forward, introduced him and her in-laws, and called her mother-in-law forward to thank her. She then introduced her husband and her son.

The Moderator then introduced her Chaplains, the Rev. Fezeka Jobela and the Rev. Rory Spence. The Chaplains bowed to the General Assembly.

Adjournment

The Business Convenor announced that the Assembly would adjourn for tea and that the next session would begin at 15h00, and invited the Ecumenical delegates to the tea. The Moderator then adjourned the Assembly until 15h00h, to reconvene in the Muchero conference room at the Cresta Lodge Hotel, Harare, and closed the service with the benediction at 13h30.

CONFIRMED

this _____ day of _____ 2023

MODERATOR

CLERK

SECOND SESSION – EXECUTIVE SESSION

At the Cresta Lodge Hotel, Harare, within the bounds of the Zimbabwe Presbytery, on Saturday 24 June 2023 at 15h05, the Ministers and Elders, as the appointed Commissioners of the General Assembly, reconvened and virtually.

The Moderator welcomed all the commissioners, both those online and those at the venue, and apologised for the delay in starting the Session. Rev. Rev.

Prayer

The Moderator invited his chaplain, the Rev. Fezeka Jobela, to open the Session with prayer, and the Rev. Fezeka Jobela duly did so.

The Moderator, the Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, invited the Assembly Business Committee Convener to lead the General Assembly in the business of the day.

The Assembly Business Convener, having explained the business, called for the Notices of Motion, and the Clerk of Assembly read the following notices of motion and proposed the allocation thereof.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE OF MOTION 1

The Rev. Mathemba Tati gave notice that when the report of the Ministry Committee was presented, he would move that the General Assembly instruct the Committee to:

1. investigate the desirability of including the rural allowance in the Ministerial packages as a means of purging the injustice in the ministry, and
2. bring a proposal that would redress[what does this mean??] the next Executive Commission.

The Clerk of Assembly proposed that this notice of motion from the Rev. Mathemba Tati and seconded by the Rev. Magagane be dealt with under the Ministry Committee report. This was accepted in consensus.

NOTICE OF MOTION 2

The Rev. MA Muller gave notice that, when the General Assembly adopted the minutes of the 2022 Executive Commission, *or* when the report of the Church in Society Committee was presented, *or* at a time convenient to the General Assembly, and with regard to decisions proposed by the Church in Society Committee and adopted by 2022 Executive Commission (page 46 of the General Assembly *Papers*) with respect to the UPCSAs approach to the Israel and Palestine conflict, he would move that the General Assembly:

1. rescind the following decisions :
 - d) "condemns the continued occupation of Palestinian territories by Israeli forces";
 - e) "condemns the inhuman treatment of the Palestinians by the Israeli authorities"; and
 - f) "supports advocacy for the liberation of the Palestinians from all forms of oppression"; and
2. amend the final decision (g) to read:
 - g) supports advocacy for workable solution(s) to be found for both Israel and Palestine.

The reasons for this motion were:

- a) These decisions assume a position that does not fully represent all in the UPCSAs. Where or not the mover of the motion has talked about this, the news has been met with some incredulity that the UPCSAs has taken such a stance.
- b) The notion that we approach this historic conflict through the lens of justice is flawed. While it is true that Israel has not always been proportionate in its response to the Palestinians, the Palestinians—specifically the PLO and now more recently Hamas—continue to be set on the elimination of the state of Israel. Nor do they respect justice and human rights. As recently as 2022 Amnesty International reported the following:
"Palestinian armed groups in Gaza committed apparent war crimes during three days of fighting with Israel in August, using unguided rockets in populated civilian areas and killing at least seven Palestinian civilians. Palestinian authorities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip continued to heavily restrict freedom of expression, association and assembly. They also held scores of people in arbitrary detention and subjected many to torture and other ill-treatment. Justice for serious human rights violations remained elusive. The Hamas *de facto* authorities in Gaza carried out the first executions in five years."¹
This example begs the question whether we are even capable of impartially adjudicating the matter. Has a truly careful and objective analysis been undertaken by the Church in Society Committee?
- c) The decisions as they stand seem to reflect a political position rather than a balanced theological position.
- d) There is a fairly large body of evidence on record of rejectionism on the part of the Palestinian people from the very beginning with regard to having land and becoming an independent state.

The Clerk of Assembly proposed that the notice of motion from the Rev. Mike Muller be dealt with under The Church in Society report.
This was accepted in consensus.

OVERTURES

OVERTURE (A): FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF AMATHOLE

**SUBJECT: AN OVERTURE TO INCLUDE THE CONTENTS OF PAR. 16.138(a)
IN THE MANUAL OF FAITH AND ORDER AS NEW PAR. 16.148R.**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Overture is to request the 2023 UPCSAs Executive Commission to agree

to include the contents of Paragraph 16.138 (a) as new 16.148 of the *Manual of Faith and Order*. Paragraph 16.138 (a); in defining the additional duties of CDEs, states as follows:

“Provided that the requirements of the Ministry Committee are fulfilled; a CDE may be given authority by the Presbytery in his/her capacity as an Elder and member of the *Order of Lay Preachers*, to administer the Sacraments *for a specific time in a specified area* while his/her *appointment* to a particular project/congregation lasts.”

Both the CDE and the Stated Supply are to develop existing Congregations that have potential for significant growth. Perhaps some of those Congregations were already constituted churches but due to various reasons (including the effects of COVID 19 and the possible effects of unending load-shedding). . . .

[This last sentence was left incomplete by the author or else by the minute taker. Perhaps you should find out what the author intended to say.]

2. Background to the Overture

Noting the performance of Vacant Congregations; Presbytery instructed all Interim Moderators to write narratives of the Vacant Congregations and, further, to indicate in such narratives the time frame and plans for such congregations to have their own Ministers. The following emerged from these narrative reports:

2.1. About 90% of the reports received from congregations without Ministers (Vacant Congregations) declared that judging from their current situation, *they are not in a position to be able to sustain a full-time or Resident Minister.*

2.2. The *membership; finances, church attendance, commitment* and the love for the church was greatly affected by COVID-19. Each Congregation has members that died through COVID-19. Those are better because we know they are now with the Lord. There is a number that survived COVID-19 but after COVID-19 they NEVER *returned* to the church, NEVER *contributed* etc. The bottom line according to the reports is that the numbers, finances, attendance and commitment *dropped* drastically after COVID-19 and returning to the original state of those congregations is almost impossible or a Long-Walk.

2.3. The other impediment that influences the vacant congregations to declare as in 2.1 above is the high rate of *poverty* coupled with the high rate of *unemployment*; with no sign of this situation in South Africa improving in the near future. Hence; a congregation of four hundred and sixty (460) membership and one hundred (100) to one hundred and fifty (150) church attendance declared in their report that *they don't see themselves ever appointing a Minister*; they are fine with the services of the Interim Moderator. (The statistical form with their financials) confirms this stance. This also applies to other Vacant Congregations namely; *the co-relation between the Statistical and Narrative* when it comes to finances and their inability to appoint a minister.)

2.4. This can be summarized by one solid response from one of the Congregations that goes as follows and this seems to be the case with almost all vacant congregations: The congregation brings up its suggestion as the Interim Moderator wrote: “Under the current **Model of Ministry** the Congregation cannot appoint a Minister in the near future since the greater majority of the congregation is quite aged and the congregation has not experienced any significant numerical growth.”

This statement comes despite Presbytery having shared and discussed the Shared Ministry document at Presbytery level; indicating that Congregations might be needing more than one Model of Ministry.

2.5. The other revelation is that due to the above factors; our self-reliant Congregations as Presbytery are gradually declining as the number of Vacant Congregations keeps rising. We might lose some of them completely if we don't, as a matter of urgency engage the Gear of the “New Normal”, a phrase that came after COVID-19; with the current far-reaching repercussions of Load-Shedding.

3. Discussion

3.1. Currently it is not explicitly stated in the *Manual of Faith and Order* that a Stated Supply (Moreso if he/she is a Lay Preacher in the Order of lay Ministries) can administer Sacraments, as is the case with CDE. If the *Manual of Faith and Order* is silent on this aspect, the possibility is that a Stated Supply who qualifies in terms of Paragraph 16.150(d) but is not an Ordained Minister might never be considered by the Session for this responsibility.

3.2. "A Session seeking Stated Supply ... may nominate any eligible person. In making the application the Session specifies the duties to be undertaken" (Paragraph 148 of the *MoF*). The new normal as dictated by negative effects of COVID 19 and load-shedding would assist a Congregation like Adelaide Town to nominate a person *possibly within its membership* who understands their plight; ready to accept any kind of remuneration the congregation offers; with no travelling allowance. He/she understands the situation and *he/she is offering him/herself to do the service at a very minimal cost*. The Interim Moderator would still be expected to perform his/her tasks as the Interim Moderator.

3.3. The Presbytery will monitor the work of the Stated Supply in such a Congregation, and once the Presbytery is satisfied that the Congregation has been developed to the point of being in a position to have a Minister-in-Charge; the Congregation will be encouraged to have its own Minister, either by means of an appointment or otherwise. (Paragraph 16.142 modified).

4. Proposal

4.1. The 2023 UPCSA Executive Commission is requested to include the contents of paragraph 16.138 (a) as new 16.148 in the *Manual of Faith and Order*.

This overture was allocated to be dealt with under the Manual Committee report.

OVERTURE (B): EMBRACING THE UPCSA'S TRANSNATIONAL CHARACTER

Introduction

The Church belongs to the Kingdom of God. As such, the Church should not be bound by the human, unjustly made boundaries that divide the countries in Africa. Unfortunately, the reality of these boundaries and the reality that we are in the world where States dominate and shape or give flavour to the cultures of our members cannot be wished away. The time has come for the Church to embrace its transnational character in a way that makes good use of the benefits, and protects it from the dangers, contained in that character.

Transnationality is a gift

The fact that the UPCSA is in four countries in southern Africa is a God-given gift. Being transnational in nature gives the UPCSA the following benefits:

- It is a good witness and an expression that believers belong to the Kingdom of God, which is distinct from the boundaries of the nation states of the world;
- It provides great cultural diversity that reveals the flamboyance of God and gives opportunity to better understand and appreciate different cultures;;It gives an opportunity for the believers to develop a faith that is inclusive and embracing, a mature faith that is not bound by national boundaries;
- Whenever people from the diverse cultures worship and work together, the Church will be providing a model for humanity;
- It provides greater opportunities for the growth of the church and the spread of the gospel;
It provides opportunities for congregations in different countries to work together in God's mission and share resources and pray for one another;
- It provides opportunities to practise ministry in cross-cultural situations.

Transnationality is risky

The UPCSA has not sufficiently utilised the gift or benefits that arise from being transnational. It is often said that when one has a gift, one should use it or else one will lose it. In the absence of an intentional effort to harness and utilize this gift, many across the denomination have either openly or privately wondered if there is much value in maintaining the transnational nature of the denomination. Apart from failure to take advantage of the benefits, the UPCSA has the following risks in being transnational:

- unhealthy nationalism and fanatical patriotism stifling all theological or faith perspectives on the body of Christ;
- members from the richer nations within the context tend to disregard and/or dictate to those from poorer nations;
- superiority and inferiority complexes arising from worldly values depending on nationalities;
- 'donor-recipient' relationships take precedence over equal-members relationships.
- theology and the culture of being Church, doing mission and ministry is constructed from one context only, without drawing from the rich diversity.

Synopsis of the current situation

The denominations that became the UPCSA through union in 1999 took root and grew in and from South Africa. There are more members and more Presbyteries in South Africa than in the other countries combined. The Central Office of the UPCSA and all the General Assembly employees are based in South Africa.

Besides the ecclesiastical factors, South Africa as a country is seen as the current economic super-power in the region. The other countries, particularly Zimbabwe at the moment, are largely supplying immigrants driven into South Africa by socio-economic factors. One net result is prejudice by the South Africans, which has sometimes escalated into life-threatening xenophobia.

All these factors, coupled with the lack of an intentionally developed self-understanding of the UPCSA as a deliberately designed transnational body, have often served to create the sense that it is really a South African Church that has a few outstations in the other countries. If that description is possibly an exaggeration, the intense feelings created by the situation are real.

Apart from these stated feelings there seems to be a serious gap in embracing and grappling with the contextual issues in the countries where the UPCSA is planted. By default, the Zimbabwean and Zambian members of the Church have opportunities to confront issues in their countries through their respective Presbyteries and Synods. The South African members have only the General Assembly platforms to address their national issues. This explains why many General Assembly documents and deliberations give the impression that the UPCSA recognises one government, one currency and one nation. The cries to be inclusive of factors of the other two countries often reach nuisance levels. The other aspect is that the General Assembly's level of attending to nation-based issues in the other countries is often a mere scratching of the surface.

The COVID-19 pandemic was also a huge wake up call for the UPCSA. When borders were closed in the fight against the spread of Covid-19, access between the Central Office and the Church outside South Africa became very limited and physical access became impossible. There were many challenges associated with the closing of the borders, and the UPCSA needs to ensure that it is prepared if such a situation arises again.

Proposed way of addressing this:

We overture the General Assembly to restructure the UPCSA in a way that recognizes and creatively embraces the transnational nature of the denomination. We propose that the General Assembly constitute Synods that are empowered to deal with national socio-political matters that affect the Church. The General Assembly would retain its overall authority but focus primarily on matters on doctrine, ministerial training, worship, legislation and the *Manual of Faith and Order*. The Synods would be given charge of other

matters, particularly Church and society issues, as well as other matters that are contextual to the particular states.

Each Synod is to be made up of at least three and at most five Presbyteries. For instance, the Synod of Zambia could be retained as it is, except that it would be given more powers and authority. The General Assembly would constitute a Synod of Zimbabwe, which would have three or more Presbyteries. In South Africa we would have a maximum of five Synods, or at least three Synods, depending on whether the Synods have three Presbyteries or five each.

General Assembly would continue to meet biennially, and in the alternate years in place of the General Assembly's Executive Commission the Synods would meet. The General Assembly Executive staff as well as the Officers of the GA would be required to attend and give input at the various Synod meetings. The General Assembly would receive reports from each Synod and take decisions emanating from these reports. The amount of work by the General Assembly would be greatly reduced, as matters dealt with at Synod level would generally not need to be reopened at Assembly.

Key Objectives of this Restructuring:

1. Strengthening unity that affirms diversity in the quest to be "a reconciled community of Christians exercising a prophetic witness to Christ".
2. Promoting growth in keeping with the "Going for Growth" theme of the UPCSA.
3. Becoming missional in our geographical context and contexts.
4. Strengthening the voice of the UPCSA in the various countries in southern Africa.

This overture was allocated to be dealt with under the report of the Priorities and Resources Committee.

The Moderator called upon the Business Convener, the Rev. Melanie Cook, to address the General Assembly on the process to be followed in the session to follow.

The ABC Convener explained that in the next session the Executive Commission [??] would use the Westminster system of discussion. Commissioners were to use their blue cards or orange cards and their widgets, for voting.

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE:

The Assembly Business Convener presented the report and advised the General Assembly that the Audit Committee report would be removed from the agenda of the Assembly and that that would be the only amendment to the agenda and moved the following proposals:

1. The General Assembly receives the report.
This was seconded and agreed.
2. The General Assembly adopts the proposed Draft Agenda as the final Agenda for the 2023 General Assembly.
This was seconded and agreed
3. The General Assembly adopts the Standing Orders of the 2023 General Assembly and the Zoom Etiquette document as contained in the circulated papers as guides for the ordering of its business.
This was seconded and agreed.
4. The General Assembly notes the voting and notice of motion procedures as outlined in the body of the Standing Orders.
This was seconded and agreed.
5. The General Assembly thanks the Presbytery of Zimbabwe for hosting and making arrangements for the Assembly to meet in Harare.
This was seconded and agreed.
6. The General Assembly notes that the decisions of the Executive Commission 2022 were sent to all the relevant stakeholders for attention and action.
This was seconded and agreed.

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 contact the convener. This was seconded and agreed.
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. This was seconded and agreed.
9. The General Assembly appoints the following as a facilitating team:

Drafting Team:

- Mamolotje Magagane (Convener)
- Lungile Mpetsheni (GS)
- Vusi Mkhungo (Clerk)
- David Mushayavanhu
- Thompson Nota
- Rose Musonzah
- Vusi Mabo.

Minute Clerks: the Rev. Zwai Mthyobile and the Rev. Norest Ajapa.

Minute Scrutineers: the Rev. Thembinkosi Nopapaza and the Rev. Tatenda Garande.

IT Team: Melanie Cook, Christine Kasambara, Ryan Johnson, Theo Groeneveld and all the Presbyteries' IT support personnel.

This was seconded and agreed.

The Moderator thanked the Assembly Business Convener for the report.

EXECUTIVE COMMISSION MINUTES

The Assembly Business Committee Convener presented the Executive Commission 2022 minutes to the Assembly and moved that the Assembly receive the Minutes. This was seconded and agreed.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener of the Nominations Committee, the Rev. Dr. B. Hans, presented her preliminary report.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the report be received. This was seconded and agreed.

CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

The Clerk of Assembly presented his report and moved the following proposals:

1. The Assembly receives the report
This was seconded and agreed.
2. The Assembly encourages all Presbyteries to participate in the Presbytery Officials consultations.
This was seconded and agreed.
3. The Assembly grants the Rev. Harris Majeke permission to retire with effect from 31 May 2024 with the status of Minister Emeritus and a seat in the Presbytery within whose bounds he may reside.
This was seconded and agreed.
4. The Assembly grants the Rev. Dr. Bongani Finca permission to retire with effect from 31 July 2023 with the status of Minister Emeritus and a seat in the Presbytery within whose bounds he may reside.
This was seconded and agreed.

5. The Assembly grants the Rev. André van Blydenstein permission to retire with effect from 30 June 2023, with the status of Minister Emeritus and a seat in the Presbytery within whose bounds he may reside.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be dealt with later, so that the Clerk could first communicate with the minister and Presbytery in question.

6. The Assembly grants the Rev. Seth Buttle permission to retire retrospectively from 31 January 2023, with the status of Minister Emeritus and a seat in the Presbytery within whose bounds he may reside.

This was seconded and agreed.

7. The Assembly posthumously grants the Rev. Dr. Patricia Baxter the status of Minister Emeritus.

This was seconded and agreed.

8. The Assembly notes that the Tiyo Soga House is kept in a good condition.

This was seconded and agreed.

9. The Assembly notes the changes in ministry as they appear on pages 55–58 of the *Papers*.

This was seconded and agreed.

THE RETIRING MODERATOR'S REPORT

The Retiring Moderator, the Rev. Siphon Mtetwa, presented the report.

The Clerk of Assembly proposed that:

1. The Assembly receives the report

This was seconded and agreed.

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

This was seconded and agreed.

The Moderator, the Rt Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, thanked the retiring Moderator for a job well done.

Adjournment

The Moderator announced that the Assembly would stand adjourned until 15h00, to reconvene in the Muchero Conference Room at the Cresta Lodge Hotel, Harare, and closed the service with the benediction at 13h30.

CONFIRMED this _____ day of _____ 2023

MODERATOR

CLERK

THIRD SESSION – LISTENING SESSION 1

At the Cresta Lodge Hotel, Harare, within the bounds of the Zimbabwe Presbytery, on Saturday 24 June 2023, the Ministers and Elders appointed as Commissioners of the (hybrid) General Assembly reconvened physically and virtually.

The Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, called on the Assembly Business Convener to guide the Assembly on the business of the day.

The Assembly Business Convener announced that the General Assembly was now moving from the Westminster system to a consensus model of decision-making. She then advised the council that in light of time constraints the Finance report was to be moved to the next day's listening session.

The following reports were presented:

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

1. The General Secretary moved that the Executive Commission receive the report. The Clerk of Assembly moved that all the proposals be Missional. This was accepted in consensus.

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION CLUSTER

It was announced that the Finance Report would be presented the following day (Sunday).

PENSIONS (UPCSA and PEPF)

A video recording by the convener, Mr Allan Wentzel, was presented.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that:

1. The Assembly receives the report.
This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk moved that proposals 2 and 3 be transactional.
This was accepted in consensus.

MANUAL

A video recording by the convener, the Rev. George Marchinkowski, was presented.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Assembly receive the report.
This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that proposals [numbers??] be transactional.
This was accepted in consensus.

Overture 2 from Amathole

The Overture was presented by the Clerk of the Presbytery, Mr Siyanda Mqalo.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener, the Rev. Dr Bukelwa Hans, presented the report.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Assembly receive the first draft report
This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk moved that proposals [numbers??] be transactional:
This was agreed by accepted in consensus.

Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned at 18h26, to meet at 09h00 at the Highlands Presbyterian Church, Harare, within the bounds of Zimbabwe Presbytery. The Insaka groups would meet immediately after the present session.

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Rory Spence, closed the session with prayer.

The Moderator thanked all the commissioners and ordered the commissioners to meet in the Insaka groups.

CONFIRMED this _____ day of _____ 2023

MODERATOR

CLERK

THIRD SESSION – INSAKA SESSION

The Insaka groups met to consider all the reports that had been presented.

FOURTH SESSION

At the Highlands Presbyterian, Harare, within the bounds of the Zimbabwe Presbytery, on Sunday 25 June 2023, at 09h00, the Ministers and Elders, as Commissioners appointed to meet as the (hybrid) General Assembly, reconvened virtually and physically.

The Clerk of Assembly called the General Assembly to worship.

GREETINGS AND WELCOME

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Fezeka Jobela, greeted and welcomed all who were attending, both physically and on line, and led the (hybrid) Assembly in worship.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Fezeka Jobela, led the Assembly in the Prayer of Praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Rory Spence led the Assembly in the Prayer of Confession of Sin.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

The Moderator of the General Assembly pronounced the Assurance of Grace.

IN MEMORIAM MINUTES

The Clerk presented the In Memoriam Minutes for the following Ministers and Elders who had died between the 2022 Executive Commission and the 2023 General Assembly:

Ministers:

The Rev. Cosmos Malusi Toko
The Rev. Patrick Rambani
The Rev. Doug Birtill
The Rev. Samuel Mtonga
The Rev. Shaldene Lorrelle Pillay
The Rev. Ian van der Lingen
The Rev. Glen Craig
The Rev. Patricia May Baxter

Elders:

Elder Mr Matsela Shadrack Modise
Elder Mr Jabari Petros Lempe
Elder Anand Daniel Enoch
Elder Mr Paradise Madlala
Elder Mr Edmund Mkentane
Elder Prof Seth Paul Manaka
Elder Mr David William Macdonald
Elder Mr Felix Pina
Elder Mrs Cynthia Pina.

The Assembly observed a minute of silence, and the Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Rory Spence, led the Assembly in prayer.

VALEDICTORY TRIBUTES FOR RETIRING MINISTERS

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Rory Spence, read tributes to the following ministers:

The Rev. Hein Barnard
The Rev. Andre van Blydenstein
The Rev. Harris Majeke
The Rev. Seth Butler
The Rev. Bongani Finca

The Moderator of the General Assembly thanked all these retiring ministers for being good and faithful servants and prayed.

FRATERNAL GREETINGS

The General Secretary received the Ecumenical Partners and called them all to come forward to address the General Assembly.

The following Ecumenical partners addressed the General Assembly

1. The President of the UCCSA, the Rev. Rupert Hambira
2. Mr Douglas Tilton from the PC(USA)
3. The Rev. Dr Dee Cooper from the Denver Presbyterian Church
4. The Rev. Tafadzwa Masimba, the General Secretary of the Reformed Church in Zimbabwe
5. The Rev. John Sermon from the United Reformed Church, Eastern Synod, in the UK
6. The Rev. Sikawu Makhubalo from the CUC; General Secretary
7. The Rev. Wilfred Dimingo, the General Secretary of the ZCC
8. The Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum, the General Secretary of the CWM

The General Secretary invited the Moderator of the General Assembly to respond to the Ecumenical delegates. The Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt. Rev. Lydia

Neshangwe, responded to the Ecumenical delegates and thanked them for their presentations and their commitment to the Journey toward Union.

The Moderator’s chaplain, the Rev. Fezeka Jobela, called the Assembly to order.

Prayer for Illumination and Scripture Readings

The Moderator’s Chaplain, the Rev. Fezeka Jobela, led the Assembly in a Prayer for Illumination.

The following lections were read:

Old Testament Psalm 133:1-3

New Testament Acts 2:1-4

Gospel Matthew 4:23-26

Moderator’s Opening Address

The Moderator delivered her Opening Address on the theme “Stronger Together”.

The Assembly confessed its faith in the words of the Apostle’s Creed.

Offering

The offering was taken up by the Elders appointed to serve Holy Communion, and the Moderator’s Chaplain, the Rev. Rory Spence, prayed over the offering.

Holy Communion

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

The Moderator invited the commissioners to the Assembly to stand and commit themselves to the Lord. They duly did so.

Prayers of Intercession and Petition

The Moderator’s Chaplain, the Rev. Fezeka Jobela, led the Assembly in the Prayers of Intercession and Petition.

Announcements

The Assembly Business Committee Convener announced that the next session would meet promptly at 14h00.

Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned at 12h22, to meet at 14h00 at the Cresta Lodge Hotel conference Hall in Harare.

The Moderator closed the session with benediction, and the Moderatorial recession left the church.

CONFIRMED

this _____ day of _____ 2023

MODERATOR

CLERK

FIFTH SESSION: DECISION SESSION ONE

At the Cresta Lodge Hotel, Harare, within the bounds of the Zimbabwe Presbytery, on Sunday 25 June 2023, at 14h08, the Ministers and Elders, as the appointed Commissioners of the General Assembly, reconvened.

The Moderator, the Rt Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, welcomed all those attending, whether virtually or physically, and led the Assembly in prayer.

The Assembly Business Committee Convener addressed the General Assembly on the business of the day.

GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary moved:

3. The General Assembly
 - a) expresses its appreciation to those Presbyteries and Fellowships that have taken strides towards making the Strategic Plan operative; and
 - b) instructs Presbyteries and the Fellowships that have not begun to address this to do so with immediate effect and to report to the office of the General Secretary by 28th February 2024.

This was agreed by consensus.

3. The General Assembly instructs Presbyteries
 - a) to embark on a plan to provide effective ministry to all their congregations; and
 - b) to share inputs with the General Assembly Committees that have been tasked to undertake the study the report mentioned in the report for the General Assembly.

This was agreed by consensus.

4. The General Assembly appreciates the initiatives taken to galvanise the denomination to prayer, as for the 24-hour prayer vigil and the cross-night [all night??] prayer vigil for peace and justice.

This was agreed by consensus.

5. The General Assembly endorses the initiative for reflection groups for the UPCSA to keep abreast of issues in the different spheres of life in all of the DRC, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa, and to be able to respond effectively to developments.

This was agreed by consensus.

7. The General Assembly, once again, encourages all the structures in the UPCSA to study the statement on the land issue and do what is within their scope to address that issue.

This was agreed by consensus

8. The General Assembly, once again, emphatically impresses on Presbyteries as a matter of urgency the need to ensure that all the congregations in their respective jurisdictions possess documents of ownership, or documents certifying the rights of occupation, of the lands that they occupy, and submit the documents and/or progress reports to the office of the CFO by 28th February 2024.

This was agreed by consensus.

9. The General Assembly
 - a) instructs the Priorities and Resources Committee to organize online activities to mark the 25th anniversary of the UPCSA; and
 - b) encourages Presbyteries to organize activities within their means to mark the 25th anniversary of the UPCSA by September 2024.

This was agreed by consensus.

10. The General Assembly

- a) notes the historical developments that are applicable to the UPCS family, as in the approximately 200 years of the Scottish Presbyterian missionary work that culminated in the establishment of the Bantu Presbyterian Church of South Africa in 1923, which was renamed Reformed Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa in 1979; and
- b) endorses the plans of the Synod of Zambia for the centenary celebrations of the Presbyterian work in Zambia that started in Livingstone, to be held at David Livingstone Memorial Church in Livingstone on 22-26 November 2023.

This was agreed by consensus

Additional Proposal

11. The General Assembly encourages Presbyteries to centralize the documents of land usage, bequests, and title deeds and submit these to the Central Office.

This proposal fell away.

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION CLUSTER

The Convener of the Cluster, the Rev. Dr. Amon Kasambala, moved that the General Assembly receive the Cluster reports and allow the Four Cluster Committee Conveners to elaborate on them.

This was agreed by consensus.

MANUAL COMMITTEE

The Clerk of Assembly moved that

1. The General Assembly receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

2. The General Assembly enacts paras 12.70 to 12.83 on "Presbyteries which are in an unsatisfactory state" as sent to Presbyteries by the 2022 Executive Commission.

This was agreed by consensus.

3. The General Assembly constitutes a Standing Commission in terms of para. 13.1 (a) of the *Manual of Faith and Order* and names it "the Assembly Standing Commission".

This was agreed by consensus.

4. The General Assembly resolves that the Assembly Standing Commission'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, and three ministers and three elders elected by every Assembly through the normal nomination process. The term of office of each Standing Commission shall be for the period between the meetings of the General Assembly.

This was agreed by consensus.

5. The General Assembly notes that the rules contained in paras 13.2 to 13.7 and 13.14 to 13.19, apply to the Assembly Standing Commission and further resolves that para 13.12 (about the right to associate), which refers to the Executive Commission, will also apply to the Assembly Standing Commission.

This was agreed by consensus.

6. The General Assembly adopts the Terms of Reference of the Assembly Standing Commission contained in Appendix A and resolves that the Commission may meet in person or by using a virtual platform.

This was agreed by consensus.

7. The General Assembly receives new Chapter 20 on the Synod of the UPCSA in Zambia in Appendix B and refers it to Presbyteries for consideration according to para 12.50 of the *Manual of Faith and Order* and instructs the Clerk of Assembly to send it as a Remit to Presbyteries, requiring them to respond by 31 December 2023.

This was agreed by consensus.

8. The General Assembly:
 - (a) condones the administrative discrepancy that happened because the resolution on Chapter 20 was not sent down under the barrier act;
 - (b) notes that the Synod of Zambia has already implemented Chapter 20 as presented to it and inserts it into the *Manual of Faith and Order*.

It was agreed to postpone the decision on this proposal until the next decision-making session.

OVERTURE 2

It was agreed by consensus that the *Manual* already provided for this overture, and that it should therefore fall away.

Adjournment

The Moderator adjourned the Assembly at 11h31 for a break and to prepare for the election of the Moderator Designate.

CONFIRMED

this _____ day of _____ 2023

MODERATOR

CLERK

LISTENING SESSION 2

At the Cresta Lodge Hotel, Harare, within the bounds of the Zimbabwe Presbytery, on Sunday 25 June 2023, at 15h55, the Ministers and Elders, as the appointed Commissioners of the General Assembly reconvened.

MODERATOR DESIGNATE ELECTION

The Moderator, the Rt Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, opened the session in prayer. The Assembly Business Committee Convener addressed the Assembly on the business to follow and then called on the General Secretary to explain the election process. The General Secretary thanked the candidates for allowing their names to be proposed for these elections and wished them the best. He announced the names of the Electoral Officers as: The Rev. Melanie Cook, Mr Ryan Johnson and Ms Christine Kasambara. He explained that to be elected a candidate would need 50% plus 1 of the votes. The number of commissioners eligible to vote was confirmed. A widget was to be used for voting by all those eligible to vote. The names of the candidates for election as Moderator designate were announced as:

The Rev. Thabane Masikane
The Rev. Dr Amon Kasambala
The Rev. Robert Thema
The Rev. Vusi Mabo.

Voting took place. The General Secretary announced that the voting had been free and fair and that any commissioner who wished to query or challenge the outcome could do that before the end of business that day, Sunday the 25th of June 2023.
The Moderator congratulated the Rev. Dr Amon Kasambala on winning the election and declared him the Moderator Designate.

The Assembly Business Convener announced that the election of the AARP/COURT of Assembly members would take place the following day (Monday).

LISTENING

The following reports were presented:

FINANCE

The Committee Convener, Mr Ryan Johnson, presented the Finance Report in a video recording.

The Moderator, the Rt Rev. Lydia Neshangwe thanked the Treasurer for the sterling job he was doing for the denomination and for his dedication.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that:

1. The Assembly receives the report.
This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that proposals 2,3,6,7,10,11;12,14,15,16,18,19,20,22, 23,26,27,28,29 be transactional.
This was accepted in consensus.

SERVICE AND WITNESS CLUSTER

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS COMMITTEE

The General Secretary, as the Convener, presented the report and moved that:

1. The Assembly receives the report
This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that proposals 2,3,4,7 and 9 be transactional.
This was accepted in consensus.

ETHICS AND DISCIPLINE

The Convener, the Rev. Charles Magagane, presented the report.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Assembly receive the report.
This was agreed by consensus.

The Assembly Business Committee Convener called upon the Insaka groups to meet immediately after the session to deal with the reports that were listened to and stated that the reports from the Insaka groups were expected to be handed in by 20h00.

Adjournment

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Rory Spence, closed the meeting in prayer.

The Moderator adjourned the Assembly at 17h36.

CONFIRMED

this _____ day of _____ 2023

MODERATOR

CLERK

DECISION SESSION 2

At the Cresta Lodge Hall, Harare, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Zimbabwe, on Monday 26 June 2023, at 08h30, the Ministers and Elders appointed as Commissioners of the General Assembly reconvened.

DEVOTIONS

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Rory Spence, led the Assembly in prayer and read Psalm 139: 1-16.

Ecumenical Support from the World Council of Churches

A message of support from the Rev. Dr Jerry Pillay, the General Secretary of WCC, was read to the General Assembly.

The Moderator expressed thanks to the General Secretary for the letter of support.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr Ryan Johnson, the General Treasurer proposed that:

4. The General Assembly reminds Presbyteries to submit up-to-date reports on non-contributory congregations, with reasons for their non-compliance, by the 30th of September 2023.

This was agreed by consensus.

5. The General Assembly instructs the Finance Committee and Finance Team of the Central Office that no financial assistance in the form of grants or any other financial assistance is to be given to those specific Presbyteries that do not comply with Proposal 4, until such time as the non-compliance is rectified.

This was agreed by consensus.

8. The General Assembly instructs all Presbyteries
 - a) to ensure that all congregations in their jurisdiction comply with the decision of the Assembly to transfer any properties they occupy that are still in the local municipality's name by obtaining the title deeds from their local municipal offices and transferring those properties into the UPCSA's name or the congregation's name; and
 - b) to submit such title deeds to the Chief Financial Officer by the 28th of February 2024.

It was agreed by consensus that this proposal be deferred to the next session.

9. The General Assembly again instructs all Presbyteries and churches that have not yet submitted certified copies of their title deeds or of statements of permission to occupy the properties they occupy to the Central Office to do so by 28th February 2024 at the

latest, together with a letter stating that they will not sell their property without the consent of both the Presbytery and the General Assembly Finance Committee.

This was agreed by consensus.

13. The General Assembly again instructs the Moderator and Treasurer of the Synod of Zambia to supply a schedule of all Ministers belonging to the Zambia Pension Fund as of 31st December 2023, together with a list of Ministers on NAPSA and the Madison's Scheme, stating with regard to each member whether or not his/her pension contributions are up to date and paid in full, and to provide reasons for any discrepancies, by 28th February 2024.

This was agreed by consensus.

17. The General Assembly instructs the Finance Committee to:

- a) appoint a team that will monitor compliance throughout the UPCSA;
- b) work in consultation with ABC and P&R committees; and
- c) submit a compliance report to the 2024 Executive Commission.

This was agreed by consensus.

21. The General Assembly appoints CM and Associates Inc. as auditors for 2022-2023.

This was agreed by consensus.

24. The General Assembly approves the budget for the 2024 financial year (July 2023 to June 2024), endorsing the need for more stringent financial controls at all levels.

This was agreed by consensus.

25. The General Assembly instructs the Sessions of all congregations (in South Africa) not registered as PBOs by 30 September 2023 to supply a formal letter on letterhead to the Office of the CFO indicating why the instruction to register was not complied with, so that the Office of the CFO may hand this letter over to SARS or CIPC when an audit is performed on the UPCSA, in order to limit the liability and exposure of the General Assembly officials when prosecution is pursued and/or fines are issued.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Moderator called on the General Secretary to thank all the Ecumenical partners and bid them farewell, which he did.

Adjournment

The Moderator announced that the Assembly would adjourn for the tea break, and resume at 10h30.

CONFIRMED this _____ day of _____ 2023

MODERATOR

CLERK

DECISION SESSION 2

At the Cresta Lodge Hotel, Harare, within the bounds of the Zimbabwe Presbytery, on Monday 26 June 2023, at 10h30, the Ministers and Elders, as appointed Commissioners of the General Assembly, reconvened.

The Moderator, the Rt Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, welcomed all who were attending, virtually and physically.

SERVICE AND WITNESS CLUSTER

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS COMMITTEE (ERC)

The Rev Dr Lungile Mpetsheni, General Secretary moved that:

5. The General Assembly
 - a) notes that 2025 will be the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea;
 - b) encourages the Assembly Business Committee to provide a slot for reflection on the Nicene Creed at the 2025 UPCSA General Assembly; and
 - c) instructs the Doctrine Committee to facilitate discussion in and around the denomination on the meaning and relevance of the Nicene Creed in the life of the contemporary Church.

This was agreed by consensus.

8. The General Assembly kindly instructs its Committees to receive and act on matters from the ecumenical bodies and referred to them by the ERC.

This was agreed by consensus.

ETHICS AND DISCIPLINE (E&D)

The Clerk of Assembly moved that:

2. The General Assembly notes with disapproval the failure of the members of the Ethics and Discipline Committee to fulfill their obligations.

This was agreed by consensus.

3. The General Assembly instructs the Nominations Committee to ensure that the members nominated to the E&D committee have given their consent to serve on this committee.
4. The General Assembly instructs the P&R Committee to work with the E&D Committee to develop the terms of reference of this committee.
5. The General Assembly urges the coordinator of the Service and Witness Cluster to journey with this committee until it has established itself.

It was agreed by consensus that proposals 3,4 and 5 fell away.

The Moderator at this stage called upon the Assembly Business Committee Convener to lead the Assembly in the next business of Assembly.

The Assembly Business Convener intimated to the Assembly that the election of the AARP/COURT of the Assembly was to take place.

ELECTION

The Moderator prayed for the election before the votes were taken.

The General Secretary explained the election process and advised the Assembly that the Electoral officers would be the Rev. Melanie Cook, Ms Christine Kasambara, and Mr Ryan Johnson.

The General Secretary verified the number of Commissioners who were eligible to vote: 123 members on the voting platform using the widget.

The Coordinator of the Gender Desk the Rev. Zwai Mtyhobile registered his concern about the balance of gender representation in the list of candidates that the Presbyteries had submitted. The Assembly then discussed the matter at length.

The General Secretary supported the move to halt the election of committees when an inadequate number of women was nominated to be elected and urged that future Assemblies adhere in principle to a 50/50 balance whenever possible. He then proposed the following to address the problem:

1. The Assembly Business Committee should vet the lists of nominees that the Presbyteries submitted as their Commissioners before the Assembly and send any lists that lacked fair gender representation back to the Presbyteries for revision.

This was agreed by consensus.

2. The General Assembly registered its disappointment at not having a proportional representation of female commissioners.

This was agreed by consensus.

Voting to Elect the Members of the Court of Assembly/AARP

The Assembly duly voted the following to be members of the AARP/Court and their alternatives:

Elders:

1. Mrs M. Mukwevho
2. Mr Harry Bopape
3. Mr. Siphon Nhlabathi
4. Mr. Thembinkosi Masuku
5. Mr. L.D. Halam
6. Mr. M. Thema

Alternates:

1. Mr. Mathews Sesoko
2. Mr. Zola Gebeda
3. Mr. Simon Radasi

Ministers:

1. Rev. Jane Nyirongo
2. Rev. Mary Anne Molifi
3. Rev. Christel Erasmus
4. Rev. Dr Chris Mukandawire
5. Rev. Dr Peter Langerman
6. Rev. Thabane Masikane

Alternates:

1. Rev. Lulama Mshumpela
2. Rev. Thamsanga Memela
3. Rev. Awedzani Nemaikhwe

LISTENING SESSION 3

OVERTURE B: ON EMBRACING THE TRANSNATIONAL CHARACTER OF THE UPCSA

The Moderator called on the Rev. Paul Neshangwe to speak on the overture. He did so and then proposed:

1. The Assembly receives the Overture.

The Business Convener pointed out that the overture had first to be discussed by the Insaka groups.

ELECTION

The ABC convener called on the Assembly to elect the convener of the Court of Assembly/AARP. The General Secretary verified the number of Commissioners eligible to vote as 124.

Voting took place and the Rev. Dr. Peter Langerman was duly elected as the Convener

The Moderator thanked the electoral team for a good job done.

Adjournment

The Moderator announced that the Assembly would adjourn for lunch, and resume at 13h13.

CONFIRMED

this _____ day of _____ 2023

MODERATOR

CLERK

LISTENING SESSION 3 CONTINUED

At the Cresta Lodge Hotel, Harare, within the bounds of the Zimbabwe Presbytery, on Monday 26 June 2023, at 14h10, the Ministers and Elders, as appointed Commissioners of the General Assembly, reconvened.

The Moderator, the Rt Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, welcomed all who were attending, both virtually and physically.

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

The Convener of the Committee the Rev. Thembazana Ngalwana presented the report and moved that the Assembly receive the report.

This was seconded and agreed.

Notice of Motion 2

The Rev. Mike Muller presented the notice of motion. Questions of clarity were asked.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY WORKING GROUP ON ASSOCIATIONS (GAWGA)

The General Secretary presented the report on behalf of the Convener and moved that the Assembly receive the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIPS

The Convener, the Rev. Thabane Masikane, presented the report in the Main Papers and the Supplementary report.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Assembly receive the two reports.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk moved that proposals 2, 4, 6, and 2 from the supplementary report be transactional.

This was accepted in consensus.

PEOPLES WITH DISABILITY

The Convener, Mr Jonathan Langerman, presented the video-recorded report.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Assembly receive the reports.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Assembly Business Convener, the Rev. Cook, advised the Assembly that the convener was not available to answer questions. The Moderator asked whether any member of the Committee could take up questions of clarity on behalf of the Committee, and Mr Chivhanga made himself available to do so.

The ABC Convener pointed out that as other reports were still to be tabled, the time at hand was limited and people were meeting in hubs in various countries, and asked the Moderator for guidance as to how the business of the day was to be handled. The Acting Moderator, Rev. Ramulondi, ruled that the Worship Committer report be taken up in 10 minutes to allow ample time for the Insaka groups.

WORSHIP

The Convener of the Committee, the Rev. Mike Muller, presented the report

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Assembly receive the reports.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Fezeka Jobela, closed the session with prayer.

The Rev. Jon Sermon requested the Moderator for a brief time to express a word of gratitude and farewell, which he did, and prayed.

Adjournment

The Moderator adjourned the Assembly at 16h24, to meet again on Tuesday at 08h30.

CONFIRMED

this _____ day of _____ 2023

MODERATOR

CLERK

DECISION SESSION 3

At the Cresta Lodge Hotel, Harare, within the bounds of the Zimbabwe Presbytery, on Tuesday 26 June 2023, at 08h30, the Ministers and Elders appointed as Commissioners of the General Assembly reconvened.

The Moderator, the Rt Rev. Lydia Neshangwe welcomed all who were attending, virtually and physically, and led the Assembly in devotions.

DEVOTIONS

The Moderator, the Rt Rev. Lydia Neshangwe read from Acts 15, reflected on the passage and led in prayer.

CWM Mission Secretary: Social Justice

The Moderator called on the ABC Convenor to lead the Assembly in the business of the day. The ABC Convenor explained the business of the day to the Assembly and requested the General Secretary to introduce the Rev. Dr Sindiso Jele, the Mission Secretary for Social Justice from the CWM, who was to address the Assembly.

The Rev. Dr Jele addressed the General Assembly.

The Moderator congratulated the Rev. Dr Jele and thanked him for a job well done.

DECISIONS:

MANUAL COMMITTEE

The Clerk of Assembly moved the proposals that:

The General Assembly

1. notes the passage of the Synod of Zambia legislation through the General Assemblies in 2012 and 2014;
2. notes that the chapter was sent down in terms of the barrier act, but was never enacted;
3. condones the fact that the legislation has been implemented and allows it to continue to be implemented by the Synod in terms of para 12.49;
4. enacts Chapter 20 and inserts it into the *Manual of Faith and Order*; and
5. instructs the Manual Committee to continue to consult the Synod of Zambia on needed amendments and present a report to the 2024 Executive Commission.

This was agreed by consensus.

FINANCE

Mr Ryan Johnson moved that:

8. The General Assembly again reminds all presbyteries
 - a) to assist congregations in obtaining title deeds from their relevant authorities for properties still in the name of those authorities and transferring the properties into the General Assembly or congregation's name; or
 - b) to submit certified copies of the PTOs or lease agreements; and
 - c) in the event that they experience difficulties, to communicate this to the office of the Chief Finance Officer with the details in each case.

This was agreed by consensus.

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

The Rev T Ngalwana moved that:

1. The General Assembly receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

2. The General Assembly, considering that the study on same-sex unions has raised several issues of ethical concern, agrees that the Church in Society together with the Ethics and Discipline Committee deal with this matter.

This was agreed by consensus.

The ABC Convener advised the General Assembly that at this stage par. 8.9-8.10 of the Standing Orders should be invoked and it was done.

1. The General Assembly

- a) notes that the Gender Desk, the Youth Desk, and the Forum on Women in Ministry were integrated in the Church in Society Committee; and
- b) tasks the incoming committee to be intentional about the coordination of the three ministries.

This was agreed by consensus.

2. The General Assembly

- a) adopts the policy on Ecological/Environmental Justice as a guideline;
- b) instructs the Clerk of Assembly to circulate the Policy Document, together with Addendum A, to all our Presbyteries and Congregations by the end of September 2023;
- c) impresses on Presbyteries and Congregations the need to implement this and appoint/designate people who will pursue the ministry; and
- d) encourages Congregations to sign the Addendum and implement the contents thereof; and
- e) instructs the Manual Committee to include the Addendum Policy in the *UPCSA Manual of Faith and Order* as an appendix to chapter two.

This proposal fell away

3. The General Assembly

- a) adopts the Gender Justice Policy in principle as a policy of the UPCSAs;
- b) circulates the Gender Justice Policy to all Presbyteries for thorough discussion;
- c) Instructs Presbyteries to send feedback to the CIS Committee by the end of February 2024;
- d) instructs the CIS to present the policy to the 2024 Executive Commission for finalization;
- e) encourages the Councils, Fellowships, and other structures of the denomination to use it as the basis for work on gender justice; and
- f) instructs the Manual Committee to include the Gender Justice Policy in the *UPCSA Manual of Faith and Order* as an appendix to Chapter Two.

This was agreed by consensus.

4. The General Assembly

- a) notes the efforts of the Gender Desk to spearhead justice; and
- b) encourages the Gender Desk to work on a theme to galvanise all the UPCSAs towards common action.

This was agreed by consensus.

5. The General Assembly instructs the Manual Committee to replace "may" with "shall" or any other suitable user-friendly word in paragraphs 7.47 to 7.50 of the *Manual* without otherwise changing the content of the paragraphs.

This was agreed by consensus.

Adjournment

The Moderator announced that the Assembly would adjourn for 5 minutes and adjourned it at 11h31.

CONFIRMED

this _____ day of _____ 2023

MODERATOR

CLERK

DECISION SESSION 3

At the Cresta Lodge Hotel, Harare, within the bounds of the Zimbabwe Presbytery, on Tuesday 26 June 2023, at 11h44, the Ministers and Elders appointed as Commissioners of the General Assembly reconvened.

The Moderator, the Rt Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, welcomed all who were attending, whether virtually or physically, and invited the ABC to lead the Assembly in the business of the day.

The ABC advised the Assembly that it was to continue from where it was before tea.

The Clerk of Assembly proposed that:

6. The General Assembly waives the decision of the 2021 General Assembly on finding a female minister for the position of the next General Secretary for the period of five years.

It was agreed by consensus to defer this proposal until the Church Office & Human Resources report was presented.

7. The General Assembly

- a) instructs the Ministry Committee, in collaboration with the Church Office Committee and Human Resources Committee and the Gender Desk, to formulate an empowerment programme that will assist in ensuring that all the members of the UPCSAs, especially the women, can participate equally, without prejudice, for the smooth implementation of the GA decision on UPCSAs vacancies; and
- b) to report to the next Executive Commission.

8. This was agreed by consensus. The General Assembly instructs the Church Office and Human Resources Committee, working with the Communications Committee and Finance Committee, to create a position for a communications person to work at least 2 days a week for the denomination at the Central Office

It was agreed by consensus to defer a decision on this proposal for the Committee to take into consideration all the comments from the Insaka groups on it.

9. The General Assembly instructs the Ministry Committee to include a course on trauma and gender issues every two years during the spiritual formation of ministerial students and in refresher courses for ministers.

This was agreed by consensus.

10. The General Assembly instructs the CIS to develop a skills development programme for Ministers and Elders to be effective in handling issues related to gender-based violence and injustices and present it to the 2024 Executive Commission

This was agreed by consensus.

11. The General Assembly instructs the Priorities and Resources Committee, working with the relevant Committees to explore the idea of promoting the UPCSAs as a learning

organisation and establishing a culture of life-long learning in the denomination. It was agreed by consensus to refer this proposal to the committee to work further on its details.

12. General Assembly instructs the Church and Society Committee to create a platform where gender injustice can safely be unmasked; where repentance can be expressed and where reconciliation is facilitated.

There was no decision on this proposal

13. The General Assembly

- a) *instructs* Presbyteries to comply with its decision on gender balance when appointing commissioners to General Assemblies and Executive Commissions;
- b) mandates the ABC *through the Clerk of Assembly* to send back to *defaulting* Presbyteries their lists of commissioners when these manifest a gender imbalance and to do so *by 31 March*; and
- c) instructs the Manual Committee to amend paragraph 12.2 and 12.3 of the *Manual of Faith and Order* to reflect gender balance.

This was agreed by consensus.

14. The General Assembly

- a) expresses its appreciation to the Youth Desk Coordinators for their efforts to rally together the Youth of the denomination;
- b) urges the Councils to support the work of the Youth Desk; and
- c) urges Presbyteries to cooperate with and support the coordinators of the Youth Desk as they conduct the roadshows in the various Presbyteries.

This was agreed by consensus.

Adjournment

The Moderator adjourned the Assembly for lunch at 13h11.

CONFIRMED

this _____ day of _____ 2023

MODERATOR

CLERK

LISTENING SESSION 3

At the Cresta Lodge Hotel, Harare, within the bounds of the Zimbabwe Presbytery, on Tuesday 26 June 2023, at 14h06, the Ministers and Elders appointed as Commissioners of the General Assembly reconvened.

The Moderator, the Rt Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, welcomed all who were attending, whether virtually or physically, advised the Assembly that Ms Glynis Kelly was unwell, and requested the Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Fezeka Jobela, to lead the Assembly in prayer, which he did.

LISTENING SESSION 3

The following reports were presented:

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Rev. Andile Nyawo presented the report and moved:

1. The Assembly receives the Report.
This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk of the Assembly moved that proposals c,e,f,g,i,k, (renumbered as 3,5,6,7,9,11) be transactional.
This was accepted in consensus.

PRIORITIES AND RESOURCES

The Convenor Dr Kefiloe Masiteng presented the report.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that:

1. The Assembly receives the report.
This was agreed by consensus.

It was accepted in consensus that proposals 3 and 5 would fall away, as they were dealt with in other reports.

The Clerk moved that all other proposals transactional.
This was accepted in consensus.

STEWARDSHIP

The Convenor, the Rev. Thabani Masikane, presented the report.

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

1. The Assembly receives the report
This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk moved that all proposals be transactional.
This was accepted in consensus.

NOTICE OF MOTION 1

The Rev. Mathemba Tati spoke on the notice of motion.

NOMINATIONS

The Convenor the Rev. Dr Bukelwa Hans presented the report

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Assembly receives the report.
This was agreed by consensus.

MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP

The Convenor, the Rev. Theo Groeneveld, presented the report on a video recording.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Assembly receive the report.
This was agreed by consensus.

MINISTRY

The Convenor, the Rev. Dr Christopher Mkandawire, presented the report.

On behalf of the Assembly, he expressed its appreciation to Ntomboxolo Currie for her three months of hard work in keeping the ship afloat after the Ministry Secretary had

resigned. The Moderator also thanked Ntomboxolo Currie.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Assembly receive the report.
This was agreed by consensus.

The Convenor introduced the new Ministry Secretary, the Rev. Mzwamadoda Mtyhobile, to the General Assembly, and the Moderator prayed for him.

The Clerk moved that proposal 5 be transactional.
This was accepted in consensus.

The Moderator reminded the commissioners of two points of debate etiquette:

- in criticizing anything that any other commissioner said they should not use any unkind language; and
- if a commissioner felt that any other commissioner needed to be rebuked, he/she should not take the matter into his/her own hands but refer it to the Moderator.

Adjournment

The Moderator invited the Rev. Rory Spence to lead the Assembly in the closing devotions. The Rev. Rory Spence led the Assembly in prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The ABC Convenor made the announcements that the Insaka groups were to meet immediately after the benediction and to submit their reports as early as possible, at the latest by 19h00, via email or WhatsApp.

The Moderator announced that the Assembly would adjourn until 08h30, and closed the session with the Benediction at 16h35.

CONFIRMED

this _____ day of _____ 2023

MODERATOR

CLERK

DECISION SESSION 4

At the Cresta Lodge Hotel, Harare, within the bounds of the Zimbabwe Presbytery, on Wednesday 27 June 2023, at 08h33, the Ministers and Elders appointed as Commissioners of the General Assembly reconvened.

The Moderator, the Rt Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, welcomed all who were attending, both virtually and physically, and thanked everyone for their diligence and hard work.

DEVOTIONS

The Moderator called the Assembly to worship. She read from James 3:13-18, reflected, and prayed.

The Moderator called on the Assembly Business Committee Convener to lead the General Assembly on the business of the day, which the convener then explained.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIPS

The Rev Thabane Masikane moved:

2. The General Assembly notes with appreciation the successful election of the fellowships' executive committees.
This was agreed by consensus.
3. The General Assembly notes the effort made by the committee to align the work of the fellowships with that of the Church and encourages presbyteries and congregations with fellowships that are without conveners to appoint them as a matter of urgency.
This was agreed by consensus.
4. The General Assembly requests the Office of the Clerk of Assembly to ensure that the Constitution of the Fellowships is circulated to all Presbyteries and Congregations.
This was agreed by consensus.
5. The General Assembly encourages ministers and congregation, especially those of the hosting presbytery to support the conference's opening and closing services.
This was agreed by consensus.
6. The General Assembly notes with appreciation the donation made by the Fellowship of Women to the PEF and to the training of ministers and thanks the Fellowship.
This was agreed by consensus.
7. The General Assembly encourages Presbyteries and congregations to support the work of the Fellowship of Choirs and Church Musicians.
This was agreed by consensus.
8. General Assembly notes that names of fellowship members to serve in the Assembly committees have been submitted to the Assembly nomination committee's convener.
This was agreed by consensus.
9. The General Assembly approves the holding of a consultation of ministers and spouses who are interested in the fellowships' affairs.
This was agreed by consensus.
10. The General Assembly discourages the fellowships from engagement without the facilitation by the CFC.
This was agreed by consensus.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY WORKING GROUP ON ASSOCIATIONS

The General Secretary moved that:

1. The General Assembly receives the report

This was agreed by consensus.

2. The General Assembly notes with gratitude the labour and toil of the women and men who worked towards the current dispensation of the Fellowships.
This was agreed by consensus.
3. The General Assembly notes with gratitude that the General Assembly Working Group delivered on its mandate, as renewed at the 2019 Executive Commission, in that all the Fellowships held their meetings, adopted their bylaws, and elected new leadership.
This was agreed by consensus.
4. The General Assembly encourages the Church Fellowships Committee to consider holding the services of thanksgiving, healing, and reconciliation.
This was agreed by consensus.
5. The General Assembly encourages Church Fellowships Committees at the Presbytery level to consider holding thanksgiving services during their 25-year celebrations.
This was agreed by consensus.
6. The General Assembly dissolves the General Assembly Working Group on Associations with thanks to all the members who have participated in it.
This was agreed by consensus.

Additional proposal:

7. The General Assembly instructs the Presbyteries to dissolve the Presbytery Working Groups with thanks.
This was agreed by consensus.

PEOPLES WITH DISABILITIES

The Clerk of Assembly moved that:

1. The General Assembly receives the report.
This was agreed by consensus.
2. The General Assembly encourages the Peoples with Disabilities Committee to go ahead with a Baseline Survey on how inclusive our congregations are concerning the accessibility of facilities and inclusion in the life and work of the church in all Presbyteries;
 - a) instructs the PWD committee to disseminate the questionnaire to Presbyteries by the 30th of September 2023;
 - b) instructs the Presbyteries to submit the returns by 30th November 2023.This was agreed by consensus.

Additional proposal:

3. The General Assembly instructs the PWD committee to develop a policy for the UPCSAs on people with disabilities and report to the 2024 Executive Commission.
This was agreed by consensus.

WORSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE CLUSTER

WORSHIP

The Rev Mike Muller moved that:

1. The General Assembly receives the report.
This was agreed by consensus.
2. The General Assembly
 - a) adopts the "Order and Guidelines for Conducting a Marriage" with the addition of the rubric instructing ministers to ensure that they comply with the law of

- the particular country in which they conduct wedding services;
- b) amends the section under the subheading "Entry and Other Matters" in the "Directions for Conducting a Marriage" preceding the Order for Marriage in the report in the *Papers* (p. 310f.), so that
 - (i) the second bulleted paragraph states that if neither parent of the bride is available to accompany her into the church, another member or representative of the family may do so; and
 - (ii) the paragraph that begins "Later, during the marriage rite, the father of the bride may 'give her away' . . ." is deleted.

This was agreed by consensus

3. The General Assembly instructs the Ministry Committee:
 - a) to investigate and report to the next Assembly the details of what training in homiletics and actual preaching the various institutions that train our students for the ministry provide for them;
 - b) to commend the use of the Questionnaire to all these institutions;
 - c) to see that the Questionnaire is used in the training of every probationer in the UPCSAs, especially at the PAT conferences; and
 - d) to commend the bibliography to every probationer in the UPCSAs.

It was agreed by consensus that the Assembly pass from this subject.

4. The General Assembly adopts the statement on "*Inter-Faith Dialogue, Co-Operation, and Worship*" and instructs all ministers that, in the event that they attend an inter-faith meeting which expects those attending to participate in some form of worship and combined prayers, they make it clear that they may do so in their capacity only and not in the name of the UPCSAs.

It was agreed by consensus not to accept this proposal because we are involved in interfaith structures as Ministers of the UPCSAs.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Clerk of Assembly moved that:

2. The General Assembly instructs Presbyteries that have not yet established Health and Wellness Committees to do so by 30th September 2023.

This was agreed by consensus.
4. The General Assembly encourages the Presbytery Health and Wellness Committees to submit reports to the GA HWC as required.

This was agreed by consensus.
10. The General Assembly requests the Communications Committee to ensure that the Health and Wellness information is included on the UPCSAs official website.

This was agreed by consensus.

STEWARDSHIP

The Clerk moved that all the proposals were transactional.
This was accepted in consensus.

PRIORITIES AND RESOURCES

4. The General Assembly encourages formal and sustainable working relations between the Priorities and Resources Committee and the Gender Desk.

This was agreed by consensus.

Additional Proposal:

7. The General Assembly instructs Presbyteries to send reports on their progress towards their strategic plans to enable the committee to create a template that can be used for future reports.

It was agreed to let this proposal fall away.

OVERTURE - EMBRACING THE TRANSNATIONAL CHARACTER OF THE UPCSA

The Clerk of Assembly moved that:

1. The General Assembly
 - a) adopts the overture *for discussion*;
 - b) sends it down to Presbyteries;
 - c) instructs Presbyteries to send their views to the P&R Committee in collaboration with the Manual Committee by 28th February 2024; and
 - d) instructs the Priorities and Resources Committee to report to the 2024 Executive Commission.

This was agreed by consensus.

Adjournment

The Moderator announced that the Assembly would adjourn for a break. It did so at 10h30.

CONFIRMED

this _____ day of _____ 2023

MODERATOR

CLERK

DECISION SESSION 4 CONTINUED

At the Cresta Lodge Hotel, Harare, within the bounds of the Zimbabwe Presbytery, on Wednesday 27 June 2023, at 11h22, the Ministers and Elders appointed as Commissioners of the General Assembly, reconvened.

The Moderator welcomed all present and apologized for the delay in starting the meeting owing to connection problems experienced by the venue.

PREACHING AND TEACHING CLUSTER

MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP

The Clerk of Assembly moved that:

2. The General Assembly commits itself afresh to the Going for Growth Project by encouraging its Office Bearers, Committees, Presbyteries, Ministers, Fellowships, and Congregations to become informed about Going for Growth, develop implementation plans, and submit reports as determined by the Mission and Development Committee.
This was agreed by consensus.
3. The General Assembly sets aside October as the Month of Mission each year, encourages its ministers to make use of the preaching plan, and recommends daily devotions to all members.
This was agreed by consensus.

4. The General Assembly urges Presbyteries not to change Mission and Discipleship Conveners except where an understudy who is conversant with the OLM procedures and the Going for Growth Project has been in place so that continuity in these areas is not lost.
It was agreed by consensus that this proposal fell away.
5. The General Assembly recommits the UPCSAs to partner with the Bible Societies in South Africa, DRC, Zimbabwe, and Zambia.
This was agreed by consensus.
6. The General Assembly commits the UPCSAs to celebrate Bible Sunday annually on the Sunday closest to the 23rd of August each year in South Africa and encourages congregations in the DRC, Zimbabwe, and Zambia to observe Bible Sunday as stipulated by the Bible Societies there.
This was agreed by consensus.
7. The General Assembly encourages every member to commit him/herself to contribute to the Bible Society per annum.
This was agreed by consensus.
8. The General Assembly encourages congregations, Presbyteries, and Fellowships to invite the Bible Societies to services, meetings, and the various activities of the UPCSAs.
This was agreed by consensus.

MINISTRY

The Clerk of Assembly moved that:

4. The General Assembly
 - a) notes that the following students are making no progress with their academic training: Lydia Lebesa, Eric Mata, Letsatsi Mokheseng, Johannes Mothoa, Monde Mzongwana, and Nkululeko Mntungwa;
 - b) urges the relevant Presbyteries to follow up with their respective students and report to the Ministry Committee of General Assembly by 30th November 2023;
 - c) instructs the Ministry Committee to apply the provisions of Chapter 17 in dealing with the failure of students to perform; and
 - d) instructs the Ministry Committee to develop and draft guidelines where gaps exist in Chapter 17 of the *Manual* and present the draft to the 2024 Executive Commission.

This was agreed by consensus.

8. The General Assembly
 - a) notes that the PAT 2 of 2022 and PAT 1 of 2023 were successfully conducted;
 - b) expresses appreciation to the people who supported the training through presentations and interactions with Probationers;
 - c) agrees to adopt the framework for the PAT conferences in 2023/2026 that has been developed by the Ministry Secretary to guide the ministerial and spiritual formation of UPCSAs candidates for the Ministry and probationers.

This was agreed by consensus.

9. The General Assembly agrees to exempt the Ministerial Marriage and Family Care subcommittee from meeting virtually and instructs the Finance Committee to facilitate all the necessary logistics when the need arises.

It was agreed by consensus to refer this proposal back to the Ministry Committee for it to consult with the Finance Committee.

10. The General Assembly approves the policy and procedures on plagiarism for UPCSAs students and probationers and endorses its immediate implementation.

This was agreed by consensus.

11. The General Assembly notes with thanks the donation from the Fellowship of Women towards the training of students.
12. The General Assembly notes with thanks the grants made from the Robert Niven Fund which will support the following Ministers, Nobuhle Mbatha, Kennedy Mhone, Garikai Mufanebadza, Dephine Murove, Andile Nyawo and Sibusiso Zungu in the 2023 formation process.
13. The General Assembly
 - a) notes the list of seconded Ministers as of April 2023; and
 - b) approves the secondment of the following ministers:
 - Zukiswa Klass
 - Dirk Gevers
 - Kurauone Mutimwii; and
 - c) notes with concern the growing number of Ministers seeking secondment.
 This was agreed by consensus.
14. The General Assembly notes the names of those seconded Ministers who have responded positively to, and of those who have ignored, the Ministry Committee's questionnaire and urges Presbyteries to exercise their role of oversight in this regard.
This was agreed by consensus.
15. The General Assembly adopts the guidelines on secondments and chaplaincy
This was agreed by consensus.
16. The General Assembly notes the resignation of the Rev. Emary Mtonga Phiri from the Ministry of the UPCSA.
It was agreed to deal with this proposal at a later stage, after consultations with the Synod of Zambia.
17. The General Assembly
 - a) recognises the University of KwaZulu Natal, the Reformed Church University in Zimbabwe, and the United Church of Zambia University as additional institutions to be considered for the training of UPCSA Ministers, and
 - b) notes that Memorandums of Agreement have been entered into with the universities.
 This was agreed by consensus.
18. The General Assembly adopts the UPCSA's Ministerial Formation Five (5) Key Areas and their Improvement Plan as set out in Annexure C of the Report of the Ministry Committee.
This was agreed by consensus.
19. The General Assembly approves the minimum stipends for 2023 and 2024 in the three countries set out below.

Minimum Stipends

Zambia 2023-2024

0-5 years	ZK 4 580-ZK 5 038
6-15 years	ZK 5 000-ZK 5 500
16-25 years	ZK 5 341-ZK 5 785
26-35 years	ZK 5 770-ZK 6 347
35 years +	ZK 6 230-ZK 6 853
<i>Travel</i>	<i>ZK 420-ZK 500</i>
<i>Pulpit Fee</i>	<i>ZK 350-ZK 400 (653.23)</i>

Zimbabwe 2024

0–5 years	US\$ 300
6–15 years	US\$ 312
16–25 years	US\$ 325
26 years and above	US\$ 339
Travel	US\$ 110
Pulpit Fee	US\$ 50 (70\$)

South Africa 2023 2024

0–5 years	R 9 700–R10 370
6–15 years	R 10 480–R11 203
16–25 years	R 11 300–R12 080
26–35 years	R 12 200–R13 042
35 years +	R 13 200–R14 111
Travel	R 7 665–R8 194
Pulpit Fee	R 500–R 500 (700)

To increase the pulpit fee in the three countries by 40%, to be:
in Zimbabwe 70\$,
in Zambia ZK 653.23, and
in South Africa R 700.

This was agreed by consensus.

MINISTRY SUPPLEMENTARY

1. The General Assembly
 - a) notes that the first call discernment conference for 2023 was held in May 2023; and
 - b) approves the names of the students who were admitted through the process, as outlined in the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

2. The General Assembly notes that the second discernment conference for 2023 is scheduled for 23rd–30th October 2023.
3. The General Assembly approves the full admission of the Rev. Sandile Dlamini into the Ministry of the UPCSA.

This was agreed by consensus.

4. The General Assembly approves the proposal for the training of ministers in the Democratic Republic of Congo Presbytery.

This was agreed by consensus.

NOTICE OF MOTION 1

The Rev. Tati moved:

The General Assembly instructs the Ministry Committee

- a) to investigate the desirability of including a *structured* rural allowance in the ministerial packages; and
- b) to bring a proposal to the next Executive Commission that will effect redress.

This was agreed by consensus.

NOTICE OF MOTION 2: Israel and Palestine

The General Secretary Rev Dr. Lungile Mpetsheni moved:

The Assembly cannot decide on this notice of motion at this juncture.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Moderator drew the attention of the Assembly to the work done by the drafters of the proposals and thanked them for their hard work in collating and aligning the proposals from all the Insaka groups.

Adjournment

The Moderator adjourned the Assembly for lunch at 13h00, to meet again at 14h00.

CONFIRMED

this _____ day of _____ 2023

MODERATOR

CLERK

LISTENING SESSION 5

At the Cresta Lodge Hotel, Harare, within the bounds of the Zimbabwe Presbytery, on Wednesday 27 June 2023, at 14h08, the Ministers and Elders appointed as Commissioners of the General Assembly reconvened.

The Acting Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Christopher Mkandawire, welcomed all present virtually and physically and asked the Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Fezeka Jobela to open the session in prayer.

The Moderator invited the ABC Convener to lead the Assembly in the business of the day.

The Moderator called for requests for a leave of absence and pointed out that commissioners should not just disappear without applying for such leave.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The Rev. Matshidiso Piroe requested a leave of absence, as she was going to consult a doctor.

This was agreed by consensus.

LISTENING SESSION

The following reports were presented.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Convenor presented the report.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the report be received.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk moved that proposals 3 and 6 be Transactional.
This was accepted in consensus.

DOCTRINE

The Convenor Rev Dr David Mushayavanhu presented the report.
The Clerk of Assembly moved that the report be received.
This was agreed by consensus.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY CLUSTER

CHURCH OFFICE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

The Convenor Rev Glynis Goyns presented the report and moved that the Assembly receive the report.
This was agreed by consensus.

The Moderator asked those who stood close to the newly appointed CFO, the Rev. Thembinkosi Nopapaza, to lay hands on him and pray for him.

AARP/COURT OF ASSEMBLY

The Clerk of the Assembly presented the report and moved that the Assembly receive the report.
This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk moved that proposal 2 be transactional.
This was accepted in consensus.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Elder Thabo Molaba presented the report on behalf of the Communications Committee Convenor.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the report be received.
This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk moved that proposal 2 be transactional.
This was accepted in consensus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Moderator invited the ABC Convenor to address the Assembly.

She advised the Insakas to meet immediately after closing prayer and to submit their report latest 18h30. She also implored the Assembly to pray for the victims of the tornado in KwaZulu Natal and all those other areas affected. She asked the Moderator's Chaplain the Rev. Fezeka Jobela to lead the Assembly in prayer.

Adjournment

The Moderator announced that the Assembly stand adjourned at 15h31 to meet again at 08h30.

CONFIRMED

this _____ day of _____ 2023

MODERATOR

CLERK

DECISION SESSION 5

At the Cresta Lodge Hotel, Harare, within the bounds of the Zimbabwe Presbytery, on Thursday 29 June 2023, at 08h49, the Ministers and Elders, as Commissioners of the General Assembly appointed to meet this day, reconvened.

The Moderator the Rt Rev. Lydia Neshangwe welcomed all who were present, whether virtually or physically, and explained the reason why she was not wearing her robes: she was showing solidarity with Thursday's black campaign against Gender-Based Violence. The Moderator called upon her Chaplain, the Rev. Fezeka Jobela, to lead the Assembly in devotions.

DEVOTIONS

The Rev. Fezeka Jobela led the Assembly in devotions, prayed and read Exodus 17:8-13 from the Old Testament, reflected, and handed over to the Moderator.

The Assembly Business Convener addressed the General Assembly on the business of the day.

DECISIONS

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Clerk of Assembly moved that:

1. The General Assembly receives the report.
This was agreed by consensus.
2. The General Assembly acknowledges, and thanks ministers and congregations involved in schools generally and encourages others to follow in these strides.
This was agreed by consensus.
3. The General Assembly expresses its sincerest thanks to all those who have made donations to the PEF, to help the ongoing work of the fund, and thanks the members of the Task Team for their service.
This was agreed by consensus.
4. The General Assembly
 - a) declares the third (3rd.) Sunday in June annually as a PEF Sunday; and

- b) rules that the offerings of that Sunday from all congregations be directed to the PEF or else that they donate from their congregational funds.

This was agreed by consensus.

- 5. The General Assembly further requests congregations and Fellowships to make their donations timeously, so that funds are available for the payment of PEF awards well before the end of the financial year.

This was agreed by consensus.

- 6. The General Assembly notes that the deadline for the submission of completed application forms is September 30 annually and that late submissions will not be accepted or considered.

This was agreed by consensus.

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

This was agreed by consensus.

- 8. The General Assembly encourages congregations to take advantage of the Eldership enrichment course that has been made available.

This was agreed by consensus.

- 9. The General Assembly encourages Presbyteries not yet actively involved in preparing new Elders for ordination to download or otherwise obtain the training material for the *Basic Eldership Course*.

This was agreed by consensus.

10. The General Assembly

- a) encourages Presbyteries and Congregations to be on the lookout for the *Kids Alive* website, register and login to it, and download the teaching materials available there;
- b) encourages Presbyteries and congregations to use that teaching material as the syllabi for their Sunday School/ Children's Ministry; and
- c) encourages the Education and Training Committee to explore the possibility of formulating a common syllabus for the Children's Ministry and sharing it with Presbyteries and congregations.

This was agreed by consensus.

Additional Proposal

- 11. In the interest of enhancing the quality of education in all the four countries of the UPCSA, the General Assembly

- a) encourages congregations to use the infrastructure they have to provide safe and stimulating spaces for children i.e., an ECD centre, after-school care, a library, playground areas, etc.
- b) encourages the committee to facilitate the development of programmatic responses to the ECD and education such as home visiting programs, parental training and support programs or messages, clinic support programs, fatherhood programs, etc.
- c) instructs the committee to champion advocacy through the UPCSA for using international, and national days set aside to respond to the vulnerabilities faced by children; and
- d) instructs the committee to develop child safeguarding policies and protocols for children.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Moderator thanked the drafting team for consolidating and putting together this proposal.

DOCTRINE

The Clerk of Assembly moved that:

1. The General Assembly receives the report.
This was agreed by consensus.

DOCTRINE SUPPLEMENTARY: AD HOC CONFESSIONS

1. The General Assembly receives the Report.
This was agreed by consensus.
2. The General Assembly
 - a) adopts the following amendment to Clause 5.3 of the UPCS A Confession of Faith: God is the same being, yet threefold. The one indivisible God who said, "I am who I am," and is named Yahweh ("the One who is and 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.^{2 3} 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 relationships with one another. . . [etc.].
 - b) sends the amendment along with the argument for it in the section of the Report on "The UPCS A 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).

This was agreed by consensus.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY CLUSTER

The General Assembly receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

CHURCH OFFICE & HUMAN RESOURCES

The Rev Glynis Goyns moved that:

1. The General Assembly receives the report.
This was agreed by consensus.
2. The General Assembly encourages further investigation into the possibility of including Presbytery administrators in the framework covered by the official HR Policy Document.

This was agreed by consensus.

3. The General Assembly notes the actions taken by the COHRC in encouraging and facilitating the ongoing effective performance of our Church Office staff in fulfilling their responsibilities to the denomination.

This was agreed by consensus.

4. The General Assembly thanks and commends Ms. Ntombi Currie for her efficient management of the PAT Conference in March this year in the absence of any Ministry Secretary.

This was agreed by consensus.

5. The General Assembly
 - a) notes the work undertaken to begin the process of introducing an internship

²

program and the necessary steps to be taken with a proposed timeline for action to launch such a program as soon as this is feasible; and

b) instructs the committee to report to the 2024 Executive Commission.

This was agreed by consensus.

6. The General Assembly encourages further action in planning an accredited internship program that takes into consideration our transnationality and instructs the committee to report to the 2024 Executive Commission.

This was agreed by consensus.

7. The General Assembly encourages Church Office staff, Presbyteries, and GA Committees to make use of the online project management system using SharePoint.

This was agreed by consensus.

Church Office & Human Resources Committee (COHRC) Supplementary

1. The General Assembly receives this supplementary report.

This was agreed by consensus.

2. The General Assembly notes the appointment of Rev. Mzwamadoda Mtyhobile as the new Ministry Secretary.

This was agreed by consensus.

3. The General Assembly agrees to waive the decision taken at the 2021 General Assembly to appoint a woman as the successor to the current General Secretary.

It was agreed by consensus not to accept this.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PANEL AND COURT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The Assembly receives the report.

2. The Assembly refers the issuing of cost orders by the General Assembly Administrative Review Panel to the Manual Committee for consideration; and
a. instructs the Manual Committee to report on this to the 2024 Executive Commission.

This was agreed by consensus.

COMMUNICATIONS

1.1. The General Assembly receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

1.2. The General Assembly notes the progress made in the improvement of communication within the UPCSA.

1.3. The General Assembly instructs the Presbyteries which have not done so to appoint Presbytery Communicators and submit names to the General Secretary's Office no later than September 2023.

This was agreed by consensus.

1.4. The General Assembly encourages Presbyteries and Congregations to enroll in the My Presby Church Management System.

This was agreed by consensus.

5. The General Assembly urges the Communications Committee to share the Procedure Manual on My Presby Church Management System and circulate it to Presbyteries and congregations.

This was agreed by consensus.

6. The General Assembly instructs the Communications Committee to fast-track

the development of copyright/ trademark Policy consultation and report to the 2024 Executive Commission.

This was agreed by consensus.

MINISTRY

16. The General Assembly notes the resignation of the Rev. Emary Mtonga Phiri from the Ministry of the UPCSA.

This was agreed by consensus.

NOMINATIONS

COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023 - 2025		
	NAME OF COMMITTEE OR COMMISSION	M/F
	AARP/COURT OF ASSEMBLY	
1	Convener: The Rev. Dr Peter Langerman	M
	Ministers:	
	The Rev. Jane Nyirongo	F
	The Rev. Mary-Anne Molifi	F
	The Rev. Christel Erasmus	F
	The Rev. Dr Chris Mkandawire	M
	The Rev. Thabani Masikane	M
	Alternate Ministers	
	The Rev. Lulama Mshumpela	M
	The Rev. Thamsanqa Memela	M
	The Rev. Awedzani Nemauxhwe	M
	Elders:	
	Adv Irene Mukwevho	F
	Mr. Harry Bopape	M
	Mr Siphon Nhlabathi	M
	Mr Thembinkosi Masuku	M
	Adv Lulama David Halam	M
	Mr. Makhudu Thema	M
	Alternate Elders:	
	Mr. Matthews Sesoko	M
	Mr Zola Gebeda	M
	Mr. Simon Radasi	M
	ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMISSION	
	Moderator Rt The Rev. Lydia Neshangwe(as chair)	F
	Immediate Former Moderator The Rev. Siphon Mtetwa	M
	Moderator Designate The Rev. Dr. Amon Kasambala	M
	General Secretary The Rev. Dr Lungile Mpetsheni	M

	Clerk of Assembly(as secretary) The Rev. Vusi Mkhungo	M
	General Treasurer Mr Ryan Johnson	M
	Ministers:	
	The Rev. Dr George Marchinkowski	M
	The Rev. Boitumelo Gaborone	F
	The Rev. Jane Nyirongo	G
	Elders	
	Mr Augustice Stuurman	M
	Ms Mathandi Mbense	F
	Mr. Welsh Linqa	M
	ASSEMBLY BUSINESS	
2	Convener: The Rev. Melanie Cook	F
	Members:	
	Moderator: Rt The Rev. Lydia Neshangwe	F
	Moderator Designate: The Rev. Dr Amon Kasambala	M
	General Secretary: The Rev. Dr. Lungile Mpetsheni	M
	Clerk of Assembly: The Rev. Vusi Mkhungo	M
	Mr Malibongwe Gwele	M
	The Rev. Anna Banda	F
	The Rev. Boitumelo Gaborone	F
	The Rev. Vusumzi Mabo	M
	CHURCH FELLOWSHIPS	
3	The Rev. Thabani Masikane	M
	Members:	
	Mr. Nondo Zombe Zam	M
	The Rev. Andrew Makunda Zim	M
	Mr Siphamandla Fayaka	M
	Ms. Asanda Mjobo	F
	The Rev. Caroline Hlati	F
	The Rev. Nonyamezela Tati	F
	Dr Mmameno Pataki	F
	Mr Green Moeketsi	M
	The Rev. Zukiswa Klaas	F
	Presidents / Secretaries of Fellowships	
	Corresponding Members:	
	Presbytery Conveners of Fellowships	
	CHURCH OFFICE AND HUMAN RESOURCE	
4	Convener: The Rev. Glynis Goyns	F

	Moderator: Rt The Rev. Lydia Neshangwe	F
	General Secretary: The Rev. Dr. Lungile Mpetsheni	M
	General Treasurer: Mr. Ryan Johnson	M
	Dr Inette Taylor (Specialist)	F
	The Rev. Kennedy Mhone	M
	Mr. Mpendulo Mkentane	M
	The Rev. Awedzani Nemauxhwe	M
	Ms. Mashalaba Nonceba	F
	Ms Thandiwe Hlam	F
	Presbytery Administrator Faresy Sakala Zim	F
	CHURCH in SOCIETY	
5	Convener: The Rev. Thembazana Ngalwana	F
	Members:	
	Mr. Oliver Muwowo	M
	The Rev. Sam Kudakwashe Ruzivo	M
	The Rev. Matshidiso Piroe	F
	The Rev. Heidi Petersen	F
	Ms Kelebogile Milanzi	F
	Ms. Anda Mtshutshwana	F
	The Rev. Frikkie Botha	M
	Ms. Zintle Fili	F
	Ms Belinda Crawford	F
	The Rev. Robert Steiner	M
	Mr Angus Howse	M
	The Rev. Mzwamadoda Mfene (Eco-Justice Champion)	M
	Mr. Sakhele July	M
	Corresponding members:	
	Conveners: Presbytery Church in Society Committees	
	COMMUNICATIONS	
6	Convener: Benny Boshielo	M
	Members:	
	General Secretary: The Rev. Dr. Lungile Mpetsheni	M
	Clerk of Assembly: The Rev. Vusi Mkhungo	M
	The Rev. Garikai Gwangwava Zim	M
	Mr Lawrence Makani	M
	Ms Esinathi Ngcobo	F
	Mr Geoff Jooste	M

	Mr Ralph Mvula	M
	Mr Thabo Molaba	M
	Ms. Yonela Dekeda	F
	Mr Solly Maluleke	M
	Ms Nomawethu Makapela	F
	Ms. Grace Ngidi	F
	Corresponding members:	
	Conveners of Presbytery Communications Committees	
	ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS	
7	Convener: Gen Sec The Rev. Dr Lungile Mpetsheni	M
	Members:	
	Moderator: Rt The Rev. Lydia Neshangwe	F
	Moderator Designate: The Rev. Dr Amon Kasambala	M
	Clerk of Assembly: The Rev. Vusi Mkhungo	M
	Church Unity Commission Rep: The Rev. Kim Brown	F
	The Rev. Thomson Mkandawire	M
	Ms. Samkeliso Siwela Zim Presbytery Clerk	F
	Ms Karabo Mamabolo	F
	Ms. Afika Rwayi	F
	The Rev. Zwai Mtyhobile	M
	The Rev. Dr. Fundiswa Kobo	F
	The Rev. Mautji Pataki	M
	The Rev. Wayne van Heerden	M
	The Rev. Craig Morrison	M
	CIS Representative	
	Corresponding members: Conveners of Presbytery Ecumenical Relations Committees	
	EDUCATION AND TRAINING	
8	Convener: The Rev. Philani S Mbanjwa	M
	Members:	
	PEF Administrator: Mr Ronnie Maqubela	M
	Mr Shepherd Masaraure Zim	M
	Ms. Rhodah Mtande	F
	Ms Mmule Mabuse	F
	Mr Dumisani Khoza	M
	The Rev. Xolisile Mlotshwa	F
	Mr Twasile Mbandazayo	M
	Ms. Nolly Vellem	F
	Ms. Yolande Faba	F
	Ms. Fiona Benzon	F

	Corresponding members: Conveners of Presbytery Education & Training	
	FINANCE	
9	Convener: General Treasurer Mr Ryan Johnson	M
	Members:	
	Moderator: Rt The Rev. Lydia Neshangwe	F
	General Secretary: The Rev. Dr. Lungile Mpetsheni	M
	Chief Finance Officer: The Rev. Thembinkosi Nopapaza	M
	Clerk of Assembly: The Rev. Vusi Mkhungo	M
	Ministry Secretary: The Rev. Mzwamadoda Mtyhobile	M
	Moderator Designate The Rev. Dr Amon Kasambala	M
	The Rev. Clarence Tungunu Zim	M
	Mr Tronnie Nyirenda Zam	M
	Mr Colin Gauld	M
	Ms. Violet Baloyi	F
	Ms Nobabalo Majokweni	F
	Corresponding Members:	
	Treasurers of Presbyteries	
	The Rev. Gleness Magovere (Central Fund)Zim	F
	Church Fellowships Treasurers	
	Associated with the Committee:	
	Representative from the Priorities and Resources Committee	
	AUDIT COMMITTEE	
10	Convener :Ms Nomhlobo Ngqungwana	F
	General Treasurer: Mr. Ryan Johnson	M
	Chief Finance Officer: The Rev. Thembinkosi Nopapaza	M
	Mr Matthew Mkandawire	M
	Adv Lulama David Halam	M
	Mr Simphiwe Mzozoyane	M
	Ms Ntombikayise Mbobela	F
	The Rev. Colin Campbell	M
	Ms Vuyolwethu Mndawo	F
	Mr Thabo Gumede	M
	Pension Trustee:	
	Mr. Tom Borril	M
	MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP	
11	Convener: The Rev. Theo Groeneveld	M

	Members:	
	The Rev. Brian Mazanhi	M
	The Rev. Dr Godfrey Msiska	M
	Bible Society The Rev. Zolani Makalima	M
	OLM Administration: Ms Eddie Stopforth	F
	The Rev. Mzwamadoda Mfene	M
	The Rev. Jackie Barker	F
	The Rev. Matshidiso Piroe	F
	The Rev. Wayne Van Heerden	M
	The Rev. Mathemba Tati	M
	Ms Mokgadi Modiba	F
	The Rev. Richard Mkandawire	M
	The Rev. Dr Victor Letuka	M
	MINISTRY	
12	Convener: The Rev. Dr Chris Mkandawire	M
	Members:	
	Ministry Secretary: The Rev. Mzwamadoda Mtyhobile	M
	Dr Inette Taylor (Specialist)	F
	Ms Jolina Sehoana (Specialist)	F
	The Rev. Tatenda Garande	M
	Mr Nathi Ndlovu	M
	The Rev. Yolisa Mlalandle	F
	The Rev. Fezeka Jobela	F
	Ms. Nomawethu Mayekiso	F
	The Rev. Douglas Bower	M
	The Rev. Thanduxolo Nkayi	M
	The Rev. Patricia Phiri	F
	NOMINATIONS	
13	The Rev. Yolisa Mlalandle	F
	Members:	
	The Rev. Andile Nyawo	M
	Mr Augustice Stuurman	M
	Ms Nomfundiso Mdoda	F
	Ms. Nobuntu Pona	F
	The Rev. Armando Sontange	M
	The Rev. Colin Campbell	M
	Mr. Arthur Nhau	M
	Mr. Siyanda Mqalo	M
	The Rev. Nozinhle Madlala	F
	Corresponding Members:	
	From Presbytery Reps & Gender Desk	

	PRIORITIES AND RESOURCES	
14	Convener: Dr Kefiloe Masiteng	F
	Members:	
	Moderator: Rt The Rev. Lydia Neshangwe	F
	Moderator Designate: The Rev. Dr Amon Kasambala	M
	General Secretary: The Rev. Dr. Lungile Mpetsheni	M
	Clerk of Assembly: The Rev. Vusi Mkhungo	M
	General Treasurer: Mr. Ryan Johnson	M
	Ministry Secretary: The Rev. Mzwamadoda Mtyhobile	M
	The Rev. Talkmore Chilanga Zim Moderator	M
	Ms Sarah Masekela	F
	The Rev. Bongwiwe Ngebulana	F
	The Rev. Heidi Petersen	F
	The Rev. Iain Kemp	M
	The Rev. Sauros Phaika	M
	Mr. Sisa Mtwá	M
	The Rev. Christopher Judelsohn	M
	Mr Pedzisayi Sakuhuni	M
	STEWARDSHIP	
15	Convener The Rev. Sibusiso Gwala	M
	Members:	
	Chief Finance Officer: The Rev. Thembinkosi Nopapaza	M
	The Rev. Simbarashe T. Nota	M
	The Rev. Lazarus Chirwa	M
	The Rev. Celani Mbhele	M
	Ms. Akhona Dyantyi	F
	The Rev. Dr Buhle Mpofu	M
	The Rev. Xola Mluma	M
	The Rev. Khonani Maselesele	M
	The Rev. Xolelwa Kobese	F
	Mr. Nathi Mncwabe	M
	Ms. Nomsa Ndiki	F
	The Rev. Chumisa Makalima	F
	The Rev. Shona van der Lingen	F
	MANUAL	
16	Convener: The Rev. Dr. George Marchinkowski	M
	Members:	
	The Rev. Anna Banda	F
	The Rev. Jane Nyirongo	F

	The Rev. Alastair Rodger	M
	Ms. Thulani Nayo	F
	The Rev. Siba Loni	M
	Ms. Fikile Ndlovu	F
	Ms Irene Mukwevho	F
	Ms Thembie Nxumalo	F
	The Rev. Robert Thema	M
	The Rev. Bongwiwe Ngebulana	F
	HEALTH & WELLNESS	
17	Convener Dr Nomzi Zibi-Hlophe	F
	Ms Pauline Mushayavanhu	F
	Ms Inonge Mubiana Kasaro	F
	Ms Nombeko Mpongo	F
	Ms Nosisa F Mkosana	F
	Ms Nomakhaya Matutu	F
	Ms Yolisa F Bomela	F
	Ms Nomlibo Jacobs	F
	Mr Luzuko Bunu	M
	The Rev. Graham Fryer	M
	Ms. Matshidiso Mamabolo	F
	WORSHIP	
18	Convener: The Rev. Mike Muller	M
	Members:	
	The Rev. Kim Brown	F
	The Rev. Douglas Bax	M
	The Rev. Bonisile David Mdyesha	M
	The Rev. Hendry Fortuin	M
	The Rev. Amos Nyirenda	M
	The Rev. Zephney Kennedy	F
	The Rev. Lulama Mshumpela	M
	The Rev. Garikai Gwangwava	M
	Mr Sibusiso Mkahize	M
	Ms Fuziwe Qithini	F
	Church Design Subcommittee (Convener)	
	The Rev. Tony Robinson	M
	Corresponding members	
	Representatives from Presbyteries	
	DOCTRINE	
19	Convener: The Rev. Dr David Mushayavanhu	M
	Members:	
	The Rev. Biggie Mususa	M

	The Rev. Judith Mkandawire	F
	The Rev. Douglas Bax	M
	The Rev. Dr Malinge Njeza	M
	The Rev. Willingmore Mhlanga	M
	The Rev. Dr. Fundiswa Kobo	F
	Ms Beauty Khensani Matumba	F
	The Rev. Lulama Mshumpela	M
	Mr Kieren Edge	M
	Mr Kevin Bestwick	M
	The Rev. Jeremy Smith	M
	ETHICS AND DISCIPLINE	
20	Convener: The Rev. Rory Spence	M
	Members:	
	The Rev. Biggie Mususa	M
	The Rev. Judith Mkandawire	F
	Ms. Kalipa Qaba	F
	The Rev. Phindile Nqakwana	M
	The Rev. Dr Allan Nyoni	M
	Adv Sharon Mthimunye	F
	Ms Fezekile Mtete	F
	Mr Kevin Bestwick	M
	Mr. Lucky Dinake	M
	The Rev. Bulelani Mandiyase	M
	The Rev. James Lungu	M
	The Rev. Charles Magagane	M
	JOINT COMMISSION ON UNION (UPCSA/UCCSA)	
21	Convener: The Rev. Natalie Gordon	M
	General Secretary: The Rev. Dr. Lungile Mpetsheni	M
	The Rev. Talkmore Chilanga	M
	The Rev. Melanie Cook	F
	The Rev. Heidi Petersen	F
	The Rev. Patricia Phiri	F
	The Rev. Dr Victor Letuka	M
	The Rev. Nkululeko Nojoko	M
	Ms Gloria Spelman	F
	Ms. Naume Somo	F
	CFC The Rev. Thabani Masikane	M
	PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE	
22	Convener: Mr. Jonathan Langerman	M
	Mr Peter Silwimba	M

	The Rev. Greg Howse	M
	The Rev. Mawande Mashiyi	M
	Ms Nomhi Ngcizela	F
	Ms. Mpho Ledwaba	F
	Mrs Anita Howse	F
	Mr Henry Chivhanga	M
	Mr Lawrence Mzwanele Ngese	M
	CLUSTERS	
	NAME OF CLUSTER	M/F
	PREACHING AND TEACHING	
1	The Rev. Vusumzi Mabo	M
	WORSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE	
2	The Rev. Anna Banda	F
	SERVICE AND WITNESS	
3	The Rev. Boitumelo Gaborone	F
	GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION	
4	The Rev. Dr Amon Kasambala	M
	GENERAL ASSEMBLY	
5	Mr Malibongwe Gwele	M

The Clerk moved that the report be received

The Moderator thanked the Nominations Committee for its work.

Announcements

The Assembly Business Convener made announcements. That the business of the General Assembly 2023 had been concluded

Adjournment

The Moderator adjourned the Assembly at 10h23, to meet at 11h00 at the Cresta Lodge Hotel conference Hall in Harare.

CONFIRMED

this _____ day of _____ 2023

MODERATOR

CLERK

CLOSING SERVICE

At the Cresta Lodge Hotel, Harare, within the bounds of the Zimbabwe Presbytery, on Thursday 29 June 2023, at 11h00, the Ministers and Elders, as Commissioners of the General Assembly appointed to meet this day, reconvened.

The Clerk of Assembly called the Assembly to worship, and the Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Fezeka Jobela, led the Assembly in worship.

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Fezeka Jobela, led the Assembly in the Prayer of Praise.

CONFESSION

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Rory Spence, led the Assembly in the Prayer of Confession.

MODERATOR DESIGNATE'S SPEECH OF ACCEPTANCE

The Moderator designate the Rev. Dr. Amon Kasambala made his acceptance speech. The Moderator thanked and wished the Moderator Designate well.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Fezeka Jobela, prayed and read the following section from Scripture:
2 Kings 22:1-2.

The Moderator announced that the Rev. Zola Matutu had passed away and asked the past Moderator, the Rev. Siphon Mtetwa, to pray, which he did.

The Moderator thanked her Chaplains for looking after her in every way. Finally, the Moderator thanked all including the two past Moderators, who had stood in for her, and especially the Rev. Siphon Mtetwa, the Immediate Past Moderator for being "the cheerleader".

PEOPLE'S RESPONSE

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Fezeka Jobela, led the Assembly in reciting the words of the Nicene Creed.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Moderator conducted the service of Holy Communion in silence, using sign language in solidarity with those who live with the disability of deafness. She advised the commissioners to follow the signs carefully.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Moderator's Chaplain invited the Zimbabwe Presbytery Clerk, Ms Siwela, to make the announcements, which she did.

The Rev. Mukondeleli Ramulondi thanked the Zimbabwe Presbytery LOC, the past Moderators, Commissioners, Staff at the Central Office, the Clerk of Assembly, the General Secretary, and all those who had made the General Assembly a success.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The Moderator’s Chaplain, the Rev. Rory Spence, prayed the Prayer of Intercession.

The Moderator thanked the Moderator of the Presbytery of Zimbabwe and some people specifically and presented the Presbytery of Zimbabwe with a gift.

She then presented another gift of a sculptured flame to the denomination handing it to the General Secretary.

Adjournment

The Moderator, the Rt Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, announced that the Assembly would stand adjourned until the Executive Commission meets in 2024.

The Moderator then closed the General Assembly with the Benediction.

CONFIRMED

this _____ day of _____ 2023

MODERATOR

CLERK