



THE UNITING
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA

Presbyterian Link

Linking all presbyterians together

**JUNE - JULY
2024**

Edition

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Rt. Rev Lydia Neshangwe: Moderator of UPCSA

STRONGER TOGETHER AND THE 7C's

Greetings and acknowledgements

I am an activist – an activist for various things especially for people’s mental wellness and for people’s spiritual rights, whether they know they have such rights or not. Deprived by other people. Deprived by themselves. In today’s sermon I am advocating for both your mental wellness and your spiritual wellness, as well as the spiritual wellness of the church.

HAMAN (Esther 3:8-9)
 8 Then Haman said to King Xerxes, “There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king’s laws; it is not in the king’s best interest to tolerate them. 9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents of silver to the king’s administrators for the royal treasury.”

ESTHER (Esther 4:15-16)
 15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:
 16 “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

There is trouble in the land! Caused by the three men that exist around Esther:

- a) MORDECAI - Creates trouble. He’s an activist. Without boundaries. He refuses to give way to Haman’s motorcade
- b) HAMAN - Creates trouble for “all” Jews. His ego is hurt. Revenge always goes overboard!
- c) KING - Creates trouble by appeasing Hama’s request to exterminate all Jews. A political move which puts even Queen Esther in jeopardy.

Trouble will come from your own house, your own relatives, your own friends, and from enemies. Jesus: “In this world, you will have trouble.” THE TROUBLE IS NOT THAT THERE IS TROUBLE – COZ TROUBLE WILL ALWAYS TROUBLE. The TROUBLE IS HOW DO WE DEAL WITH TROUBLE in our contexts, churches, relationships, homes, workplaces...

Our Esther text today is showing us that we can deal with trouble using either the Spiritual Mind or the Unspiritual Mind.

THE UNSPIRITUAL MIND - HAMAN (7 C's borrowed from Rohr)	THE 7 C's of the SPIRIT-DRIVEN MIND – ESTHER (My 7 C's)
1. Compare (bitter or proud)	1. Connect (the antidote for bitter)
2. Compete (the way of the world)	2. Contribute (add value to the team)
3. Conflict (conflict where none)	3. Compliment (hot coals on your enemy)
4. Conspire (v planning, strategizing)	4. Cooperate (grows the team spirit)

<i>The wrong type of stronger together – for evil.</i>	<i>The right type of stronger together – for good.</i>
5. Condemn (gossip, rumours, neg)	5. Congratulate (relational intelligence)
6. Cancel (any evidence of good)	6. Complete (the gap; maturity factor)
7. Crucify! (like Jesus was crucified)	7. Create/ 'Cure' (the self-esteem grower)
Is in the business of DESTROYING. Has a SLEDGE-HAMMER mindset. Poor understanding of activism. "Against." x	Is in the business of BUILDING. Has a TROWEL mindset. Healthy activism – like Apostle Paul. "For." Alternatives.
SPIRIT OF CONDEMNATION?	Or SPIRIT OF COMMUNION?

"In the earth, but not of the church." We are OF THE SPIRIT.

Like Esther we will soon discover that church is a team sport – we either win together or lose together.

Stronger together – for God's spiritual purposes.

Phillipians 2:1-4

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

This makes fertile soil for a revival.

CONCLUSION:

Do not deprive us of the revival we NEED.

Do not deprive us of the revival we WANT.

Do not deprive us of the revival we are ASKING FOR.

Let us position ourselves for God's revival by operating in the SPIRIT. The spiritual mind - that creates together, that builds together, and makes a difference together. Because we are stronger together – for good.





Bro Benny Boshielo: Convener -Communication Committee

Editorial

Once more we bring you greetings from the Communications Committee and the Presbyterian Link team. We are delighted that the members of our Denomination are increasingly developing interest to know what is happening in their Denomination and the Christian world in General. Our social media readership, especially our website and Facebook platform, have surpassed our targets substantially. This is a positive development and a demonstration that we are on the right course.

We publish this edition of Presbyterian Link with mixed feelings for two reasons. Firstly, this is the last Presbyterian Link that we publish under the leadership of our General Secretary, Rev, Dr Lungile Mpetsheni who will be departing the office at the end of August 2024, having served in the position of General Secretary for a decade. Radebe has been such an inspiration to us, who like other General Assembly Committees, have always provided guidance in our work. As the Convener of the General Assembly Communications Committee, I remain amazed that in the past three years of my membership of this Committee, he only missed one of our monthly meetings. He held our hands and ensured that we succeed in our work.

This edition of the Presbyterian Link carries an article termed "...Chronicles on the operations of the Office of the General Secretary of the UPCSA from 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2024". Premised on the scripture from Nehemiah 6: 13, which reads 'I am doing a great

work and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you, the GS chronicles the plan and his achievement at the UPCSA in the last decade. We encourage all and sundry to read this article, for it is a great eye opener. We will forever remember you Radebe for your leadership, commitment, and fatherly love.

As Rev, Dr Mpetsheni retires from this great work, he hands over the baton to yet another great Presbyterian, Rev, Dr George Marchinkowski, who will be taking over as our new General Secretary. The Rev, Dr, Marchinkowski is not new to the leadership of the church. With such a huge leadership acumen, it is our firm belief that he will take the UPCSA from where it is and elevate it to the highest level, building on the foundation built by Radebe. Team Presbyterian Link heartily welcomes and prays for him as he readies himself to take the leadership of the church.

The edition is also the first after yet another successful Executive Commission which was hosted within the bounds of the Presbytery of Tshwane. We wish to humbly congratulate the Moderator of the General Assembly, The Right, Rev, Lydia Neshangwe for the efficient way she moderated the proceedings, together with all the Commissioners and Conveners of the General Assembly Committees. This edition will also capture the pictorial story of the 2024 EC. It is so exciting to see how our denomination embraces technology for its meetings. Bravo to all the staff at the Central Office and all involved.

Tshwane was the hive of activity in this period because they also hosted a Conference of the Fellowship of Youth. Again, we saw the vibrancy of our young people when they worship and praise our Creator. Presbyterian Link congratulates the FOY for this incident free conference. Again, this edition will give you a pictorial glimpse of what was transpiring at the conference.

The Presbyterian Link team once more requests you to give us feedback, stories, and articles for our future editions. As our pay off-line dictates, we continue to inform, educate, and engage. The team values all these comments because they help us to do better next time. Till we meet again next time, enjoy reading.



Rev, Dr Lungile Mpetsheni: General Secretary

THE TIME TO TAKE A BOW HAS COME

"I am doing a great work and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?" (Nehemiah 6: 3)

August is my last month in the office as the General Secretary. It is a month of mixed emotions caused, *inter alia*, by the separation with the staff of Tiyo Soga House, an end of a service that was so fulfilling, and anxiety about the unknown future. Overall, I am thankful to God for protection and wisdom, to the UPCSA for the opportunity to serve, and to the colleagues in the ministry for the support, love and cooperation. In this last article to the Presbyterian Link, I bring this extract from the chronicle which I wrote on my reflections on the last 10 years, as it was presented at the 2024 Executive Commission, and it reads as follows:

The work that Nehemiah was called and commissioned to do could have been greatly compromised, if he had paid attention to the invitations to Ono where Tobia and Sanballat wanted to meet with him, ostensible to discuss some issues. Nehemiah knew that the things about Jerusalem could not be discussed in Ono. He also had no business to discuss with those gentlemen. As a spiritually charged person, he could discern and listen to God. He remained where God had commissioned him to be.

Nehemiah could have prevaricated, lost focus and gone to Ono. I imagine what could have happened to the work, had he taken that risk. He trusted God who had called him. He also trusted his instinct, remained obedient to God and faithful to his calling. He was exemplary to the men and women that he was working with. They stayed on guard, day and night. He could not weaken the team by going to Ono.

I strived to remain within the confines of my calling and my assignment. I exit with my head high and my integrity intact. I am still a minister of word and sacraments. Thanks to God.

I tried to reach out to everyone. I may have fallen short, but I was trying. I endeavoured to be with families of the ministers when a minister passed on. I may have missed a few. I attended the ordination and/or induction services. I may have missed some. I tried to support young ministers in the ministry. I may have omitted some.

I encouraged youth participation. I promoted gender justice. I worked for the equality of all the people of God. I promoted education and excellence.

I upheld effective and efficient administration. I followed the policies, practices, and principles. I submitted to those in authority. I refused to micromanage the staff. I accorded value and dignity to everyone. I refused to have my dignity and humanity denigrated and did not sell any of the staff members out. I loved my brothers and sisters at Tiyo Soga House as my family.

I was doing a great work and could not go down. I could not leave such a great work and attend to Tobia and Sanballat at Ono. Their gimmicks and theatrics could not entertain me.

I thank the UPCSA for the trust and confidence in me. Please pardon all my failures and inadequacies. It was not always easy in the "tennis court". As I hit the tennis ball, the opponent kept on hitting it back. But, lo and behold, I am carrying my crown of victory.

The time to take a bow has come, finally. I will always be available to the UPCSA as a loyal soldier. I pray that God will help the UPCSA “to be a reconciled community of Christians exercising a prophetic witness to Christ”.
ADIEU



Rev, Vusi Mkhungo: Clerk of Assembly

In the previous two editions I wrote on the countdown to 2024 Executive Commission wherein I was giving the details on the preparations as well as asking for prayers for a successful Executive Commission. I now write to let you know that we have indeed had a successful Executive Commission.

We would like to thank all those who participated in all the preparations, Commissioners as well as all those who spent time praying for this big meeting for the UPCSA. From the opening service right up until the closing, things went as planned, except for the minor hiccups with some Commissioners unable to join from time to time due to either loadshedding from where they were connecting from or other connectivity challenges.

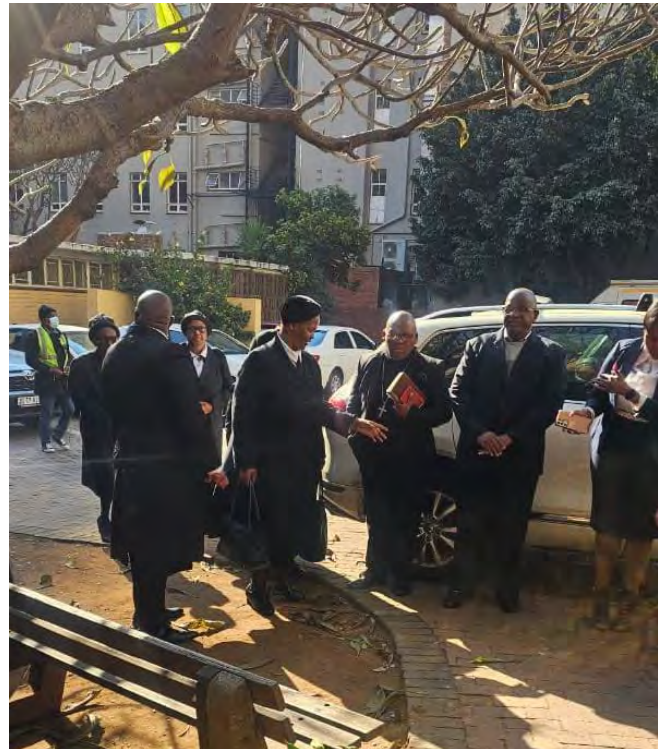
We were able to go through all the reports from Assembly Committees and many decisions were made for the good of the denomination. Whilst these decisions are sent to the relevant structures of the Church, but I am happy to share with you the following:

- We were able to bid farewell to the outgoing General Secretary, the Rev Dr Lungile Mpetsheni. His term of office ends on 31st August 2024.
- A new General Secretary, the Rev Dr George Marchinkowski was appointed to take office from the 1st of October 2024.

- We will have an in-person General Assembly which we have not had since the Covid 19 days. This will be held within the bounds of Mthatha Presbytery.

We give thanks to God for these, and many other resolutions taken at this last Executive Commission.

GOD BLESS YOU!





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AMATHOLE PRESBYTERY

It's July, Mandela month, Christmas came early for Ethembeni Old age home East London cluster Fellowship of youth visited the Old age home, they brought gifts with them, the old people were so happy to see the young ones and they really enjoyed their presence





Outreach

➤ **Venue:** Nosondo Bom Old Age Centre
KuNtselamanzi, Alice

Give A Gift ➤ **Touch A Life** ➤ **Make A Difference**





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EXECUTIVE *Commission*

23-27 June | Tshwane Presbytery
2024 | Hybrid



THEME: STRONGER TOGETHER

Sunday Service | 10h00 AM
St Andrews Congregation 294 Francis Baard Street, Pretoria

MORE INFO

www.unitingpresbyterian.org



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2024 EXECUTIVE COMMISSION UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH









Rt. Rev Lydia Neshangwe: Moderator of General Assembly

Executive Commission 2024 Moderator's Closing Sermon

The Forgotten Ministry of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!

18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Ephesians 2:14-18

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.

The Various Ministries in the Church:

- The five-fold ministries: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Shepherds, Teachers.
- Practical ministries: Feeding, Hospitality, Orphan Care etc.
- Other ministries: Music, Special Ministries etc.

You get to choose which ministry you want to be involved in – based on your skills and preferences.

The Missing Ministry:

- "God ***gave us*** the ministry of reconciliation" (v. 18b).
- That's the ministry of everyone who is a believer
- That's the missing ministry
- It is not optional, it is part of the job description of anyone who is "a new creation"
- Other ministries are optional and depend on your personal gifts and preferences

Etymology of 'Reconciliation'

- Greek: root word *katallasso* meaning restoration to favour.
- Latin: prefix re- "back" + conciliare "bring together."
- My definition: "re-link" after a "de-linking" situation.

WHY IS THIS MINISTRY MISSING IF IT IS SO POSITIVE AND BEAUTIFUL?

1. **It's easier to remain divided.** In real life it's cheaper to build a wall than to build a bridge.
 - **Reconciliation requires the cross,** which many of us professing Christians are not willing to bear. I feel compassion for those of you who have finished the ExCom having strengthened your wall of hostility.
 - **Reconciliation requires courage,** it is for the brave. It's easier to be a coward and attack, judge, vent, or bleed on others.
 - **Reconciliation requires maturity,** and many of us are happy to grow old and die without becoming mature... Who are our reconcilers today? Maturity means looking at the one who disagrees with you and discerning what is really behind their disagreeing. Is it their pain, their fear, their past, their present experiences. People often don't come out and expose their inner pain, and some do not even admit their inner pain to themselves. You have to discern it, and that takes stillness and spiritual maturity.
 - **Reconciliation involves loss** – but I want to assure you – it is perceived loss. Yes, it may hurt to let go of your position – but the moment you let go of it for the sake of reconciliation – you will realize that you have gained freedom. It's indeed a long walk to freedom for some of us. And sadly, some of us will never access this freedom in our lifetimes.
 - **Reconciliation feels foolish.** “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing.” Be a fool for Christ.

HOW TO BE A RECONCILER ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Step 1: Be reconciled with God. *“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself.”*

You cannot reconcile with others when you have not received or experienced God's amazing and undeserved reconciliation yourself. God's reconciliation is not a cheap reconciliation, it is highly valuable and was highly expensive for God.

When God reconciled himself with us, we were undeserving, unmeriting, unworthy.

Step 2: Be reconciled with yourself. *“If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come.”*

Face your regrets, your shame, your guilt, your fears, your weaknesses. These cause you be divided within yourself. If God can forgive you and reconcile with you, then you ought to forgive yourself. Forgive your past. If you do not forgive yourself, you will be the type of person that is always looking for a scapegoat in others. “The problem with this church... with so-and-so...” is a sign that you focus too much on the problems of others while possibly hiding from facing “the problem with yourself.”

Step 3: Be reconciled with others. *“Regard no one from a worldly point of view” (v. 16).*

A challenge to go against the grain, against natural inclinations and instincts...

Worldly point of view sees only the outward appearance of another – the tip of the iceberg. But there's more to a person than the tip of the iceberg that they show you.

- If you can't reconcile with someone because they took something from you, find healing, otherwise that person owns your inner life, your emotions, your thinking time. Without reconciliation you are CAPTURED.
- Grudge holding gives us control over the relationship. Reconciliation means you relinquish control and start a new relationship path. Don't be afraid to relinquish control.
- Watch your tongue. Don't be so opinionated. The things you have said

and declared will now imprison you because reconciliation with the other side would contradict the declarations you made.

- The fear of being hurt or rejected can prevent you from reconciliation. Leave the fears to God and do your job, which is to seek reconciliation.

After all, our UPCS vision statement says that we are: "A reconciled community of believers..."

Step 4: Reconcile others. *"Gave us the ministry of reconciliation."* *"Committed to us the message of reconciliation."* *"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors,"* – for reconciliation. Note the context for this "ambassadors" verse that we preach a lot about – the context and theme for which we are to be ambassadors is for the ministry of reconciliation! Therefore you are an ambassador of Christ IF you are practising the ministry of reconciliation.

That's the forgotten ministry of reconciliation. To bring about reconciliation between people. Instead, many of us enjoy watching people fighting; adding fuel to the fire of the conflict; being entertained by the conflict; taking advantage of people's conflicts; benefitting from people's conflicts.

Did you know that deep inside, people want to be reconciled but have no one to facilitate it, encourage it or enable it. They need a catalyst. They need a facilitator. They need a go-between. God is calling you to be that reconciler that the world is looking for and needs. Initiate reconciliation, create reconciliation, and promote reconciliation.

It is the missing ministry.

The Ishmaels and Isaacs among us need reconciliation. The Jacobs and Esaus among us need reconciliation. The ideologically conservative and liberal among us need reconciliation. The haves and the have-nots need reconciliation. God *"made the two*

groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility."

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God."
At the Lord's Supper remember that Jesus was broken so that we could be reconciled.

CONCLUSION

God is already forcing us as a church to build bridges...

- I see God forcing us into situations of reconciliation where it's either reconciliation or it's a stalemate...
- DA and ANC in government – it's either reconciliation or ...
- Reconciliation in the UPCS leadership...
- Reconciliation in decision-making...

Reconciliation requires supernatural power – only people with supernatural power can do it. Dunamis – power. The power to build bridges not walls.

Warning: if you are a bridge, the occupational hazard is that you will get trampled from both sides.

But be comforted: when God gives you a ministry, he also gives you the anointing, to be able to do it. It cannot be done in your own strength.

Reconciliation with others is the right atmosphere or conditions for God to send us a revival.





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LIMPOPO PRESBYTERY

As part of growing the praying men's movement, the UPCSA Fellowship of Men in Stuartville, Limpopo Presbytery, hosted a Local Men's Ecumenical Forum on the 28th of July 2024 to constitute the forum. Six local Denominations, UPCSA, AME, ELCSA, URCSA and Catholic Men's structures were in attendance. The meeting agreed on several issues including its objectives, constitutional framework, name and also put in place an interim Committee to drive its work. More Denominations will be invited to attend. Working together as men, the work of the Lord will be done in an effective and efficient manner



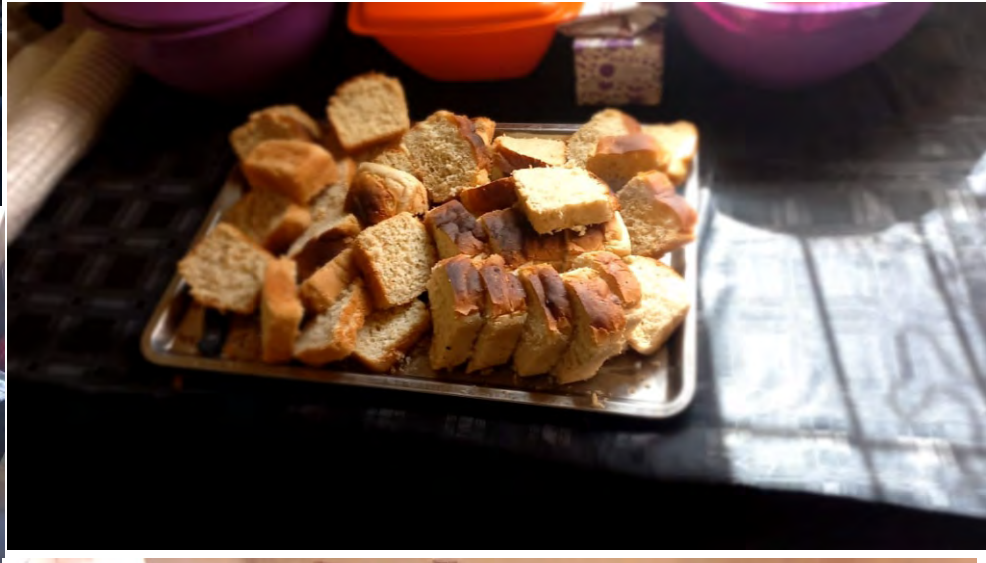


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LIMPOPO PRESBYTERY

As part of Mandela month celebration, the Fellowship of Young Women in Stuartville had fun day with the aged at its Mashite Preaching Station. Hosted at Mashite home for the Aged, the Young Women organised a soup kitchen and home made bread for the grannies which they enjoyed in song and dance. This was just another way in which the Young Women wanted to demonstrate love to our grandmother and grandfather.







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LIMPOPO PRESBYTERY

It was a day of joy in Stuartville Congregation with the robing of members of the Fellowship of Young Women, Fellowship of Youth and the Fellowship of Women, Relatives and friends attended in their numbers



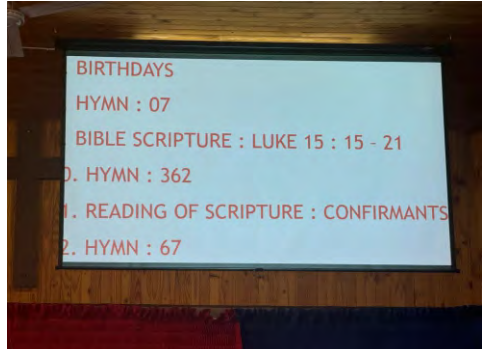
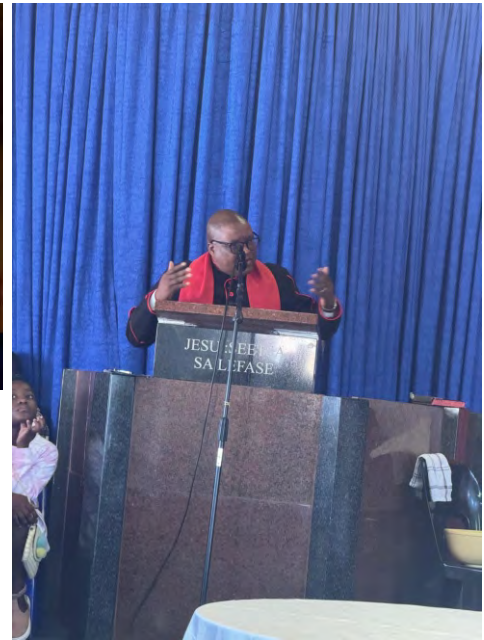
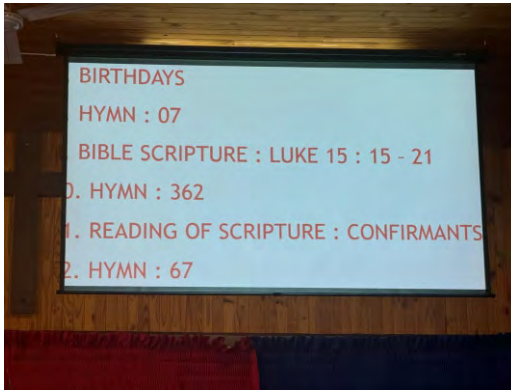




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LIMPOPO PRESBYTERY

The Polokwane Congregation in Limpopo under the leadership of Rev Molaba celebrated Father's Day the 30th June 2024 in style. Under the theme "Honouring our father - A celebration fo love, legacy and leadership"





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POLOKWANE CONGREGATION

PRESENTS



HONOURING OUR FATHERS:

A CELEBRATION OF LOVE, LEGACY & LEADERSHIP

UNITING PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA,
3820 MANTUBA ST,
SESHEGO ZONE 2

30^{09H00}
JUNE

THEME : "NOT EVERY MAN IS A FATHER BUT ALL OF US ARE SONS"

LUKE 15:15-21



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IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA

UPCSA LIMPOPO PRESBYTERY
PRESENT



INDUCTION SERVICE OF

*Reverend I.
Pandelani*

UPCSA BLAAUWBERG CONGREGATION

SUNDAY
21ST JULY 2024
10AM

CAPRICORN TVET COLLEGE
SENWABARWANA



THE UNITED
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IN SOUTHERN
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27
JULY

"FELLOWSHIP | OF YOUNG | WOMEN"

Soup Kitchen Drive

(In collaboration with World Caring Day)

"2Corinthians 9:7 For God
loves a cheerful giver"

Nelson Mandela Day Celebration

"Education is the most powerful tool you
can use to change the world"

"27 JULY | 09:AM | MASHITE OLD-AGE HOME"

"OUR FATHER | OUR CHAMPION | OUR HERO"

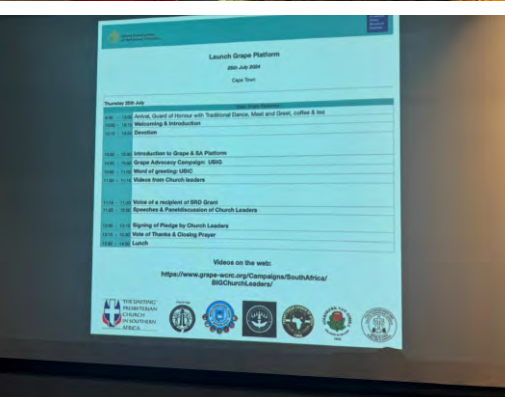
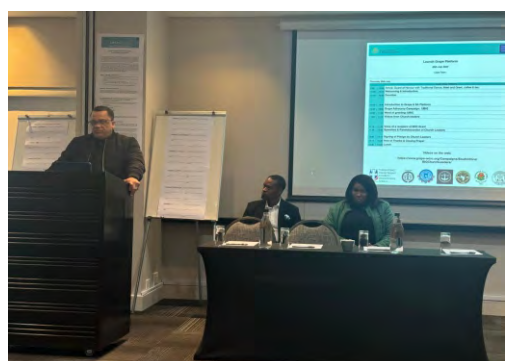
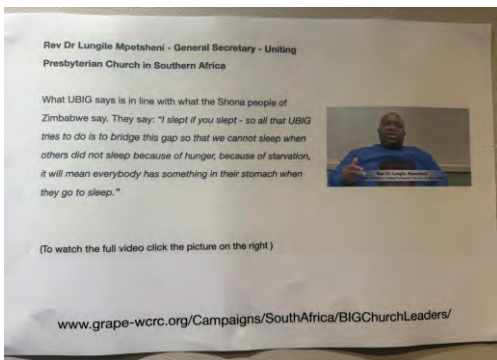




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CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Developing story: Today, the 25th of July 2024 is a historic day in South Africa with the launch of the Universal Basic Income Grant (UBIG) by the Global Reformed Advocacy Platform Engagement (GRAPE) in Cape Town. This is a project of the World of Communion Reformed Churches. The UPCSA is represented in this launch by the General Secretary Rev, Dr Lungile Mpetseni, the incoming General Secretary, Rev, Dr George Machikowsky, Convener of Church and Society, Rev, Dr Bukelwa Hans, Rev Mautji Pataki and Elder Benny Boshielo. The UPCSA is an active member of this platform. Several Denominations from across the continent and other countries are also represented by church leaders.





“The yardstick of the new government”: South African church leaders pledge their support for a universal basic income

30 July, 2024

On 25 July, 2024, the leaders of the South African member churches in the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) came together in Cape Town to sign an historic pledge, declaring their support for a universal basic income guarantee (UBIG) in South Africa.

The Universal Basic Income Coalition (UBIC) welcomes this pledge, looks forward to deepening our collaboration with WCRC, and encourages all faith-based organisations in South Africa to follow suit in recognising the importance of UBIG in advancing dignity and justice in our context.

The esteemed leaders, representing the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa, the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa, the Calvin Protestant Church, the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, the Volkskerk, the Presbyterian Church of Africa, the Rhenish Church South Africa, and the Dutch Reformed Church, with support from the Anglican Church of South Africa and the Archbishop, including in his capacity as President of the South African Council of Churches, outlined their theological, ethical and practical reasons for supporting UBIG in a series of moving statements.

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and President of the South African Council of Churches said in a prerecorded [video](#): "A Universal Basic Income is the yardstick of the new government to achieve tangible results and to improve the lives of many millions of South Africans. A Universal Basic Income is the starting line and a prerequisite which provides a platform to kickstart equitable and sustainable development for all South Africans."

Father Michael Lapsley, Founder of the Institute for Healing of Memories said: "The faith community needs to be at the forefront of supporting the Basic Income Grant which will enable every South African to have the basis of a decent human life."

Dr Nioma Venter, General Secretary of the Dutch Reformed Church, said: "We need to acknowledge that this morning today, 25% of people in South Africa do not have the ability to live above the basic food line, which is ZAR760 per month. This is unthinkable, it is unbearable to think of, and it is also unacceptable."

Rev Dr Lungile Mpetsheni, General Secretary of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa said: "What UBIG says is in line with what the Shona people of Zimbabwe say. They say: "I slept if you slept - so all that UBIG tries to do is to bridge this gap so that we cannot sleep when others did not sleep because of hunger, because of starvation, it will mean everybody has something in their stomach when they go to sleep."

The pledge signed by the WCRC leaders, calls for the "introduction of a Universal Basic Income as a guarantee (UBIG) to provide essential income support to individuals aged 18-59. The UBIG should initially be set at a minimum of R760 per person monthly, aligned with the Food Poverty Line, and adjusted over time as the economy grows."

The document also lays out the compelling case

for UBIG based on South Africa's intersecting crises of poverty, unemployment and inequality, and points to evidence for the impact of UBIG in addressing these challenges.

The pledge is being adopted as part of the WCRC's advocacy initiative, the Global Reformed Advocacy Platform for Engagement (GRAPE), which brings together stakeholders to advance key issues of justice and inclusion in South Africa and Kenya, in partnership with the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI). The South African chapter of GRAPE has selected universal basic income as its priority issue.

GRAPE is a member of UBIC, and has brought dedication and leadership to our advocacy activities over the past months, helping to advance debates and policy towards realising basic income in South Africa.

UBIC is proud to partner with faith-based organisations, who represent diverse communities all over South Africa and the world; who have historically played a leading role in the advancement of social justice in our nation; and who carry a strong and deep-rooted message of solidarity, care and love for humanity, which finds expression in the call for basic income for all.

For media enquiries please contact:

- Reverend Dr Bukelwa Hans | +27 82 651 5070 | stukie@iafrica.com

UBIC is comprised of the following organisations:

- [Alternative Information and Development Centre \(AIDC\)](#)
- [Basic Income Earth Network \(BIEN\) - Africa UBI Observatory](#)
- [Black Sash](#)
- [Children's Institute, UCT](#)
- [Congress of South African Trade Unions \(COSATU\)](#)
- [The Family Caregiving Programme](#)





THE UNITING
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA



DEATH NOTICE: REV DR ALAN MAKER PASSED AWAY

TO ALL IN THE UPCSA

It is with deep sadness that I announce that the Rev Dr Alan Maker passed away yesterday afternoon (Monday the 8th of July 2024). May he rest in eternal peace. Revs Botsis and Marchinkowski wrote as follows:

On behalf of his wife, Margie, and his daughters Claire, Sue and Cathy, we are very sad to tell you that Dr. Alan Maker, a former Moderator of the Assembly (1984) and a much-loved colleague, died peacefully yesterday afternoon. When details are to hand concerning memorial services to be held in Hermanus and Johannesburg we will communicate these.

Rod Botsis & George Marchinkowski
Former Moderators of the UPCSA.

Rev Dr Maker was a minister emeritus within the bounds of the Presbytery of the Western Cape. Please uphold the Maker family in your prayers. We convey our deepest condolences.

Warmest regards,
Rev Dr Lungile Mpetsheni
(Rhadebe)

General Secretary
Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa



UPCSA



@mypresby



www.unitingpresbyterian.org

EVANGELISM: COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL IN A STYLE THAT FITS YOU

FAITH CLINIC ON 13TH JUNE 2024

TEXT: MATTHEW 4:18-22

INTRODUCTION

Apart from Matthew who was a tax collector, most of the disciples Jesus called were fishermen. Some general qualities of good fishermen may include **patience**: having an ability of waiting for a good catch, **competitiveness**: a quality of having a strong desire to be more successful and **observant**: having an ability to understand the weather and determine the best period for fishing. When Jesus called them He said, "I will make you fishers of men." It means they were to be transformed and taught how to fish men. The good qualities, skills and knowledge they had in fishing fish were to be used in sharing the gospel to the lost souls.

WHAT IS EVANGELISM?

The word evangelism comes from a Greek word "**Evangelizomai**" which means to preach good news. Good news refers to the message that can make sinners to be saved from their sins. Mock J.D (1989:62) defines "Evangelism as the process of preaching, proclaiming, announcing or bringing good news to the lost souls. While Bosch views Evangelism as the total activities of the church" he also suggests that "evangelism involves witnessing to what God has done, is doing, and will do". Bosch's view on evangelism is that whatever the church is doing is all about evangelism. Therefore, evangelism is both done in the church and outside. We are doing well with the internal evangelism. However, external evangelism remains a major challenge to our church.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN EVANGELISM (Matthew 28:16-20)

i) Introspection (Verse 17)

When they saw Him, they worshipped Him. Indicating relationship and obedience to Jesus. It is about the personal relationship with God. **Before going out we should see what is taking place in our lives** (Get rid of sin). Then we can be sent out (Isaiah 6:8).

ii) Infusion (Verse 19)

Jesus said, "Go and make disciples." Imperative. It is the aspect of going into the world where there are lost souls and make an impact with the Word of God. The commission we receive after church service is about infusion. **Be the light and salt. Blood donors can only donate blood when the needle is in the vein. Blood transfusion follows the same process to save a person.** As Christians, we can only evangelise when we go into the world because that is where lost souls are found.

iii) Investment (Verse 20)

Jesus said teaching them to obey what I have commanded you. A long process until they become mature. It is making a difference in the lives of people. Sharing right doctrine or truth (John 17:17). Mentor/mentee relationship until the nature of Christ is formed (Gal4:19-20). **Building anything takes time.** Impact others to do the same when the investment produces fruits.

STYLES OF EVANGELISM

The style or approach of evangelism is dependent on the qualities of a believers. The introverts and extroverts have styles that befit them. The same fishermen could not fish the same way yet using the same fishing materials. Therefore, a believer must identify

the style of evangelism, develop it and at the same time respect and accept others styles used by fellow believers. These styles can be used in both mass or personal evangelism.

i) Direct/confrontational style/Approach (Acts 2:37-38)

The believer in this style has boldness to confront the nonbelievers with the truth. Under the guidance of God, you challenge the people to follow Christ.

Qualities: Confident, bold, direct (call a spade as a spade) to the point.

Example: Peter boldly proclaimed the good news to those who were present at Pentecost.

Caution: - Be sure to seek God's wisdom for you to be sensible and tactful, avoid judging other believers who use other styles and allow the Holy spirit to restrain your desire to come out strong in all situation.

ii) The Intellectual Approach (Acts 17:22-23)

This style demands proper **preparation** by studying the culture and beliefs of the people you want to go and share the gospel to. It be used to preach to people of other religions.

Qualities: inquisitive, likes to debate, Analytical,

Example: -Paul said I saw the post with an inscription to unknown God. He reasoned with the people of Athens for them to know the unknown God.

Caution: -Avoid getting stuck on academic points but retain to the gospel, remember to have gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15) and avoid becoming argumentative.

iii) The Testimonial Approach (1John1:3a)-we proclaim to you what we have seen

It is done through story telling of what Jesus has done in our lives. It is a natural way of sharing the gospel to others. It may be a story of an individual's change from being a church goer to one who has now a deeper relationship with Christ.

Qualities: Eloquent speaker, good listener, links their stories to other people and the text,

Example: The blind man in John 9 and the crippled man in Acts 3.

Caution: -Ensure to relate your story to that of your listener and to what God did in your life.

iv) The invitational Approach (Luke 14:23) -go out to the roads and country lanes

Many have often used this approach. It works well when you invite people to attend specific programmes of the congregations such as conferences or retreats. Most used by people without proper words to share in evangelism.

Qualities: Persuasive, hospitable, social, committed to church programs.

Example: -The Samaritan woman who invited people to see the messiah (John 4).

Caution: - Do not let other people do the talking for you, prayerfully and carefully choose the events to invite someone to and do not be discouraged if some they do not come.

v) The Service Approach (Matt. 5:16)- .. they may see your good deeds

Sharing the gospel through Meeting the needs of other people such as the old aged,

vulnerable, or widows. This is called social gospel. The disadvantage is that, if you cannot help people they will stop worshipping.

Qualities: Patient, sees needs and finds joy in meeting them, shows love

Example: Dorcas who helped the widows and vulnerable with clothing and tunics (Acts 9:36-43), Jesus fed the five thousand people and shared the gospel.

Caution: -Actions are not enough. You must verbally share the gospel (Rom 10:14), do not underestimate the value of your service and be realistic of what you can do.

CONCLUSION

Like the disciples, you and I are called to be fishers of men. You may not be an Apostle, a Prophet, Pastor, Teacher or Evangelist (Eph. 4:11) but in a way, you must use your qualities to share the gospel by using the styles that fits you. Remember that God will hold us accountable for failing to share the gospel (Ezekiel 3:17-18).

Rev AN Nyirenda

SYNOD OF ZAMBIA
PRESENTS
FAITH CLINIC
THEME
Evangelism:
Communicating the
Gospel in a Style
that Fits You.
Matthew 4:18-22

SPEAKER
REV. AMOS M NYIRENDA
M'CHINGA PRESBYTERY
ZAMBIA

HOST
ELDER CORNELIUS PHIRI

DATE
13th JUNE, 2024
TIME: 20 : 00HRS (CAT)
VENUE: ONLINE
(ZOOM MEETING)

MORE INFO: +0977377574/0977811556/0977806818

To join Faith Clinic bible study on Zoom meeting today,

Thursday, 13 June 2024 @ 20:00hrs to 21:30hrs CAT ,

please click this link:

<https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/84552999470?pwd=dbTyrolqmITrXKZrsQoMwV4Ppc3dTa.1>

Speaker : Rev. AMOS M NYIRENDA on the Theme Evangelism: Communicating the Gospel in a Style that Fits You." Matthew 4:18-22

SYNOD OF ZAMBIA
PRESENTS
FAITH CLINIC
TOPIC
Evangelism in a
Presbyterianism
context: "The
Message and the
Messenger"

SPEAKER
Rev. Mrs. JC Mkwandawire
Munali Presbytery

HOST
ELDER Julius Ishmael Ngwira
Munali Presbytery - Zambia

DATE
20th JUNE, 2024
TIME: 20 : 00HRS (CAT)
VENUE: ONLINE
(GOOGLE/ZOOM MEETING)

MORE INFO: +0977377574/0977811556/0977806818



THE UNITING
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AFRICA

SYNOD OF ZAMBIA

The Fellowship of Men, Synod of Zambia continues with its Bible Study and Educational series, Faith Clinic. The Synod has now introduced a new dimension in the series taking place on Sundays called Faith Clinic with its reach beyond the borders of Zambia, Southern Africa and the continent, in that it draws subscribers as far as Europe. Topic addressed for the period under review are the following:

SYNOD OF ZAMBIA
PRESENTS
FAITH CLINIC
TOPIC
In a Presbyterianism context:
"Evangelism and the Messenger"

SPEAKER
Rev. ISAAU PANDELANI
Limpopo Presbytery
South Africa

HOST
SISTER. SONGLO MKANDAWIRE
M'chinga Presbytery - Zambia

DATE
27th JUNE, 2024
TIME: 20 : 00HRS (CAT)
VENUE: ONLINE
(GOOGLE/ZOOM MEETING)

MORE INFO: +0977377574/0977811556/0977806818

SYNOD OF ZAMBIA
PRESENTS
FAITH CLINIC EXTRA
TOPIC
Doctors corner:
Women's Health

SPEAKER
DR. ROSEMARY KUMWENDA
PHYSICIAN/CONSULTANT

HOST
Elder. Inonge Kasaro
Health & Wellness Convener
Synod of Zambia

DATE
30th JUNE, 2024
TIME: 20 : 00HRS (CAT)
VENUE: ONLINE
(GOOGLE/ZOOM MEETING)

MORE INFO: +0977377574/0977811556/0977806818

Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa
SYNOD OF ZAMBIA
PRESENTS
FAITH CLINIC
TOPIC
EVANGELISM
(SOUL WINNING
AND
DISCIPLESHIP)

SPEAKER
Bsp. Dr. Shadreck Chisulo
Bread of life Internation
Chilanga - Zambia

HOST
Elder. Lawrence Makani
Synod of Zambia

DATE
04th JULY, 2024
TIME: 20 : 00HRS (CAT)
VENUE: ONLINE
(GOOGLE/ZOOM MEETING)

MORE INFO: +0977377574/0977811556/0977806818

Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa
SYNOD OF ZAMBIA
PRESENTS
FAITH CLINIC
TOPIC
SOWING, GROWING
& REAPING

SPEAKER
Rev. Theo Groeneveld
Convener
Mission and Discipleship
General Assembly
South Africa

HOST
Rev. R. Mkandewire
Convener - Mission and Discipleship
Synod of Zambia

DATE
11th JULY, 2024
TIME: 20 : 00HRS (CAT)
VENUE: ONLINE
(GOOGLE/ZOOM MEETING)

MORE INFO: +0977377574/0977811556/0977806818



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AFRICA

SYNOD OF ZAMBIA

SYNOD OF ZAMBIA

PRESENTS
FAITH CLINIC

TOPIC:
THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP
(Luke 14:26 - 33)

SPEAKER
THE REV. R. MKANDAWIRE
CONVENER MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE
SYNOD OF ZAMBIA

HOST
ELDER LAWRENCE MAKANI
SYNOD MINUTE CLERK
ZAMBIA

DATE
18TH JULY, 2024
TIME: 20:00HRS (CAT)
VENUE: ONLINE (GOOGLE MEET)

FOR MORE INFO: 0977 377 574 / 0977 811 556 / 0977 806 818

Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa
SYNOD OF ZAMBIA

PRESENTS
FAITH CLINIC

TOPIC
Discipleship; Intimacy with GOD

SPEAKER
Rev. K M'hone
Moderator
Munali Presbytery

HOST
Elder Cornelius Phiri
Synod of Zambia

DATE
25th JULY, 2024
TIME: 20 : 00HRS (CAT)
VENUE: ONLINE (GOOGLE/ZOOM MEETING)

MORE INFO: +0977377574/0977811556/0977806818

Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa
SYNOD OF ZAMBIA

PRESENTS
Faith CLINIC

THEME
Wise Parenting Tips: From a Friend to Friends

DATE
01 AUGUST
TIME: 20H 00PM
VENUE: GOOGLE MEET / ZOOM MEEET

SPEAKER
REV. DR. AMON KASAMBALA

HOST
SUNGA MKANDAWIRE

MORE INFO: +0977377574 / 0977811556 / 0977806818

Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa
SYNOD OF ZAMBIA

PRESENTS
FAITH CLINIC

TOPIC
OUR BLESSINGS ARE IN TRUSTING AND OBEYING GOD. 1 KINGS 17

SPEAKER
Rev. I Chirwa
Copperbelt Presbytery

DATE
08th AUGUST, 2024
TIME: 20 : 00HRS (CAT)
VENUE: ONLINE (GOOGLE/ZOOM MEETING)

MORE INFO: +0977377574/0977811556/0977806818

Team Presbyterian Link commend the brothers in Zambia for this excellent initiative, which does not only educate, but reminds us on the reasons for our existence.

We conntinues to encourage all and sundry to join the Faith Clinic presentations every Thursday at 12:00



THE UNITING
PRESBYTERIAN
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IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA

PRESBYTERY OF ZIMBABWE



TIL.NASHYJR PHOTOGRAPHY

**REV LAZARUS SAJENI & MRS LINDANI NTABENDUNA
MOYO - SAJENI**

Serving at Mhangura congregation in the Presbytery of Zimbabwe

GRAPE

Global Reformed Advocacy
Platforms for Engagement

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL TO LOCAL

Universal Basic Income Guarantee Grape Pledge South Africa

South Africa is still characterised by extremely high rates of poverty. 25.2% of South Africans live well below the poverty line, and the rising cost of living aggravates this situation. Urgent action is needed to effectively address hunger and deprivation while at the same time advancing economic empowerment and social justice for all. The Grape platform, therefore, advocates for a universal basic income guarantee (UBIG) as a commitment by the government to ensure that everyone has a minimum level of income to meet their basic needs and to restructure the economy.

The role of social grants in relieving extreme poverty is illustrated by the fact that 24.4% of households report social grants as their main source of income. The current social grants system in South Africa includes old-age pensions, child support grants, and disability grants. Since COVID-19, it has also included the Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant, introduced in April 2020 and recently extended to March 2025. However, gaps remain in the social grant system, and millions of people remain exposed to extreme poverty and precarious living conditions without government assistance. South Africa does not have any permanent income support for able-bodied people between the ages of 18 and 59, even though a large number of them have no income or means of survival due in large part to the unavailability of employment.

Current Challenges - where are we?

- 25.2% of South Africans live below the Food Poverty Line of R760.00 per month and are unable to meet basic nutritional needs.
- 55.5% of the population live below the Upper-Bound Poverty Line (UBPL) of R1 558.00 per month.
- 64.2% of Black South Africans are living below the UBPL.
- The narrow unemployment rate is 31.9%, while the expanded unemployment rate is 41.2%.
- South Africa has the highest inequality in the world, with a Gini coefficient of 0.67

Demands - what are we calling for?

Introduction of a Universal Basic Income as a guarantee (UBIG) to provide essential income support to individuals aged 18-59. The UBIG should initially be set at a minimum of R760 per person monthly, aligned with the Food Poverty Line, and adjusted over time as the economy grows.

The evidence shows that a basic income has many positive effects and goes beyond immediate poverty alleviation. These include:

- Immediate relief from hunger and deprivation
- It targets poverty, helps grow the economy, and promotes local economic development. This is especially so since people spend the money they receive in local communities
- Reduces inequality
- Upholds human dignity, social equity, and justice
- Improves Health Outcomes
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Education and Skill Development
- Reduces Crime
- Increases Consumer Spending
- Provides financial security
- Basic income improves social cohesion: A UBIG is a fairer way of sharing the wealth in our society, and this can help to improve social solidarity, stability, and democratic participation

Campaign Strategy - how do we get involved?

Churches, especially in the Global South, have often been and still are an integral part of the struggle for political freedom and social and economic justice. They have become people's platforms, where human rights and social justice issues are taken up directly and by people in their own contexts.

The churches, with their intimate connection to communities and their local, national, regional and global networks, have a pivotal role in leading the pursuit of social and economic justice by advocating for this structural intervention to create a more equitable and sustainable future for all. The lobbying for UBIG now is a practical expression of this pursuit for social and economic justice!

Drawing inspiration from theology, particularly the story of "Manna from Heaven" in Exodus 16, it provides a profound understanding of breaking the cycle of starvation and moving out of slavery into liberation. The daily provision of manna sustained God's people on their arduous journey through the desert. The manna not only fed them but freed people from the daily struggle for survival, thereby enabling them to move forward through the desert. The unconditional and universal provision of manna highlights the importance of empowerment of the individual and, at the same time, the importance of an undivided and equal community. This parallels the concept of a Universal Basic Income Guarantee (UBIG), which empowers individuals universally, allowing them to walk on the path of liberation without exclusion, freeing them from the daily struggle for survival to take charge of their economic affairs and, at the same time, creating a more equal society.

Contrary to targeted approaches, a UBIG is akin to a God-given right, providing everyone with the means to sustain themselves. This approach ensures daily bread security without administrative exclusions, especially benefiting larger households where people pool and share their resources.

UBIG is a prerequisite for social justice and economic empowerment in South Africa. Through church advocacy and policy action, we can build a more equitable future for all!

Signatories to the Grape Pledge South Africa

Organization:

Position

Name

Date

Signature

Organization:

Position

Name

Date

Signature

Organization:

Position

Name

Date

Signature

Organization:

Position

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Date

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Organization:

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Date

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Organization:

Position

Name

Date

Signature

DISCLAIMER

The views and opinions expressed in the Presbyterian Link may not necessarily represent the official position of the UPCSA.

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES

We welcome submissions of articles from anyone. Please submit with pictures if possible. The Editors of the Presbyterian Link reserves the right to edit or adapt the articles.

FEEDBACK

Presbyterian Link is happy to receive feedbacks regarding any article. This will help us to improve on our future editions.

COMPILATION AND GRAPHICS

Bro. Solly Maluleka

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