



THE UNITING
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IN SOUTHERN
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Moderator's 25th Anniversary Message to the UPCSA

Dear friends,

Today we celebrate that God used us, notwithstanding our diversity, to produce the UPCSA and we submitted to the will of God and obeyed. For the last 25 years, God has led us, corrected us, fed us, given us a hunger for righteousness, and preserved us as a church. We have emerged stronger together at 25! Yet this side of heaven there's always room for improvement.

It has been said, "The perfect place in the whole wide world is in the will of God." So, at 25 let us together as a church pray to re-align to the will of God so that we can fulfil God's prophetic and missional purposes in our time. We are ready for a revival as the same church that God has loved and preserved. Let us pray that this is the season of God's revival of our hearts and minds so that we may fulfil God's purposes and will for us.

So how do we position ourselves for a spiritual revival? We can be tempted to see 25 years as our own achievement, yet it is the Lord that has brought us this far. So in humility, we acknowledge God's leading. Humility is the only container that can hold a revival. Internalize that... All our other containers have holes in them and therefore cannot hold God's revival. Humility is the only container that is mature enough and strong enough to re-open our eyes to the spiritual truth that we are first and foremost citizens of the kingdom of God and as children of God, we must re-seek the will of God for our complex times.

This humility container is made up of three intertwined prerequisites for a revival to happen among us, in our time – intercession, confession, and submission.

- a) **Intercession** is the first requirement for a revival. We deliberately pray for a revival in recognition that we need a higher power than ourselves and our own ideas, opinions to run our churches and to grow our churches.
- b) **Confession** is the second requirement for a revival. It says that we recognize our inadequacies and our unworthiness before God. It says we recognize that we have neglected God's basic requirement of us which is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength," the vertical axis of the cross, and to "Love your neighbour as yourself," the horizontal axis of the cross.

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Tiyo Soga House
Plot 18 Dann Rd, Glen Marais, 1619
PO Box 12355 Aston Manor, 1630
Tel: +27 11 727 3500
Email: gensec@unitingpresbyterian.org

NPO Number 303-834

Moderator: The Rt Rev LC Neshangwe B. Com, M. Div

Clerk of Assembly and Acting General Secretary: The Rev WV Mkhungo DipTh

General Treasurer: Mr R Johnson MCom (UP), CIA, MIRMSA

Confession admits that it is not the cross when it does not have both the love for God and the love for people.

- c) **Submission** to God is the third requirement for God's spiritual renewal. Submission to God's methods and not our own. It takes humility to submit. It takes vulnerability to submit. It takes willingness to submit. But above all, it takes courage to submit because the easier road is the path of control, where we are in charge. It is through submitting to God that we will rise up to become the prophets and prophetesses of our time, Spirit-driven prophets who combine courage with submission.

So intercession is the posture we need, confession is the attitude we need, and submission is the stance we need. Then we will be confident of this, that "he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Phil 1:6). The 25th anniversary is the perfect time for us to introspect and seek to align ourselves with the will of God.

- ✓ Are you worried about the state of relationships in the church today? Don't add fuel to the fire - pray for a revival.
- ✓ Are you dissatisfied with the level of church growth today? Don't grumble and complain - pray for a revival.
- ✓ Are you tired of divisiveness and polarization in the church? Don't join the madness - pray for a revival.
- ✓ Are you unhappy with the financial state of the church today? Don't point fingers - pray for a revival.

God promises the following:

Ezekiel 37:5&6

"I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life." (v.5b)

"I will put breath in you, and you will come to life." (v. 6b)

What a promise! So let us continue to be 'stronger together for a revival.' Then we can truly say: Happy 25th Anniversary UPCSA!

Yours in Christ
Rt Rev Lydia Neshangwe
Moderator