

## Chapter 20

# THE SYNOD OF THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN ZAMBIA

### Explanatory note

*The General Assembly, recognising the special needs within Zambia, decided in 2013 that there was a need for a Synod to exercise a role representing the General Assembly within that sovereign State. Hence the Synod of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Zambia has been given opportunities to promote the proclamation of the Gospel and to oversee the life of the Church.*

### Section 1 - CONSTITUTION

- 20.1 The Synod of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Zambia is the Council of this Church representing the denomination in the Republic of Zambia.
- 20.2 The General Assembly of the former Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (PCSA) formed the Synod in Zambia in 1995, constituted it in January 1994, and the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA) reconstituted it after the Union in 1999. It fixed its name and specified the Presbyteries that initially fell within its boundaries as follows: Copperbelt, Namibia and Namak.
- 20.3 The General Assembly fixed the time and place of the Synod's first meeting and appointed a minister to convene and constitute the first meeting.
- 20.4 The members of the Synod in Zambia are:
- all the Ministers and Elders who are on the Rolls of all the Presbyteries within its boundaries and
  - any Ministers and Elders whom adjoining Synods have duly appointed and commissioned as members of it. (See Manual of Faith and Order para 11.5.)
- 20.5 The General Assembly may add to the Synod any Minister or Elder of the Church, for specified purposes. Such Assessors have all the rights and privileges of members of the Synod for the term for which the General Assembly has appointed them.
- 20.6 A Session's commission to Presbytery also constitutes an Elder a member of the Synod and for the same period. No Elder may take his/her seat in the Synod, however, until