

THE UNITING
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA

UPCSA

PRESBYTERIAN LINK

April - May 2025
Edition

Linking All Presbyterians together

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ **loading** ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 2025 General Assembly ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Best Wishes for all Commissioners

Website



www.unitingpresbyterian.org

Facebook



UPCSA

YouTube



@upcsa1999



Rt Rev Lydia Neshangwe: Moderator

Dear friends,

This is a call for prayer for the 2025 General Assembly. This assembly is the first in-person assembly since the Covid pandemic. We will come together in person to the assembly for three main reasons which can be summarized by the acronym F.E.D. We come to assembly to be fed, rather than believing that we are already full. We are fed through Fellowship, Enrichment, and Discerning together.

F - Fellowship

While assembly involves much business, documents, reading, many processes and procedures for decision making, we also come to assembly in person for the purpose of a much needed fellowship that can only happen when we are "together in one place" as the believers were when the Holy Spirit was given to them in what appeared like tongues of fire. There is power in the people of God coming together in one place and fellowshipping in a way that enhances and grows relationships. It is in that fellowship that we mature in our engagements and encounters with one another.

E - Enrichment

Assembly is a perfect opportunity for the people of God to enrich one other because the people come from different backgrounds and contexts. They each bring different perspectives to the table. They each bring different approaches and styles to the table. All these will broaden one another's minds in ways that we were not expecting. We can only enrich one another in such a setting - therefore, each member needs to believe that they have something to give, that they add value as they attend the assembly.

D - Discernment

Assembly is a time to discern God's will together. Decision making is one of the major goals of assembly. There is power in the system of collective discernment where we share what we are hearing from God and engage in discussions and reach consensus on the issues that God has put on our tables. We are "stronger together." And may the Spirit of God revive us again as we do the important work of decision making.

May each and every commissioner, official, guest, participant, host and helper take advantage of the God given opportunity to be fed in this collective space that we call the General Assembly 2025. May the fellowship be strong, may the enrichment be rich, and may the discernment be wise, all led by the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the whole church be praying for safe travels and for the assembly proceedings. We need to believe that at the assembly God is able to do "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us" (Eph 3:20).



Benny Boshielo
Convener: Communications Committee

Editorial

This Edition of the Presbyterian Link holds significance in many ways. Firstly, this is the last Edition of the newsletter towards the General Assembly. Secondly, it is the last edition to be published by the current Committee. It is therefore incumbent upon us to express our gratitude to all those who have been helpful in assisting us to discharge our responsibility in the past two years. These would include the Moderator of General Assembly, The Right Rev Lydia Neshangwe, the current and past general Secretaries, Rev, Dr Lungile Mpetseni and Rev, Dr George Machinkownsky for their helping hand and educative articles. The fact that in their very busy schedules, they were able to write us monthly articles, is a big thank you to them. We also wish to sincerely thank the Clerk of Assembly, Rev Vusi Mkungo, who has been with us, attending our meetings and giving us the necessary guidance all the time. Conveners of Committees and Presbyterial Communicators made our task smarter by providing us the required information.

This edition also comes two weeks before the commencement of the General Assembly. As we have stated, the communications Committee and Presbyterian Link Teams will be there to capture the moments and the news as they happen. It is our commitment that as a conduit of information, we will keep you informed about what is happening at the Assembly. Interviews conducted with some of the presenters, so they can give you, Presbyterians, the context of why certain decisions are taken. Whether you are at Mthatha or not, the Communications Team will make you feel part of this important Assembly of our Denomination.

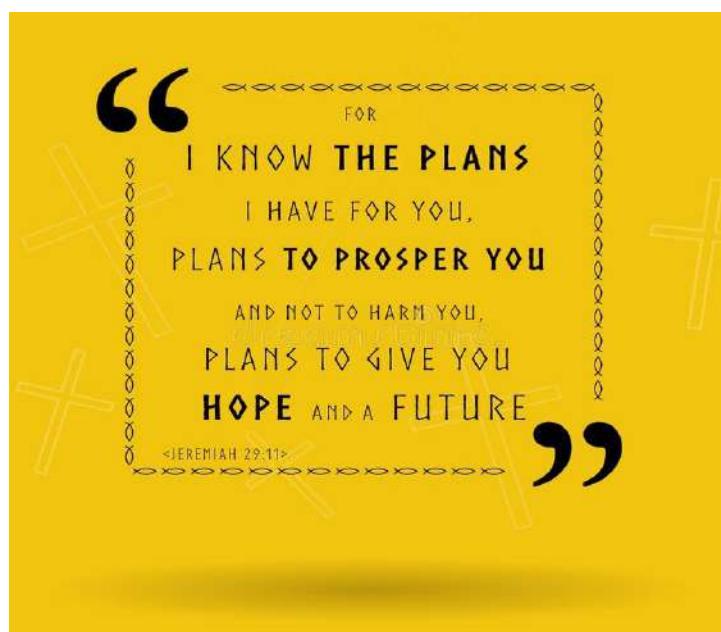
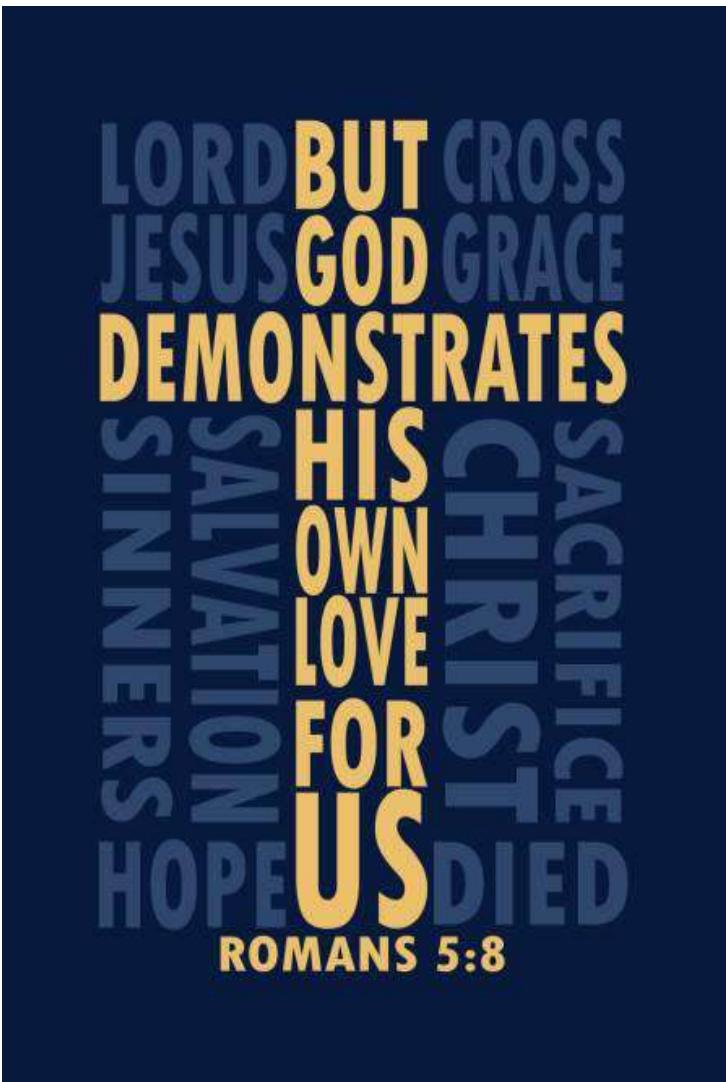
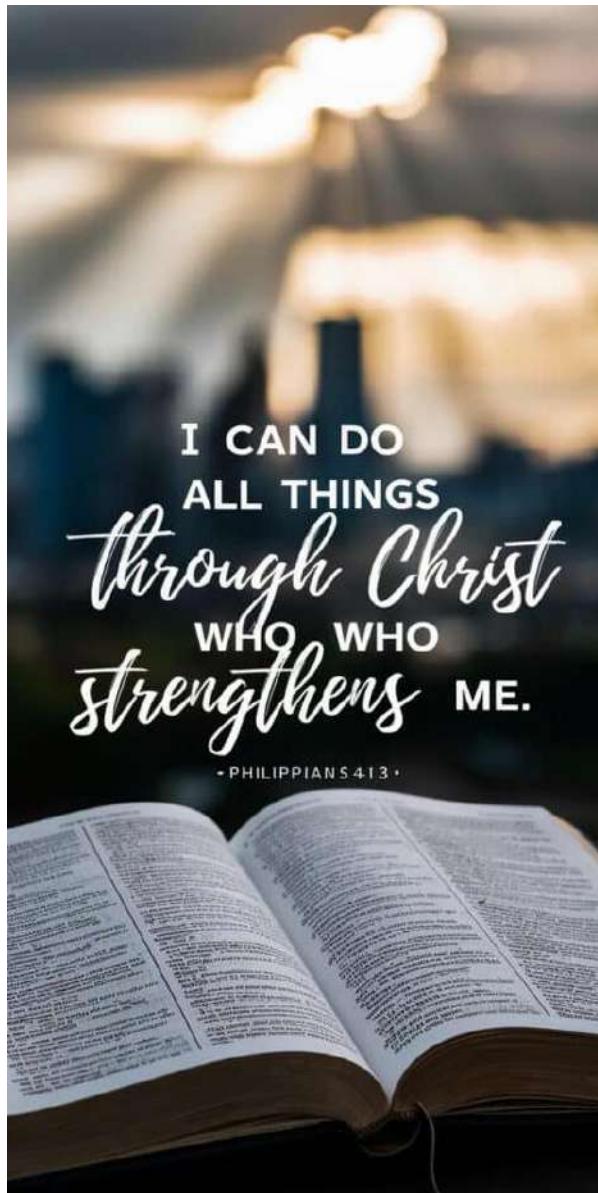
In this edition we carry the normal stories with pictures, to demonstrate the growth of our Denomination, as it expands to spread the Gospel throughout Southern Africa. It was during this period when our mothers and our fathers celebrated each other. We started with Mothers' day, and in most of our Congregations we saw our fathers spoiling our mothers with gifts and treats. Similarly, during the Father's day, we saw the mothers celebrating the fathers and gifting them with appreciation. Presbyterian Link continues to say, 'Happy Mother's Day' and 'Happy Father's Day'. as we urge all our fathers to continue to love their wives and vice versa.

In this edition we also cover the Presbyterial Conference of the Fellowship of Men in Limpopo. In this period we are used to be having a lot of Conferences. In fact this is an era of conference, which starts May through to September. We wish all our Fellowships well.

On a sad note, this edition also carries a Pastoral letter by Rev Chala Habasila to the people of Zambia of the occasion of the

passing on of their President, President, Dr Edgar Lungu. In the letter, Rev Habasila calls for ubuntu, humanity, respect, and unity as the people of Zambia bid farewell to their President.

Presbyterian Link take the opportunity to wish all our GA Officers and Commissioners well as they travel to Mthatha for the General Assembly. May the Good Lord protect them on the roads and give them wisdom as they deliberate in the Assembly.





Rev, Dr George Marchinkowski: General Secretary

General Secretary's Column May 2025

I am writing this column in the season of Ascension, the end of May and first week of June. The Ascension is an important holiday for Presbyterians because of its emphasis on the sovereignty of God and as the prime display of the identity of Jesus as King of kings and Lord of Lords. It was indeed a confirmation of the Father's placing "all things under His (Christ's) feet" (Ephesians 1: 22) I was privileged to have been invited to preach at a Presbytery Ascension Day Service (for eGoli Presbytery) on Ascension night this year. What struck me most about Luke's Ascension narrative (Luke 24: 44 – 53) was that Jesus ascended while still blessing the disciples. The blessing didn't finish and we can only imagine (and this is confirmed by our experience) that the blessing started then is still happening today, and that we are the recipients of that blessing.

I hope you took every opportunity to celebrate the Ascension this year. Remember also that the Church

Unity Commission encourages denominations and congregations to celebrate Christian Unity during these days between Ascension (29 May) and Pentecost (8 June). Reach out to sister churches and plan activities that showcase our unity in Christ.

The Golden Jubilee of the Ordination of women to the ministry

In 1976, the former PCSA ordained the first woman, the Rev Ethnie Fourie, to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. As far as I am aware, she was the first in the two denominations that make up the UPCSA. The Rev Diane Vorster was elected as the first female Moderator of the UPCSA to serve the Church in the year 2000. Next year we will mark the fiftieth anniversary of ordination of women to the ministry. In advance of this milestone, a consultation of women in ministry was held at Vista Lodge in Bonaero Park from 12 to 15 May. The consultation was arranged so as to hear the experiences of women clergy as they were encouraged to share how they processed their Call, how they trained and prepared for ministry and how they either were passed over for leadership or were invited into it. After this, the consultation reflected on how the church embraces or sidelines women leaders. In addition, many matters including considering how the UPCSA might become a place that nurtures women in ministry and celebrates them as a gift of God's grace to the Church were considered. It was my privilege to attend together with the Moderator Designate of the Assembly.

We encourage congregations, Presbyteries and Synods to think of ways we might celebrate this milestone in 2026.



*Delegates to the Consultation of Women Clergy
12 - 15 May 2025 at Vista ORT Lodge*

Lessons from the Church of Scotland - Reshaping the Church

From 17 to 22 May, I attended the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. I was invited to contribute especially to the World Church/International Ecumenical Relationships conversation that is current and ongoing in that Church. When I visited the Church of Scotland last in 2011 as Moderator of the General Assembly, the World Mission office was still fully staffed with Staff members for practically every region of the world. Now, after the retirement of Carol Finlay at the end of May, only Ian Alexander remains assisted by an Admin assistant. The Church of Scotland is now less than half the size (by membership of the UPCSA) and its administration has shrunk as has its infrastructure. From next year, its General Assembly meeting will change in length and structure from a 6-day meeting (Saturday to Thursday) as we have to a four-day (Friday to Monday) meeting and its well-loved magazine, Life and Work, will be discontinued at the end of the year.

I was able to speak before the Assembly on the benefits of international ecumenical

relationships, opportunities for reshaping the Church and ecumenical relationships using technology and virtual meetings. When times of great change occur, we must adapt or die (as Pieter Dirk Uys announced to Apartheid South Africa in the 1980s). If we are able to adapt, we may have the opportunity to change and survive to witness to the Gospel to a new generation who think differently about the medium in which the Gospel is proclaimed. What we are talking about here is not another Gospel but fresh means of transmission.

I was grateful for the opportunity to address the Assembly and for the many meetings that resulted around the 'sidelines' of the meeting. I hope this will result in new ways of relating that can be beneficial to all.



The Rev Fiona Smith (Principal Clerk, Church of Scotland) with the Rev Dr George Marchinkowski (General Secretary of the UPCSA)

Arrangements for General Assembly are in full swing. We look forward to welcoming Commissioners to Mthatha on Saturday 28 June 2025.

POST-ACADEMIC TRAINING CONFERENCE MARCH 2025

The journey of a probationer is one of learning, growth, and transformation. The Probationer's Conference held from the 09th to 20th of March 2025 marked a significant milestone in this journey, bringing together newly licensed and unlicensed probationers for a shared experience of training, reflection, and inspiration.

Held at East London within the bounds of Amathole Presbytery, the conference aimed to build confidence, instil values, and cultivate a profound sense of responsibility among the future leaders of the Ministry of Word & Sacraments.



With the theme "Together going back to basics", this year's conference emphasized the importance

of character, commitment, and continuous development. It provided a platform for probationers to interact with senior Ministers, newly ordained Ministers, experts in different fields, and with each other, encouraging open dialogue and mentorship.

GA Moderators Address

The conference opened with an address by the Rt Rev Lydia Neshangwe, who shared her experiences as Moderator of the UPCSA, past Moderator of the CWM, and President of AACC.

1. Topics covered

Topics ranged from professional skills to mental wellness, including:

What does it mean to be a reconciled community; Emotional & Spiritual Intelligence; Vision and Mission of the UPCSA. Strategic guidelines of the UPCSA; Prioritising priorities; Decolonising Ministry; Ministers in managing the financial affairs of the congregation; Importance of effective communication; Church administration; Preparation of a sermon, dos and don'ts; Pastoral care; Power in Association; Going for growth; Sacraments; Experiences as a newly ordained Minister; Importance liturgy; History of the UPCSA

from the roots; Experiences of a Senior Minister; Debate on ethical leadership

2. Interactive Sessions with Mentors

Senior officers and professionals shared real-life experiences, challenges faced, and lessons learned, offering practical insights that textbooks often miss.

3. Educational tours & Fellowship evening

Beyond the sessions, visits to places of interest and historical sites were organised by the hosting Presbytery. Probationers visited the East London Museum, Bisho massacre memorial site, and Steve Biko Centre. On the last night of the conference, the hosts treated the probationers to a beautiful evening of fellowship of braai, laughter and reflections of the conference.

Voices from the Conference



From left to right: Mvuyisi Badi, Nkosinathi Mncwabe, Odwa Mhlonlo, Zamile Mtimkhulu, Ntombi Currie, Thabiso Mtolo, Antony Chikanya, Lerato Mfunda, Chwayita Vaaiboom & Ntombentsha August-Masoka.

Participants expressed enthusiasm and gratitude:

'PAT Conference helped me a great deal in understanding ministry in a better way and differently than before. It has helped to unlearn

and differentiate between the two denominations, the one I come from (Baptist) and the one presently in (Presbyterian). The way of doing things doctrine-wise and a consistent manner of how they relate their teachings on the Scriptures. Also, the presentations made there had contributed to preparing us more for ministry, and how they armed us to be ready, be able to start our journey in moving forward. Also, the outings we had there, like going to the East London Museum, the Bisho Massacre Memorial. The Steve Biko Center and Steve Biko graveyard were a reminder of who we are, where we come from, because I believe that if you don't know where you're from, you will never know where you're going. They are part of history, UPCSA, the importance of history, and the unity that took place. These historical memorials made us who we are, and where we are today. Before UPCSA, there were two party churches, eg, RPCSA +PCSA with their demonic skeletons, like racism, inequalities, divisions, etc, but through negotiations, there's unity which led to UPCSA.

So, thanks very much to Rev Mtyhobile and Ms Ntombi Currie for taking care of us holistically throughout the PAT Conference.' [Mvuyisi Badi]

'The two weeks of our Post-Academic Training were very worthwhile and enriching to me in terms of all the knowledge and insightful ideas shared with us by our experienced Ministers. In my view, the UPCSA Post-Academic Training (PAT) provided us with specific and more relevant tools of trade or practical skills in the ministry. The knowledge and skills shared with us are making it possible for us to apply what we have learnt during our academic

studies. Also, of greater interest to me was our Ministry Secretary's way of getting us to apply our minds and think critically in order to unlearn all the wrong perceptions we might have, and learn what is more relevant for the confirmation of our call into the UPCSA ministry. As a newly licensed Probationer, I have started to apply what I learnt from the first PAT, and am looking forward to the second PAT in September this year. Thank you!' [Nkosinathi Mncwabe]

'The speakers who came to address us had a titanic strength of mind, well-experienced, well-read, and well-prepared for their presentations. So, in a nutshell, the conference was: Biblically based, theologically sound. Spiritually uplifting and nurturing. At that conference, Christian fellowship was heavenly. It was such a delight to be there, I must say.' [Odwa Mhlonolo]

'For me, attending the two-week Post-Academic Training conference was a transformative experience that equipped me with essential skills and knowledge for effective ministry. These sessions not only deepened my understanding of ministry but also challenged me to grow in my personal and professional life. The conference provided a valuable opportunity for networking and collaboration with fellow probationers, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose. All in all, the experience has prepared me to approach ministry with greater confidence, compassion, and effectiveness.' [Zamile Mthimkhulu]

'The PAT made me realize how the UPCSA takes the ministry of word and sacrament seriously by ensuring that those who enter it are well equipped in various aspects. The knowledge, information, and thorough exposure to the reality of Ministry and its demands that were shared with us sharpened the iron we are.' [Thabiso Mtolo]

'Attending the Post-Academic Conference was such a vital experience for me because I was richly equipped. I was equipped on the way, I think, how I interpret the scripture, how to interact with other people who may have different views in terms of



ideas. Presentations were of great help to me, especially on how we interpret and the critical thinking that was one of the things I learned, because everything you speak or say should be of deep thoughts. I learned to be disciplined in terms of time management, respect, and have table manners. Above all, to care for others. To mention

a few, but there was a lot I learned. I believe it was fruitful to me.' [Antony Chikanya]



'As I reflect on my time in the PAT I am filled with gratitude for the incredible experiences and lessons that have shaped my spiritual journey. The PAT provided a unique opportunity for me to learn from esteemed speakers who shared their personal experiences, biblical insights, and psychological perspectives, equipping me with the tools necessary to navigate life's challenges. The biblically based teachings and discussions helped me deepen my understanding of God's word and its application in everyday life. The psychological aspects of the training also provided valuable insights into human behavior, relationships, and personal growth. I appreciate the emphasis on preparing us for life's complexities, and I feel more confident in my ability to face challenges with faith, wisdom, and compassion. The PAT was a transformative experience that has enriched my spiritual life, broadened my perspectives, and connected me with like-minded individuals who share my passion for serving the Lord. I am grateful for the opportunity to submit this reflection and

look forward to continuing to grow and serve in my walk with God.' [Lerato Mfunda]

'I gained a lot from the senior Ministers and knowledgeable people. Life experiences include successes, failures, guidance, and mentorship. The skills are developed by sharing their expertise. Personal growth on how to cope with challenges and motivations. A deeper understanding of God's word. Developed a stronger relationship with God. To serve and take care of God's people. Self-discipline. Self-Management (punctuality). To be a good steward. To be focused and to trust God in my journey and put God first, and He will be the center of my life.' [Ntombentsha August-Masoka]

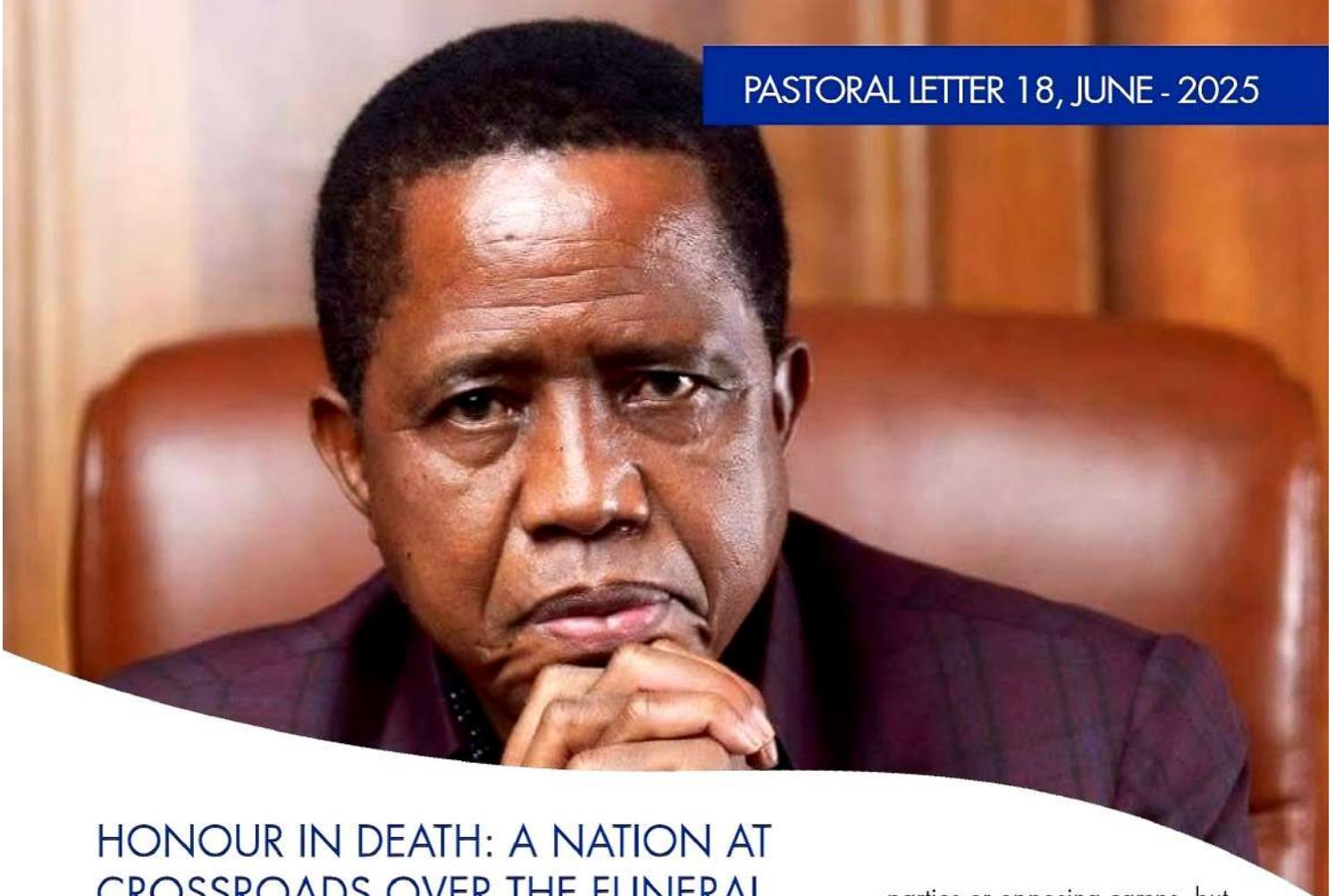
'For me, the PAT was well structured and facilitated, and also provided learning opportunities. It covered a wider scope of topics that catered to aspects in ministry and leadership, and the speakers were insightful. It also challenged me to think critically about my ministry practice, provided me with new insights, skills, and connections. The knowledge shared by speakers will help us grow personally, spiritually, and psychologically.' [Chwayita Vaaiboom]

Conclusion

The Probationer's Conference 2025 was more than an event—it was a turning point. As probationers return to their respective assignments, they carry with them not just knowledge but a renewed sense of purpose and belonging. The future indeed looks brighter with such prepared and passionate individuals stepping into their roles

Post Academic Training Conference





HONOUR IN DEATH: A NATION AT CROSSROADS OVER THE FUNERAL OF ZAMBIA'S SIXTH PRESIDENT

A call for peace, unity, healing and tranquility for Zambia and posterity.



The passing of Zambia's sixth Republican President, Dr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, has brought with it not only sorrow but also controversy—a disheartening development that has left many Zambians bewildered and emotionally bruised. What should have been a moment of unity, respect, and dignified farewell has instead become marred by tension, confusion, and what some have called a betrayal of our national values.

Zambia is a country steeped in culture, custom, and a strong sense of community, particularly in times of mourning. In our tradition, death is never partisan. When one dies, especially someone who once held the highest office in the land, all differences are suspended. We come together not as political

parties or opposing camps, but as one family—one people, one Zambia, one Nation. It is therefore both shocking and saddening that the funeral of former President Lungu has been treated with such ambiguity and disharmony.

The unexpected turn in the funeral arrangements, particularly the decision not to repatriate his body for a full national mourning, has left many citizens asking: Is this who we have become? The absence of a clear, compassionate, and inclusive approach to this moment of loss has created a wound in the nation's soul. It is not just about logistics—it is about honour, identity, dignity and legacy.

Former President Lungu was not an ordinary man. He was a father, a husband, a lawyer, a politician—and ultimately, the Commander-in-Chief of the

Armed Forces. He presided over national affairs, signed laws into being, and represented Zambia on the global stage. Regardless of one's political opinion, his role and service demands that ALL ZAMBIA Mourn and bury him honorably.

Unfortunately, it appears that pride and politics have taken centre stage in a matter that should have been handled with humility and understanding. Funerals—especially of national leaders—are supposed to be sacred moments. Moments to heal, to forgive, to reflect, and to remember that long after politics has passed, we are still brothers and sisters sharing the same land and destiny. Many Zambians have noted the cultural dissonance in how this funeral is unfolding. In our extended families, when someone dies, even the estranged are welcomed back. Even those who were once at odds sit side by side to pay their respects. Why then should it be different for someone who held the highest office in the land? Why are the voices of reconciliation being drowned out by the noise of rivalry?

**The Preacher in Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is
"a time to mourn and a time to heal."**

But how can a nation heal if it is not allowed to mourn and bury its 6th President properly? This is a question that the current leadership, family—and indeed all citizens—must ask themselves. For in the way we handle the passing of our leaders, we set the tone for the future. We teach our children how to honour, how to forgive, and how to rise above petty divisions. We are a Christian Nation not in words, but in how we act.

This is not just about President Lungu. It is about the soul of our nation. It is about who we are, and who we are becoming. If we allow bitterness to dictate how we treat one another in death, we risk tearing the social fabric of our society that holds us together. Now is the time to rise above personal egos and partisan pride. Now is the time to act like the Christian Nation we claim to be. Let us give the sixth President of the Republic of Zambia a dignified, unifying, and honourable farewell—not for his sake only, but for the sake of Zambia.

Let us remember: history is watching, and so are our children.

We must not betray the spirit upon which this sovereign nation was founded upon.

May peace reign, may dignity prevail, and may God bless Zambia.

Anthem

Stand and sing of Zambia, proud and free,
Land of work and joy in unity,
Victors in the struggle for the right,
We've won freedom's fight.
All one, strong and free.
Africa is our own motherland,



**REST IN PEACE, OUR 6TH
REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT**

Fashion'd with and blessed by
God's good hand,
Let us all her people join as one,
Brothers under the sun.

All one, strong and free.
One land and one nation is our
cry,

Dignity and peace 'neath
Zambia's sky,
Like our noble eagle in its flight,
Zambia-praise to thee.

All one, strong and free.
Praise be to God,

Praise be, praise be,
praise be,

Bless our great nation,
Zambia, Zambia,

Zambia,

Free men we stand

Under the flag of our land,

Zambia-praise to thee.

All one, strong and
free.

By Rev. Chala Habasila
chalahabasila@gmail.com
0977-251931





Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa
Eco-Justice Desk

ENQUIRIES: Rev Madoda Mfene 079 887 3231 mzwamadodamfene@yahoo.com

29 May 2025

To: General Secretary of the UPCSA

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

World Environmental Day (June 5) is a time to reflect on God's creation and our responsibility to care for it. From a biblical perspective there is a strong emphasis that God created the world and entrusted humans with stewardship, meaning we are called to be good caretakers of His creation

World Environment day, on June 5th, is the UN's most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect of our environment. The theme for World Environment Day 2025 is "Ending Plastic Pollution" with the hashtag # BeatPlasticPollution. This theme focuses on addressing the pervasive issue of plastic waste in various environments, from oceans and coastline to the food chain.

The General Assembly Church in Society Committee (CIS)- Eco Justice Desk; is pleased to invite the UPCSA family and all interested parties to join us on Thursday 5th June 2025 when will be hosting a webinar to celebrate this world day. Our theme: God's creation: A responsibility to care (Gen.2:15). World Environmental Day offers us a chance to participate in activities that promote environmental awareness and care such as cleaning up areas, planting trees and advocating for responsible environmental policies

Please find attached poster; programme with zoom details

Meeting ID: 788 973 4454
Passcode: f690Pg

Rev Madoda Mfene
Eco-Justice Desk Coordinator

ENQUIRIES: Rev Madoda Mfene 079 887 3231 mzwamadodamfene@yahoo.com



THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

PRESS STATEMENT

For immediate release

The Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA) believes that both Church and Society ought to be just and equitable, a space in which both women and men can flourish. Acts of injustice such as gender-based violence and femicide are condemned in the strongest terms. They do not reflect the values of the nations in which we are present, nor do they reflect the worldview of the God we worship and serve. Gender justice includes just and right relationships, mutual respect and accountability, respect for creation and the rights of all people to live life in all its fullness. Gender justice is not just a women's concern or a concern or about women only, but instead, is an issue for everyone, seeking to ensure that both men and women co-exist without any discrimination, undermining or prejudice.

It is against this background that we received the devastating news of the rape and murder of one of our Church Elders, Mrs. Nomfetshe, in Mount Ayliff, Eastern Cape. Her Church and community considered her a woman of great virtue, a comforter of the bereaved, a mobiliser for community health, a partner to traditional leadership, and a mother to many. She was a woman of peace and strength. Sadly, she is not the first to die as a result of violence, but one person among many whose life has been unnecessarily cut short, and in such a brutal way.

We call upon the South African Police Service to bring the perpetrators to justice. We look for swift justice in our courts. We call for the community's involvement in tracking down the guilty. We commit ourselves to work with the SAPS, the Courts, and the ecumenical Church to work for a Society in which women and girls can feel safe and flourish.

The Rt Rev Lydia Neshangwe
Moderator

The Rev Dr George Marchinkowski
General Secretary

The Uniting Presbyterian Church is a transnational denomination, present in Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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

PBO 18/11/13/1612 NPO Number 303-834
Moderator: The Rt Rev Lydia C Neshangwe B. Com, M. Div
General Secretary: The Rev Dr George Marchinkowski MTh DMin PhD
Clerk of Assembly: The Rev Vusi W Mkhungo DipTh
General Treasurer: Mr Ryan Johnson MCom (UP), CIA, MIRMSA



THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

19 June 2025

Good Friends in Christ,

Pastoral Letter on the Extreme weather in Mthatha and invitation to respond

It was with shock and dismay that we heard about (and observed on television) the continued incidence of extreme weather and subsequent devastating flooding in Mthatha and surrounding areas in the Eastern Cape. Many have lost possessions, homes, and livelihoods. What brings the tragedy closer is that it involves some of our own members, and it is the location of our upcoming General Assembly, which meets from 28 June to 3 July. Our congregations are already mobilised and offering assistance and care to those affected.

We consulted the Moderator of the JH Soga Memorial Synod, the Rev. Lulama Mshumpela, who confirmed that: "it is evident that a considerable number of community members, particularly women and children, have been impacted by the floods. Many of them are currently sheltered in community centres around Mthatha."

Subsequently we also received communication from the **Presbytery of Tshwane** which urged us as a Church "to stand in solidarity with those affected." Further, they requested that the UPCSA declare a denominational day of prayer and mourning, giving "voice to our collective grief, while bearing witness to our hope in Christ's healing and redemptive love." The Church in Society Convener, the Rev Thembazana Ngalwana, has also participated in the process of this response.

A time of lament and reflection

Consequently, we are calling congregations to remember the people of Mthatha and the Eastern Cape next **Sunday, 29 June 2025**, which is also our Assembly Sunday, bearing in mind that we will be meeting there in the midst of the people who experienced the extreme weather and its consequence.

A call for generosity

We further call upon our congregations to give generously to an **Mthatha Disaster Fund** - which may be donated to through the General Assembly account:

The Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa
Standard Bank
Branch code: 000 355
Account #: 200 822 764

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

PBO **30015082** **NPO Number 303-834**
Moderator: The Rt Rev Lydia C Neshangwe B. Com, M. Div
General Secretary: The Rev Dr George Marchinkowski MTh DMin PhD
Clerk of Assembly: The Rev Vusi W Mkhungo DipTh
General Treasurer: Mr Ryan Johnson MCom (UP), CIA, MIRMSA

Donations in cash will be received and paid over to those who are ministering to the people affected. In addition, **donations in kind** may be brought by Commissioners (or sent to arrive in time for the General Assembly from 28 June 2025) to the General Assembly where they will be collected and distributed to those agencies managing the response.

We are motivated by Paul's words to the Corinthians (12: 26-27), "if one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it." As the Moderator's theme exhorted us, we are "Stronger together."

We send this with love to the people of Mthatha and surrounds. We draw close to you in the unity of Christ's love. We are one in God's family. We respond with compassion to your pain.

The Rt. Rev. Lydia Neshangwe
Moderator of the General Assembly

The Rev Dr George Marchinkowski
General Secretary

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

PBO **30015082** **NPO Number 303-834**
Moderator: The Rt Rev Lydia C Neshangwe B. Com, M. Div
General Secretary: The Rev Dr George Marchinkowski MTh DMin PhD
Clerk of Assembly: The Rev Vusi W Mkhungo DipTh
General Treasurer: Mr Ryan Johnson MCom (UP), CIA, MIRMSA



The General Secretary, Rev. Dr. G.W. Marchinkowski, is in attendance at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh, taking place from 17 to 22 May 2025. The lady seated in the middle of the front row is the Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Rosie Frew.



At Mt Horeb Congregation, within the Presbytery of Limpopo, Elder Mokgadi Modiba was set apart as a Lay Preacher, and is now admitted into the Order of Lay Ministries. The service was presided by the Moderator of the Presbytery, Rev Mary-Ann Molifi. The service was led by another Lay Preacher, Elder Benny Boshielo, and Rev,Dr Robert Munthali was the preacher. We congratulate Elder Modiba for this giant step.



Kgapane Transitional Congregation in its Easter Service to listen to the seven words of Jesus Christ on the cross. The service was presided by Rev Khonani Maselesele. Seen in the picture is also the preachers of the seven words.



The Fellowship of Men in Stuartville Congregation, Presbytery of Limpopo, held its annual Lekgotla with Young Men on Saturday, the 26th of April 2025 in the Mountaneous area of Haenesburg. The Lekgotla took the format of an eight kilometre trail. The theme of the 2025 Lekgotla was 'Building sustainable families'. Rev Kokie Smit from The United Church in Haenesburg was the speaker of the day. Yet another spiritual fulfilling day as the men continues to mentor the young men. Stuartville Congregation is under the leadership of Rev Lethabo Mabotja.



The Limpopo Fellowship of Men Presbyterial Conference currently underway at William Samson Congregation. The Conference was just constituted by the Moderator, Rev Molifi





THE UNITING
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA

Limpopo Presbytery
PRESENT



Setting Apart Of

Elder Bokgadi Bodiba

To The Order Of Lay Ministry

MAY 25 SUNDAY 9AM

HOSTED BY

REV MARY ANN MOLIFI

Moderator of the Limpopo Presbytery

UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

MOUNT HOREB CONGREGATION

74 Kirsten St, Polokwane Ext 4,
Polokwane, 0699

It was a day of great joy and appreciation in Stuartville Congregation as the Fellowship of Men celebrated Mothers Day with all the mothers. Mothers were showed with gifts and treats in all the stations. Once more Happy Mothers. We appreciate you. All of us.



The Fellowship of Men in the Presbytery of Limpopo held its Annual Conference on the 24th of May 2025 at William Samson Congregation. During the conference, there were robings of new members and the induction of the new Presbyterial Secretary. The Moderator, Rev Mary - Ann Molifi constituted and closed the conference, which also received guests from the Methodist Church, Evangelical Presbyterian church and the FoM Egoli Presbytery.

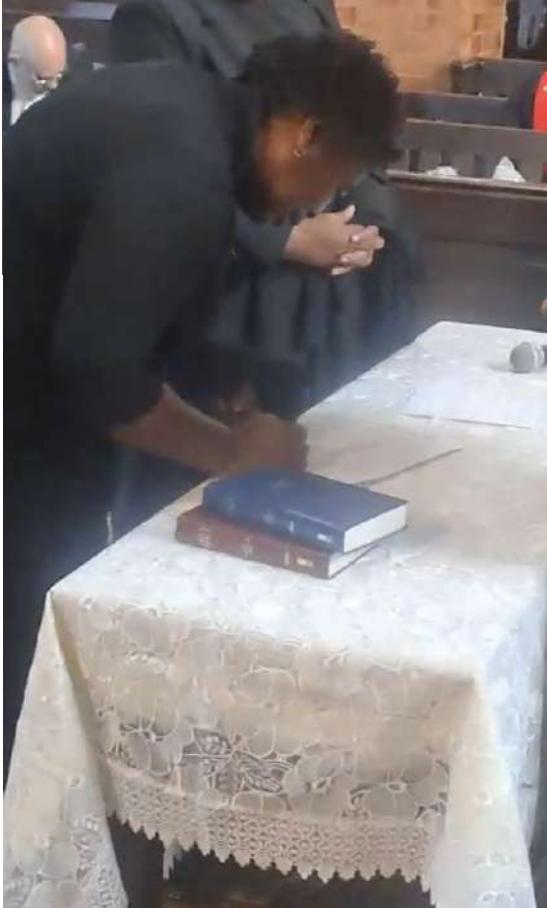


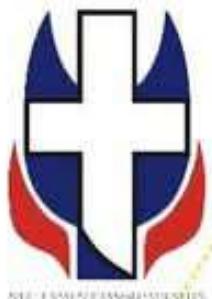


The Tiyo Soga Memorial Presbytery visited Rev. Motebele and his family following a period of illness affecting him, his wife, and one of their children. In addition to this, two of his elders lost their homes in fires. The Presbytery extended their support during this difficult time. The service took place on 25 May at the E.E. Xokozela Memorial Congregation.

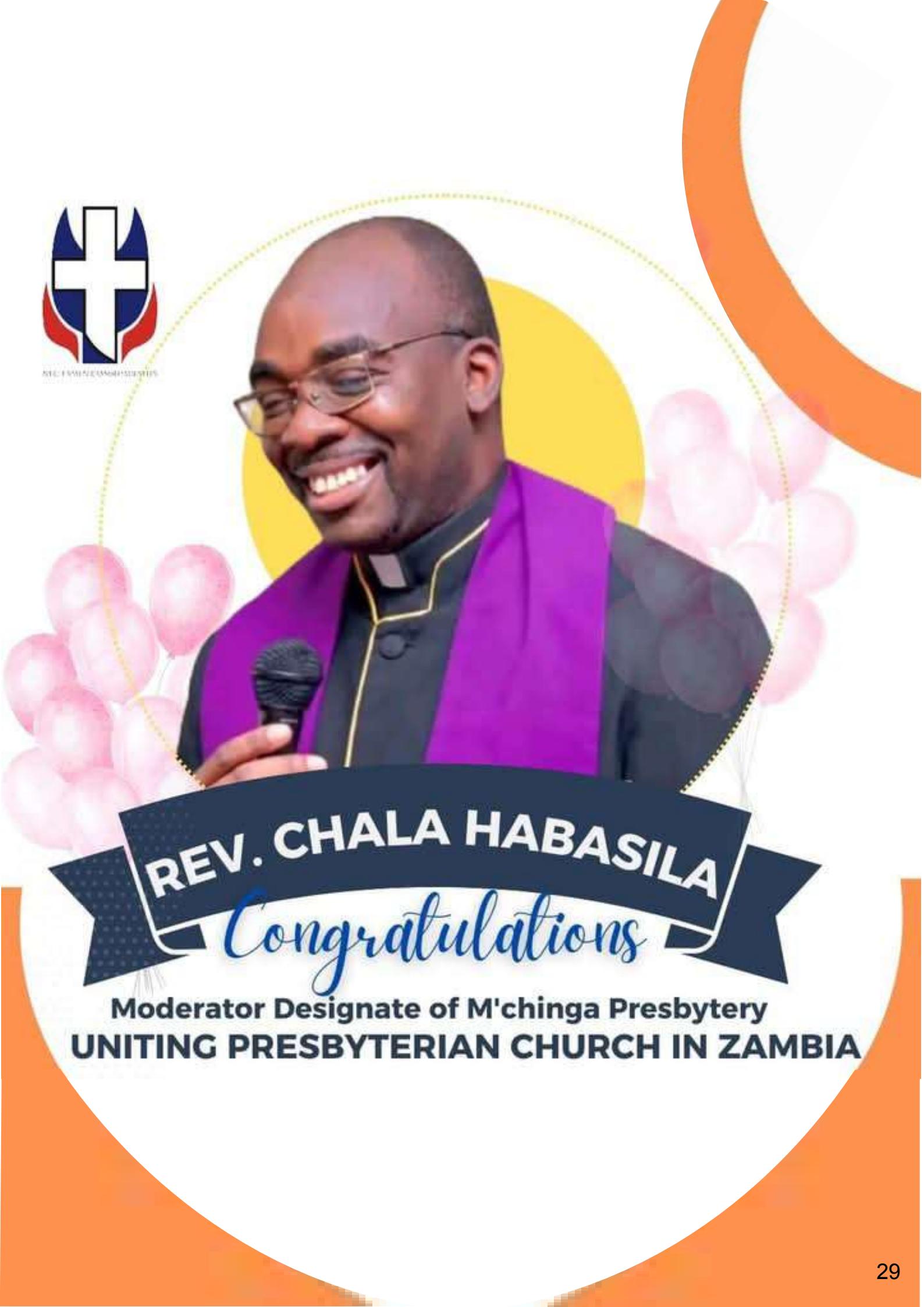


It was all joy as Ms Mmakoko Mosotho and Ms Gloria Spelman were commissioned into the Order of Lay Ministry. The commissioning took place at St Andrews Congregation, within the precincts of the Presbytery of Tshwane. Presbyterial Link take the opportunity to congratulate Ms Spelman and Ms Mosotho for this important step in their lives.





UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN ZAMBIA



REV. CHALA HABASILA
Congratulations

Moderator Designate of M'chinga Presbytery
UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN ZAMBIA

Congratulations



DR. OMM BANDA

MODERATOR DESIGNATE

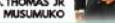
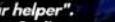
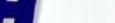
Congratulations on your election as
Munali Presbytery Moderator
Designate



UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
SYNOD OF ZAMBIA

Join Us for 116 Edition of
Faith Clinic
EVERY THURSDAY 8PM

ONLINE GOOGLE MEETING



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

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence and all articles should be directed to.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Rev, Dr George Marchinkowski – General Secretary

EDITORIAL

Elder Benny Boshielo – Convener: Communications Committee

CORRESPONDENCE

Elder Christine Kasambara – Coordinator

CORRESPONDING EMAIL

gensec@unitingpresbyterian.org