

## **EXECUTIVE COMMISSION 2024**

### **DECISIONS AFFECTING PRESBYTERIES FROM THE 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMISSION**

1. The Executive Commission notes that the General Assembly 2025 will be hosted by the Mthatha Presbytery, (jointly with the JH Soga Memorial Synod, and sets the dates as Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2025.
2. The Executive Commission:
  - a. notes that the senior staff members in the office conduct roadshows in the Presbyteries for the purposes of alignment and capacity building; and
  - b. encourages Presbyteries to support the staff in the conduct of the roadshows when they are being visited.
3. The Executive Commission notes that there are still some Presbyteries that have not yet appointed Presbytery Communicators, and further instructs them to appoint them before the end of October 2024.
4. The Executive Commission notes with disappointment the slow pace with which our Presbyteries subscribe to the MyPresby IT Church Management System and encourages them to make efforts to subscribe.
5. The Executive Commission encourages Presbyteries in South Africa to conduct workshops for Session Clerks and other interested persons on the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPI Act).
6. The Executive Commission encourages Presbytery Clerks and Communicators to provide information about the work done in their Presbyteries, which will be widely shared in the Denomination and beyond.
7. The Executive Commission approves the appointment of The Rev Dr George Marchinkowski as the new General Secretary with a remote handover process with the current General Secretary during the months of July and August 2024, and an official starting date of 1 October 2024.
8. The Executive Commission instructs Presbyteries to submit up-to-date reports on non-contributory congregations with reasons for non-compliance, by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
9. The Executive Commission again reminds all Presbyteries to assist congregations in transferring the property and obtaining title deeds from their local municipal offices for properties still in the local municipality's name, into the name of the UPCSA.
10. The Executive Commission again instructs all Presbyteries and Congregations who have not submitted certified copies of their title deeds to the Central Office yet, to do so by latest 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024, together with a letter stating they will not sell their property without the consent of both the Presbytery and General Assembly Finance Committee.
11. The Executive Commission again reminds all Presbyteries to assist congregations who have Permission to Occupy certificates in place to submit these to the Central Office, and where a certificate is not in place, to assist their congregations in obtaining one, and then to submit it to the Central Office by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

- 12.** The Executive Commission encourages Presbyteries to invite the Finance Committee to educate members of the fund about the advantages of the Umbrella Fund vs the SA Pension Fund.
- 13.** The Executive Commission encourages Presbyteries to invite the Finance Committee to educate members of the fund about the advantages of the Umbrella Fund vs the SA Pension Fund.
14. The Executive Commission, considering the desire and intent to hold General Assemblies and Executive Commissions in person, and recognizing the financial constraints of Presbyteries to cover some of the costs for their commissioners:
  - a) instructs all Presbyteries to carry travel and accommodation costs for their commissioners;
  - b) instructs the Finance Committee to create an 'Assembly Fund' for the purpose of holding funds raised specifically to meet the expenses of an in-person Assembly, and
  - c) instructs the Finance Committee to invite Presbyteries, congregations, fellowships, and individuals in the UPCS to donate towards the 'Assembly Fund and source alternate funding, from current and new donors to the UPCS, specifically for the purpose of holding an in-person Assembly
  - d) instructs ABC & Manual Committee to investigate the possibility of reducing numbers
  - e) Allow virtual participation for conveners of committees who are not commissioners to General Assembly
  - f) Accommodation at member's homes
  - g) Using the Assembly fund to assist Presbyteries that might have a shortfall.
15. The Executive Commission rescinds the decision to hold Executive Commission meetings and General Assemblies virtually.
16. The Executive Commission encourages Presbyteries to familiarize themselves with the workings of the Assembly Standing Commission.
17. Executive Commission instructs Presbyteries that do not have Health and Wellness Committees to establish same.
18. Executive Commission urges Presbyteries to comply with the decision of 2023 General Assembly which read as follows:
  - a. The General Assembly instructs Presbyteries that have not complied with the establishment of Health and Wellness Committees to do so by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
  - b. Executive Commission instructs all Presbyteries to submit the details of their Presbytery conveners to the GA HWC convener by 30 September 2024.
19. The Executive Commission notes that the work on Transnationality is in progress and will report a full report at the next General Assembly and instructs all the Presbyteries who have not submitted responses and those who have submitted unclear responses to submit them by the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.

20. The Executive Commission commends the Presbytery of Zimbabwe for managing ecumenical relationships so diligently nationally and with the Presbytery of Denver of the PC(USA) and the Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church.
21. The Executive Commission encourages the Presbyteries in South Africa to study, internalise and implement the contents of the CUC and JDDJ in their programmes.
22. Executive Commission urges all its members to show great sensitivity and pastoral care to all those within the Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgenders, Queer, Intersex, Asexual Plus=(LGBTQIA+) community.
23. The Executive Commission commends the Presbytery of Zimbabwe for its diligence in matters of church and society.
24. The Executive Commission encourages the congregations to be active on church and society matters and report to the Presbytery CIS Committees.
25. The Executive Commission urges the congregations, councils and fellowships engage with and internalise the plan to address the inequalities and iniquities (injustices).
26. The Executive Commission notes that the Committee is planning to engage with the presbyteries and the congregations.
27. The Executive Commission urges Presbyteries to seek training/ orientation for Ministers in working with and promoting accessibility for persons with disabilities.
28. Executive Commission sets aside October as the Month of Mission, encourages its ministers to make use of the preaching plan that will be circulated in August and recommends the daily devotions to all members.
29. Executive Commission urges Presbyteries to use the Shared Ministry Guidelines when considering Shared Ministry.
30. The Executive Commission encourages Presbyteries to do succession planning of the Conveners of MAD committees in a way that will preserve institutional memory.
31. The Executive Commission notes that all candidates that were invited to participate in the Discernment Conference were transported by their sending Presbyteries.
32. The Executive Commission agrees:
  - a. that the cut off age for new applicants from 2025 onwards, to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament of the UPCSA should be set at 55 years of age, and that any case of exception be recommended to the Assembly for approval.
  - b. that the decision of the cut off age applies to Ministers applying from other denominations too, and that any case of exception to be recommended to the Assembly for approval.
33. The Executive Commission notes that candidates who attend the Discernment Conference and are recognised as Ministry students of the Word and Sacrament of the UPCSA from 2024 will have to fund their own studies.

34. Executive Commission agrees that all applicants to be recognised for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament from 2024 will apply as full-time applicants.
35. The Executive Commission instructs the Central Cape Presbytery to grant a seat to Rev N Khalipha and Rev L Saule.
36. The Executive Commission instructs the Presbytery of the Central Cape to formally write a letter of apology to the two Ministers for the treatment they had received.
37. The Executive Commission grants a seat to the Rev H Fortuin on the Presbytery of the Western Cape.