



THE UNITING  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
IN SOUTHERN  
AFRICA



# UPCSA

## Presbyterian Link

OCTOBER  
EDITION

# 2025

Linking all Presbyterians  
Together

Website



[www.unitingpresbyterian.org](http://www.unitingpresbyterian.org)

Facebook



[UPCSA](#)

Youtube



[@upcsa1990](#)





## A SPECIAL VISIT FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MODERATOR

The Presbytery was greatly honoured by a visit from the Moderator of the General Assembly The Rt. Rev. Dr. Amon Kasambala, who came as part of his tour of the Synod of Zambia on 18th September, 2025. He was accompanied by the Chaplains Rev. Michelle Balack and Rev. Thomson M'kandawire. His presence brought encouragement and blessing to the entire Presbytery of M'chinga.

During his visit, the Moderator:

- Preached at St. Columba's Presbyterian Church on 21st September, 2025, delivering a sermon that inspired faithfulness, unity, and renewed dedication among church members.
- Visited the bereaved Emeritus Rev. Dr. Debby Shawa who lost her husband early this year, Elder Emeritus Alfred Shawa (MHSRIP), offering comfort, prayers, and pastoral support.
- Administered Holy Communion to the elderly, reminding all of the sacred call to care for the elderly members of the Church. They served together with the M'Chinga Presbytery Moderator and Rev. Chala Habasila, Pastor in Charge of St. Columba's, who warmly received him. The visit strengthened relationships between the Presbytery leadership and congregations, leaving a lasting impression of unity, shared mission and the warmth of being partners in Mission.



## Editorial

Welcome to the October Edition of the Presbyterian Link. Yet again Presbyterian Link reconfirm its mandate to inform, educate and engage. This is the nature and content of your newsletter as we bring all Presbyterians together to share in the good they do to the Glory of God.



**Benny Boshielo**  
**Convener: Communications Committee**

held in 2016 fully explained what its medium to long term objectives are, which are taken from Proverbs 27:17 proclaiming that “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another”. It is for this reason that the 2<sup>nd</sup> biennial conference held in South Africa in 2018, was held under the theme ‘Africa back in worship’. We recall these themes because they both speak about the urgency of the Gospel in the African

Bringing men from different regions in Africa, was to us in the UPCSA a stark reminder of the trans-national character of our church. With the DRC now part of the UPCSA, it has now become even urgent that every member of the UPCSA should begin to embrace the trans-national character of our

We are now almost some few weeks before yet another exciting year in the UPCSA. From one of the most exciting and content rich General Assemblies, to much more focused Denominational Conference of all our Fellowships, we are indeed excited to see the progress which the UPCSA is making in the space of teaching and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This we give thanks to our Creator for giving us the strength, wisdom and ability to speak the word.

In this edition we report about the 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Pan African Presbyterian men Fellowships. This is a forum of Men’s Fellowships from across the continent, which was conceptualized to bring Presbyterian Men together in worship. The theme of its first conference continent. The need for men to sharpen each other, was to create a movement of Evangelists who would ably confront the continent with the Gospel. Hence, the view of the Men’s Fellowship at the time, that one of the characters of an evangelist is discipleship. The PAPMF Conference held this year was yet another attempt affirm this and to build this movement.

church. to embrace this, we should, in all our four countries go an extra mile to build this trans-national church. Clearly to fully embrace trans-nationality, should go far beyond fellowships attending each other’s conferences, but to work harder to ensure that despite our different nationalities, in



Christ we are one family. It will mean, it is no longer an effort for a Zambian Presbyterian to see it as a special effort to be sent to South homes, a Congolese should freely spread the Gospel in South Africa. All these should happen because ours should be a one church of Christ, comprised of the children of God living in DRC, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. We can through the Gospel, surpass football in uniting the people of God. It is our hope that the Fellowship should make trans-nationalism a top priority on their agenda, speak and live it. The PAPMF Conference held in Lusaka just demonstrated how possible and doable this is.

Presbyterian Link is also excited to see how the "Partners in Mission" theme is being embraced by the UPCS members. Never before have we seen such purposeful efforts within our Denominations, where partnerships have taken the center stage. From the partnerships amongst the Fellowships, to business, society and civil society, the church is starting to make its impact known. From the men at their conference, we are impressed by their endeavors to work with state institutions to confront the scourge of social ills, the

Africa to teach the Gospel, similarly, a South African Presbyterian should not only see, but feel Zimbabwe as their Christ. In relationships created with the traditional leaders, the relationships created with the police and correctional services to rehabilitate offenders, while spreading the word, we are convinced that our church is on the right track. We have carried initiatives where houses are built for destitute families, our church in society, reaches out to indigent families, and generally styling ourselves as a church grounded in our societies, and that all these can only succeed when we work in partnerships with others. This edition carries some samples of such initiatives.

As we draw closer to the end of the year, we reflect in the past, pick up our weaknesses and pick up the pieces into the future. Ours is an enabling God and we remain hopeful that the future looks good.

We invite you to journey with us in this edition, and hope that it provides you with further insight into the work that we do as Presbyterians.

Till we talk again, May The Good Lord Continue To Be Kind to You.

**Every Weakness  
you have is an opportunity  
for God to show**

**His strength in your life.**

**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.**

**2 Corinthians 12:9**



Rev, Dr George Marchinkowski:  
General Secretary

### Good friends in Christ

From 14 to 23 October, a small delegation from the UPCSA attended the General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches. The UPCSA has been a member of the WCRC for many years, through the Apartheid years and after. In Chiang Mai, Thailand, we met with sisters and brothers from Presbyterian, congregational, and Reformed churches from around the world. In Southern Africa, this includes the Dutch Reformed Church, the United Reformed Church, the United Congregational Church and the Hervormde Church.

The General Council meets once in every seven years and is the largest gathering of Christians standing in the Calvinist and Presbyterian family. At the end of the event, the following message was adopted for distribution to the churches:

### Hope Beyond the Tears

#### A Message to the Churches

The World Communion of Reformed Churches gathered for its 27th General Council October 14 -23, 2025, in Chiang Mai, Thailand, the second since the Uniting General Council in 2010. Our gathering was a reminder of the newness of this body, even as we celebrated 150 years of existence and history. This time of celebration was joyous, a celebration of the past, of accomplishments, of God

present and at work among us.

We are thankful for our hosts, the Church of Christ in Thailand. Their perseverance in the faith, their active witness is an example and true source of inspiration for our whole communion. We are thankful for their hospitality and assure them of our continued prayers.

We heard the impossibilities that became possibilities. We remembered those who gave vision to what we now understand to be the World Communion of Reformed Churches. We celebrated those who listened to the voice of the Holy Spirit and defied the social norms to provide hospitality and welcome to all of God's people. They saw the needs of the world around them and became co-creators with God in calling into being a new thing, and they watched it spring forth (Isaiah 43:18).

The juxtaposition of this historic witness of 150 years and the newness of the WCRC at 15 years, is a place for remembering the historic markers along the way, the perseverance of those who came before, and the challenges that were overcome. And it is also a place where the learnings of the past inform the future stretching before us, as once again we together answer the call to be disciples of Jesus Christ and justice seekers.

The cries of the ancestors beckon us toward a future God will create for and with us (Romans 4:17).

### Crying for Generations

"...we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses..." (Hebrews 12:1)

The cries across the generations have been both tears of celebration and tears of despair. Tears that accompanied the witness of a world that is created by God and does not always experience God's love and care through the actions of humanity. Tears that resulted from the joy of experiencing God present and at work in the best of the human spirit, seeing the church live into "loving

neighbor as ourselves" (Mark 12:31).

The cries of the Reformed family expressed in the Accra Confession are still with us. The cries for justice and for peace, the cries for freedom and for change.

We acknowledge that in our history we have been complicit in actions that caused suffering to people and communities like the persecution of the Anabaptists. We confess that such persecution is a betrayal of the Gospel.

We commemorate 1700 years of the Nicene Creed and receive with gratitude this effort to establish a theological base upon which to build the mandate for Christian unity (John 17), crying for the unity of the church, the body of Christ that is, and yet to be. We are diverse, a tapestry of God's design reflecting the global community.

We are siblings from different countries and communities, bringing with us the realities of the places that shaped and formed us. In our diversity are differences to be celebrated yet sometimes are experienced as obstacles to be overcome or challenges to be ignored. We celebrate our diversity, with tears of deep gratitude and joy for the many who are yet striving for full participation among us.

We celebrate the youth among us and the wisdom they bring. Their cries are our cries, their hearts yearning with the desire for more than what is realized and accepted among us. We listened, and now together, we forge ways for writing a new vision for the church, for our witness in the world, and for those yet to come. We celebrate with joy, the youth in our midst.

We are grateful for the women who bring gifts of leadership and connection to God in meaningful ways. Theirs is a steadfast witness, a commitment to being present offering what they have, even when all of who they are is not fully received in the life of the church and this communion. We celebrate with joy, the women in our

midst.

We welcome siblings with disabilities and rejoice in their presence and participation. We live into being communion when we receive from all who are made in the image of the Divine. Our disabled siblings are a reminder that God is present and made visible in and through us all. We celebrate with joy, persons with disabilities who continue to challenge and enrich our lives.

We journey with our indigenous siblings aware of the historic atrocities and denial of their humanity. We celebrate their connection to the earth, to the land, to the rivers and the seas. We continue to challenge colonialism, the theft of natural goods, the ravaging of land and people. We celebrate with joy and commit to being in solidarity with their resistance and resilience and continue to learn from their wisdom.

We give thanks to God that in this General Council we find common ground and mutual forgiveness with the Mennonite World Conference to walk together and join efforts in actions for justice, peace, and the wholeness of creation.

We are the body of Christ. We celebrate all of who we are, as representations of God's love and mercy. Through the proclamation of the Gospel to all (poor and rich) and our actions, we bear witness to this love and mercy.

### **Confessing Our Concerns**

"let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely" (Hebrews 12:1)

The reality of the world defies the intentions of a God of love and compassion. The wounds are evident in people and community, wounds created by the dis-ease present in the world. We confess that we are not as attentive as we should be to those in need around us.

The poor are getting poorer. The legacy and presence of Empire are even more evident in these days where the wealth of the world is held by a few.



The quest for justice is ever before us, with the concerns multiplying at a rate that challenges our ability to respond. We identified compassion fatigue as a challenge to our desire to serve God. Our ability to minister to those in need requires that we journey together, working together to attain a just world for all.

The call to love our neighbors as ourselves is a call that is unconditional. Yet, navigating a world with multiple faith traditions is not easy. In many places, seeking justice in our communities requires working with our siblings from other faith traditions as they too express the love of God in the world.

As we attend to the needs of the world, we are also clear that attention needs to be paid to the communion.

All members of the Communion were not present with us and their absence was felt. We pondered why some do not participate consistently, why others do not show up, and want to find ways to ensure that all are able to participate within the communion.

The missing siblings and voices are needed if we are to be responsive and live fully into being in communion with opportunities to hear and learn from each other, and to grow together. Loving our neighbor is also about welcoming all to the table, to break bread and be the body of Christ.

### **Calling to Live as Communion**

"and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1)

As we look back, we look forward. The reformers before us made commitments to God and to each other. We too, need to consider the commitments we need to make to God and to each other, to live as a communion, a place of togetherness, fellowship and community – "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

Being together is a priority. Gathering

will strengthen our ability to know each other as we revel in conversations that strengthen our faith and transform our lives. Our conversations should be open, with a willingness to learn about those with whom we fellowship.

This time of uncertainty in the world is a call to unity and diversity in the church. Our diversity is a gift, learning from each other will require setting aside prejudices and preconceived ideas about others as we encounter God present in those we meet. The contexts from which we come are important, with our cultural dynamics shaping and molding us as people of faith. Expectations of uniformity deny the fullness of who we are in our diversity.

Being a community is about being together, seeking justice and living out the abundance of the Holy Spirit with us. Caring for ourselves spiritually will ensure that we have what we need for the living of these days. We can only transform as we are transformed.

The WCRC believes Christian faith means responding to God's call to foster justice and meet the spiritual needs of all people in the transformation of the world, through the love of Jesus Christ.

Our desire to see change in the world should come from our connection to God and living of the Spirit.

Being together in community with others provides us with the capacity for deepening our spirituality. This call to renewal is a call for these times when there is too much to do. Seeking depth of spirit is the fuel needed to answer the call to do justice. Our love for God moves us to the practices of spiritual care which includes prayer for the body of Christ.

## Continuing with Courage

"looking to Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2)

The call to prophetic witness is one that requires courage. We are reformed and reforming, living into the needs of this 21st century church. 150 years ago, reformers took bold steps that pushed them beyond the places of comfort into creating something new. We too, find ourselves in a world that requires we take bold steps to be the counter narrative at a time when injustice is normalized and accepted.

Mission continues to be disruptive and transformative, a hope and a future that calls the church to address the growing needs of the world around us. Mission is ~~the church in action~~ the church joining with God's action in the world (*Missio Dei*). Through our commitment to mission, we live out the call to be disciples of Jesus Christ, bringing food to the hungry and water to the thirsty, freedom to the captive, liberation to the oppressed, binding the wounds of the brokenhearted, the church bringing the good news to the poor.

The call to be communion is one that requires courage. Courage to act on what we have heard and observed, to attend to the need to decolonize our governance and structure to ensure the inclusion of all voices.

We pray for the courage to receive with care the gifts of all who are among us. The church must be a place where love flourishes. The love of God, shown to us ~~given to us~~ through Jesus Christ and given to us by the Holy Spirit, is a boundless love extended to all.

Looking to Jesus means we craft a vision that is centered in following Jesus, his teaching, his deeds, his life in prayer and communion. Jesus took time to step away and pray. He took time to care for himself spiritually and so should we. The psalmist wrote: "Be still and know that I am

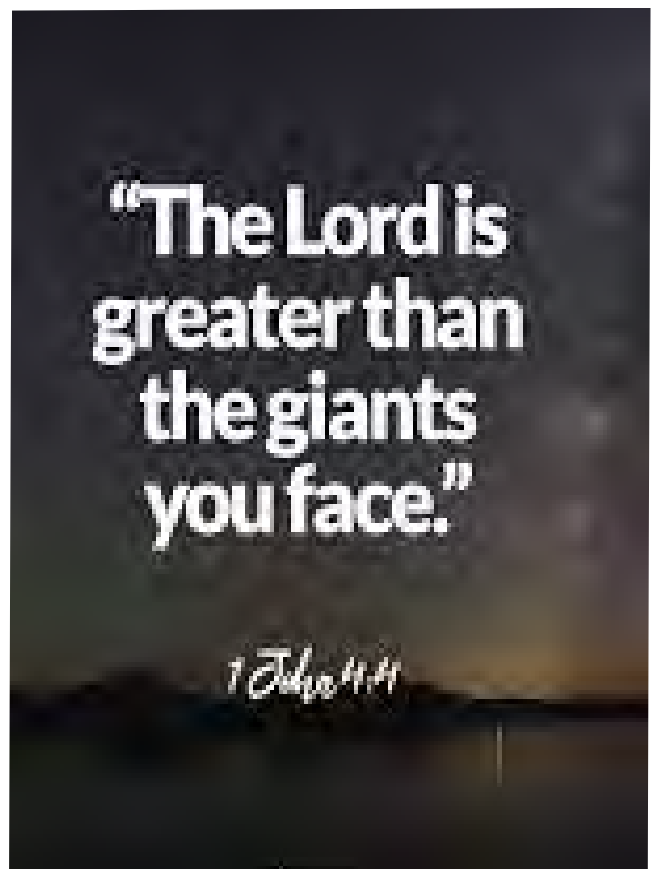
God." (Psalm 46:10) Our doing should be accompanied by being with God through reading scripture and prayer. We pray for the courage to be faithful disciples of Christ through the continuing revelation of God's word.

Out of the stillness and being with God, we will cast a vision for the church these days. A vision for a future where all are fed and free, a future where the church is relevant and working to dismantle normalized suffering created by the power of Empire.

The power of this Communion centered in the love of God is the power to change the world. May God grant us the courage beyond the tears of yesterday and today.

Receive the message prayerfully as we reflect on the joys and brokenness Christians like us experience daily.

Warm wishes to all of you





*The central Cape Presbytery officially inducted Rev Isak William as the Moderator of the Presbytery. Induction ceremony marked a significant moment for the presbytery*





*The induction of Rev Vusi Mkhungo as the Moderator of eGoli Presbytery took place on the 16th August 2025*



Here's a reflection based on my experience at the Global Institute of Theology (GIT) in Chiang Mai, Thailand:



As I reflect on my time at the Global Institute of Theology (GIT) in Chiang Mai, Thailand, I'm reminded of the powerful theme that wove its way through our discussions: "From Creed to Confession: From Nicea to Accra." This theme took me on a journey through the rich history of the church, from the formulation of the Nicene Creed 1700 years ago to the Accra Confession of 2004, which boldly

named Empire as a force that perpetuates injustice.

The GIT was a space where we explored the complex relationships between the church, power, and empire. We grappled with the uncomfortable truth that the church has often been complicit in the logic of empire, while also celebrating the many ways it has been a voice of critique and resistance.

As I listened to the stories and perspectives of fellow participants from around the world, I was struck by how our shared faith calls us to be a confessing community—one that asks courageous questions and seeks to live out its witness in the world.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to have been part of this community, and I'm inspired to carry the lessons of the GIT back to my own context, where I hope to embody the perseverance in witness that the 26th General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches has called us to.

May we, as a global church, continue to discern and confess our faith in ways that challenge the powers of this world and point to the in-breaking kingdom of God.







# Candlelight Conducted by Rev. Sokhele from UCC Groutville





**The Moderator,  
Rev Pitoyi,  
Rev Sokhele,  
Rev CN Hlati  
(the Presbytery Clerk)  
Miss Mbali - the  
Guest Speaker  
together with the Children  
Ministry Convenors**







*Kids arriving at their compartments in Pinetown*

---



Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.  
Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for —

**GOD IS WITH YOU  
WHEREVER YOU GO.**





## PURPOSE

To help every child — regardless of ability, background, or circumstance — feel valued, seen, and reminded that God made them special and has a plan for their life.

## CUT ACROSS SCRIPTURES

### ***Celebrating our uniqueness***

**Key Verse:** Psalm 139:13-14, Jeremiah 1:5.  
**Message:** Every child is created for a purpose; no one is a mistake

***Wonderfully Made: We All Belong!***  
(Based on Psalm 139:14 — “I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.



## UPCSA EAST GRIQUALAND PRESBYTERY

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TOUR 2025

**THEME: Wonderfully Made: We All Belong! (Psalm 139:14)**

**9-11 OCTOBER, 2025  
DURBAN, KZN**





# PROGRAMME



# SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

## DAY 1 - TRAVELLING DEPARTURE PRAYER

MPHARANE DELEGATE

## ARRIVAL PRAYER

BALASI DELEGATE

## DAY 2: DEVOTIONS & WELCOMING

MODERATOR REV. TT PITOYI

## INTRODUCTIONS

SPRINGSIDE DELEGATE

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**KEY VERSE: PSALM**  
**139:13-14,**  
**JEREMIAH 1:5**

GUEST SPEAKER :  
CELEBRATING OUR  
UNIQUENESS

## ICE BREAKER :

PASS THE BLESSING BALL

## LETTERS OF LIGHT

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## VOTE OF THANKS

THOMAS GILLESPIE DELEGATE

## LET'S DANCE

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## DAY 3: FINAL WORDS - VOT

REV. CN HLATI

## DEPARTURE PRAYER

PABALLONG DELEGATE

FUN WORLD

USHAKA MARINE

BRAAI

MOSES MABIDA TOUR

BOAT CRUISE





## WCRC General Council 2025 Women's Group Report By Ms Samkeliso Siwela



The theme of the 27th General Council was 'Persevere in Your Witness' Hebrews 12:1

The Women's Group then added 'Her Voice, Our Witness'

Women of the Reformed Communion came to the 27th General Council as subject of witness, not objects of history. For generations, women have been silenced, denied and pushed to the margins.

They have persevered not through passive submissions but through prophetic resistance. They stood at the Council not as victims to be spoken for, but as witnesses who spoke with their own voices to the justice of God.



The Gender Audit 2024 report revealed that 83% of Churches allow women's ordination, while only 33% of ordained Pastors across the member churches are women.

Despite growing inclusiveness in some churches, many women clergy still face exclusion, cultural resistance, and ongoing marginalisation. The notion of women's ministry remains perceived as abnormal.

The portrayal of women remains significantly sexualised, and their gifts are undervalued. As Hebrews 12: 1 reminds us, the cloud includes women whose names were erased from the record. Yet, today, cloud continues to witness, and the stones continues to cry out. We see this in St. Luke 19:40 "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." We, the women of this Communion, will persevere not because we are allowed, but because we are called. Our witness is not the appendix to the gospel; it is the gospel's living voice.

# CONNECTING BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT

## FINDING STRENGTH IN FAITH AND FITNESS: RECAP OF OUR HEALTH & WELLNESS EVENT

On Saturday, October 11th, SAINTS Presbyterian Church in Lyttelton Centurion welcomed parishioners and neighbourhood residents for its highly successful annual Health and Wellness Day. The event, which kicked off with a community fun walk offered a comprehensive blend of free health services, educational workshops, and engaging physical activities, successfully combined faith, fellowship, and a crucial focus on holistic well-being for all ages. The weekend of wellness began the night before, on Friday evening, with a special screening of an inspirational movie. This pre-event gathering was specifically designed to inspire young people and encourage them toward positive actions and making healthy choices in their lives.

## H ighlights Of The Day

Following the walk, attendees had access to a wide variety of essential services, many provided at no cost. The most frequented station offered free health screenings, including blood pressure checks, and was expertly staffed by a volunteer nurse from the local hospital.



Health care professional Mrs Makalima doing health screening

### THE COMMUNITY IMPACT

Access to health care services was deeply appreciated by the attendees, underscoring the event's significant value to the community. Organiser Elder Gloria Spelman reflects:

*"The Health and Wellness journey in my heart started with the sudden passing of Rev Dr Pat Baxter. I struggled to come to terms with that loss within the UPCSA and it came to my heart that I should facilitate health and wellness campaigns to encourage people in my local community and congregation, Saints in Tshwane Presbytery, to create awareness of taking care of our health. This meant for me connecting the Body, Mind and Soul, hence the theme. I believe that the Spirit person can grow if the body and mind is well and healthy."*



Dumisa Ngcai addressing how to manage living with mental health diagnosis.

### The day's schedule was also packed with interactive sessions tailored to nourish the mind and body:

- Mental health Talk on "Living with Mental health diagnosis," led by Dumisa Ngcai.
- Cancer awareness with Dr Ondela N.T.Ntloko Mwehle
- Financial Management Speaker CA Mrs Nontatu Dumalisile taught us the importance of managing finances for peace of mind.
- The fellowship hall was transformed into a lively exercise studio for an uplifting yoga class.





## “When the Vine Withers: A Refleecon on Spiritual Sterility in the Church”



In every age, God calls His people to bear fruit — fruit of love, justice, mecy, and truth. Yet sometmes, even the most vibrant vineyards begin to dry up. Leaves remain, but no grapes hang from the branches. The roots are stil in the soil, but the water of the Spirit no longer flows freely. This, dear friends, is the tragedy of spiritual sterility — when the Church, though acti e in form, ceases to give life.

### **1. The Toxic Church: When the Garden Becomes Barren**



A toxic church does not always look dead. It may be busy, noisy, and well -attended — yet devoid of the tenderness of Christ. Its words may echo with truth, but its tone carries venom instead of grace. Gossip replaces prayer , pride masquerades as conviction, and self -interest hides beneath the veil of ministry.

When the Church becomes toxic, it becomes spiritually barren. Like a field choked with weeds, it cannot produce fruit because the soil of love has been poisoned by bitterness, jealousy, and control. The Spirit cannot thrive where hearts are hard, and relationshi s are marked by suspicion rather than compassion. This sterility is not of the Spirit but of the flesh — a sign that we have forgotten our first love.

### **2. Mirrors Instead of Windows: The Hypocrisy of Accusation**

Jesus warned us about the danger of pointin out the speck in our brother’s eye while ignoring the plank in our own. Yet, too ofen, the Church becomes a hall of mirrors rather than a house of prayer. We re flect each other’s faults endlessly, accusing others of sins that, in quieter ways, live within us.

We condemn others for pride, yet secretly crave recognition. We denounce greed, but cling tig tly to our possessions. We call out hypocrisy, yet wear our ow n masks on Sunday morning. In doing so, we fulfill Paul’s warning: “You who judge others do the same things.”

True revival begins not with accusaton, but with confession — when each of us dares to see ourselves truthfully before God’s mercy.



### 3. Denying the Power of the Spirit



Paul wrote of people who “have a form of godliness but deny its power.” This is the final and most dangerous stage of spiritual sterility. The Church becomes proficient in religious activity but disconnected from divine reality. Programs replace prayer. Committees replace compassion. Rituals replace relationship.

When we deny the power of the Spirit, we stop expecting God to move. We no longer believe that hearts can change, that forgiveness can heal, that unity can overcome division. We explain away miracles instead of anticipating them. We preach about Pentecost but live as if the Holy Spirit retired centuries ago.

Yet the Spirit is not gone — only grieved. He waits for hearts that are humble, hungry, and honest. The power of the Spirit is not in our performance but in our surrender.

### A Call to Renewal



The cure for spiritual sterility is not more activity, but repentance and renewal. The soil

must be broken again by humility; the seeds must be watered by tears of prayer. Only when we allow the Spirit to cleanse and refill us will new life spring up.

Let us, therefore, stop blaming others and begin examining ourselves. Let us uproot bitterness and plant kindness. Let us stop performing religion and start pursuing Christ. Then, the barren field will bloom again, and the fragrance of grace will fill the air.

May we once more become a Church that bears fruit worthy of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

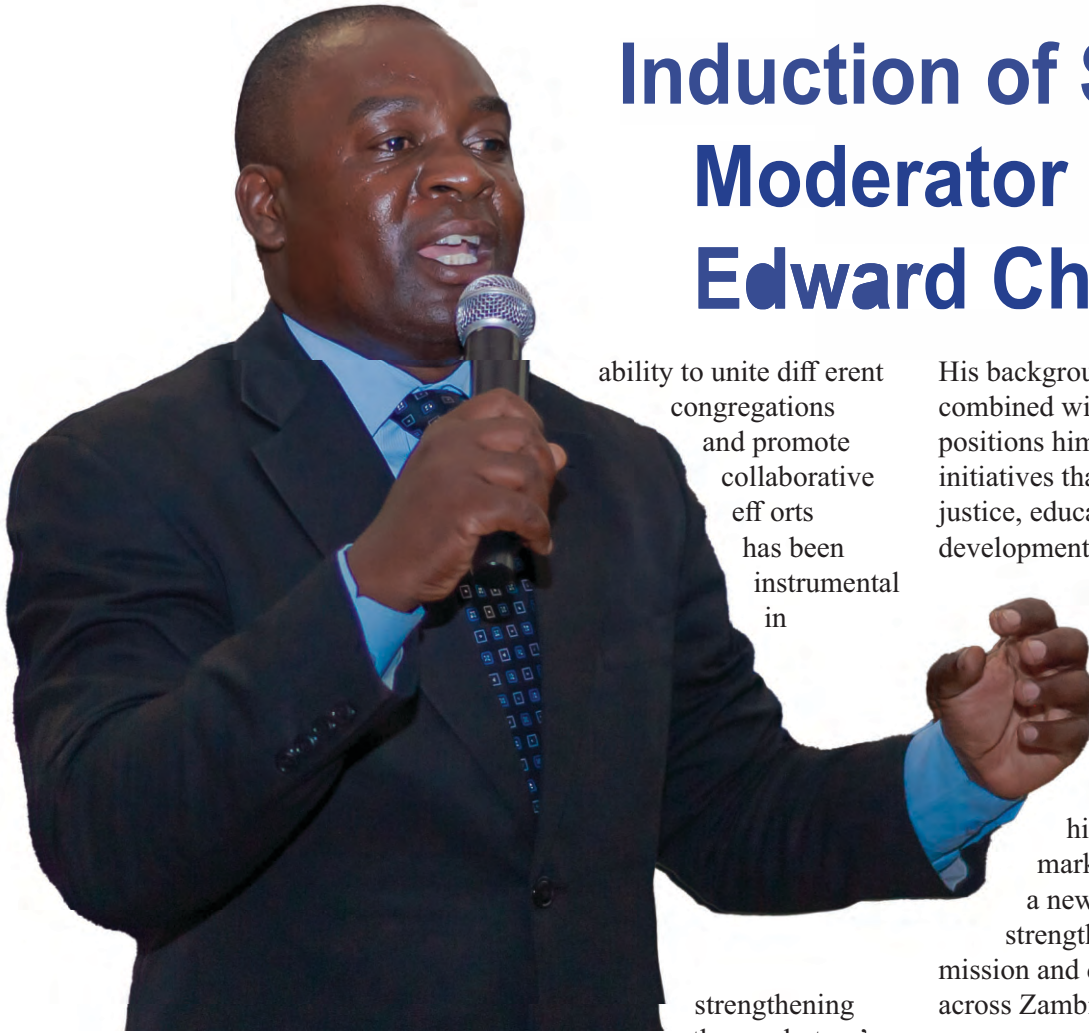
For where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is life.

Rev. Tafadzwa Kasere

Minister St Andrews Congregation

Presbytery of Zimbabwe

# Induction of Synod Moderator Rev. Edward Chirwa



ability to unite different congregations and promote collaborative efforts has been instrumental in

His background in pastoral care, combined with his strategic vision, positions him well to champion initiatives that promote social justice, education, and community development.

In his speech, Rev. Chirwa expressed gratitude for the trust bestowed upon him and reaffirmed his commitment to serve the church with all

his heart. His induction marks the beginning of a new chapter aimed at strengthening the church's mission and deepening its impact across Zambia.

strengthening the presbytery's

**R**ev. Edward Chirwa, a seasoned and dedicated clergyman, was recently inducted as the Synod Moderator for Zambia, a significant milestone in his distinguished ministry. With a wealth of experience in church leadership and pastoral care, Rev. Chirwa has earned respect within the Christian community and beyond. His appointment reflects his unwavering commitment to advancing the mission of the church and fostering spiritual growth among believers.

Prior to his induction as Synod Moderator, Rev. Chirwa served as the Moderator for the Mchinga Presbytery, where he demonstrated exemplary leadership, guiding his presbytery through periods of renewal and expansion. His

mission and outreach programs. His leadership style is characterized by humility, resilience, and a clear vision for the church's role in societal transformation.

The induction ceremony, held at a sacred and celebratory gathering, was attended by church officials, clergy, and representatives from various branches of the church. During the event, Rev. Chirwa was officially presented to the congregation, and the formal induction vows emphasized his responsibilities to serve with integrity, uphold the doctrines of the church, and provide spiritual oversight at the synod level.

Rev. Chirwa's appointment comes at a pivotal time when Zambia faces various socio-economic challenges, and his leadership is expected to bring a renewed sense of hope and direction.

---

**Prior to his induction as Synod Moderator, Rev. Chirwa served as the Moderator for the Mchinga Presbytery, where he demonstrated exemplary leadership, guiding his presbytery through periods of renewal and expansion.**

---



# The 2025 General Assembly appointed a Task Team on Human Sexuality



**T**he 2025 General Assembly appointed a Task Team on Human Sexuality led by Convener Rev Wayne Van Heerden to construct a document seeking consensus on the Human

Sexuality matter in consultation with the Ethics and Discipline Committee, and to report to the Executive Commission 2026. The task team is having a 3-day retreat within the bounds of

Highveld Presbytery where guest speakers have been invited to share different perspectives on the matter and help the task team be better prepared for reporting.



---

**Task Team on Human Sexuality led by  
Convener Rev Wayne Van Heerden to  
construct a document seeking consensus  
on the Human Sexuality matter in  
consultation with the Ethics and Discipline  
Committee,**

---



# Choral Conference: “Partners in Spreading the Gospel”





## Choral Conference: "Partners in Spreading the Gospel"

## A Partnership with the Malawian Church

M'Chinga Presbytery was this month honoured to host a delegation of 41 people from St. Paul Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Church, Lilongwe Presbytery -Synod of Livingstonia during the Choral Conference, held from 24th–26th October 2025 under the theme "Partners in Spreading the Gospel."

The delegation was led by Rev. B. M. Chiumbo, Minister in Charge of St. Paul's Congregation, and included church musicians, choir members, and elders. The conference celebrated the vital role of music in worship, fellowship, and evangelism. It featured inspiring choral performances, interactive activities, and teachings that encouraged the body of Christ to embrace partnership in mission.

Rev. Chiumbo delivered a compelling sermon, emphasizing that partnerships in mission should not only focus on relationships with international churches, but also on strengthening and appreciating local partners—within congregations and across the denomination. He urged church leaders and members to recognize the value of collaboration at every level, fostering unity, mutual support, and shared responsibility in the work of the Gospel.



The Moderator of M'Chinga Presbytery, encouraged the delegates and congregants to embrace the spirit of service, partnership, and harmony. As the Presbytery moves forward, its vision is anchored in:

- Spiritual growth of congregations and leaders.
- Community engagement through pastoral care, community service, and development initiatives.
- Collaboration with local, national, and international partners to extend the reach of the Gospel.
- And enhancing the power of synage, recognizing the power of worship when we unite as members and communities in the body of Christ.

The Presbytery remains committed to building bridges of faith, fostering moral and spiritual leadership, and promoting unity across congregations, leaving no one behind.





# THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NIGERIA: WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT US!!!

## MISSIONARY ROOTS OF THE PCN

The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria started on April 10, 1846 by a team of Missionaries from Jamaica. Kings Eyamba V and Eyo II and other Chiefs of Calabar had written to invite the Church of Scotland Mission to bring Christianity to the South East of Nigeria. This led to the Presbyterian Church of Jamaica and the Jamaican Missionary Board for West Indies and Africa, sending the Rev. Hope Waddell and five Jamaicans to Calabar. The Presbyterian Church of Scotland sent further Mission along with Mary Slessor, noted for stopping the maltreatment and killing of twins in the East.

The Presbyterian Church of Biafra was created on September 1, 1858 to oversee the congregations formed in Creek Town and Duke Town known as "The Presbyterian Church of Biafra". On April 9, 1872, the first indigenous Nigerian Minister, the Rev. Essien Essien Ukpabio was ordained by same Presbytery. On May 4, 1921, Synod of Biafra was formed. In 1921 the Church of Scotland began a handover process to the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria. In June 1952, the Synod of Biafra became the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Nigeria. Finally, in January 1960, the Church of Scotland handed over, and the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Nigeria was changed to Presbyterian Church of Nigeria.



To the glory and praise of God, the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria on April 10, 2025 celebrated its 179 years of existence in Nigeria. The Church has grown from from 1 Synod to 29 Synods, 1 Presbytery to approximately 110 Presbyteries, 500-600 Parishes, 2,000 Congregations and more than 500 mission stations.

## FORMATION OF ARMS IN THE PCN

The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria has formation of arms that allows every member to be nurtured through these various arms and to actively participate in the activities of the Church as well. These formation of arms will be detailed as follows;

**MENS CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION (MCA)**  
**WOMEN'S GUILD (WG)**  
**THE PRESBYTERIAN YOUNG PEOPLES' ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (PYPAN)**  
**CHRISTIAN GIRLS IN**

## TRAINING (CGIT)

### MENS CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION (MCA)

Men's Christian Association of Nigeria is an arm of the Church for every man that is a father/married or have over grown the age of a youth. In this arm the men are nurtured through seminars and conferences on how to be good father's to their Children/wards, good husbands to their wives and good men in the society at large.

### WOMEN'S GUILD (WG)

The Women's Guild is the arm for the married women/mothers and those intending to be mothers. They usually celebrate their motherhood emphasis annually which normally comes up every March. These women are known to be industrious and good home managers. These women usually have national conferences that brings them together and help them to plan for their projects towards the Church at large.

### THE PRESBYTERIAN YOUNG PEOPLES' ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (PYPAN)

This particular arm of the Church is for young boys and girls between the ages of 13-30 years. In PYPAN, younger people are allowed to be in leadership positions so as to enable them know the procedures of the Church. A member of PYPAN can also be elected as an Elder of the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria. The PYPAN sees themselves as the



life wire of the Church that keeps the Church Shining. These young people also believes that without them the PCN won't be in existence, which signifies that they have a lot to do when it comes to keeping the Church ablaze. Their uniforms are White shirts with navy blue long tie crested with PYPAN logo and navy blue skirts/headtie for the ladies and trousers for the gentlemen.

#### **CHRISTIAN GIRLS IN TRAINING (CGIT)**

The age of admission into this arm is 0-30 years or whenever the CGIT daughter gets married. The daughter after marriage automatically becomes a CGIT mother/member of the Women's Guild unless she married

outside Presbyterian Church. Just like the name implies, this particular arm of the Church is involved in nurturing the girls in a Christian way. They are nurtured to be better people in the society. They are nurtured to make good wives wherever they will be married to. They are also trained to make good wives of the Rev. ministers. Whenever you see any of these girls you will know that that Church has done a job well done in their lives.

#### **THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' BRIGADE**

The Boys' and Girls Brigade even though not an arm of the Church is an organization attached to the Church at different parish levels.

This organization is known for her religious and discipline strength. So this particular organization is greatly cherished by the PCN because they help to instill discipline in the life of each boy and girl with her paramilitary uniform and strength the Church is blessed to have them.

The Presbyterian church of Nigeria vision statement is to be a faithful witness to the great commission and the Lordship of Jesus Christ under the guidance

of the Holy Spirit and our mission statement is to carry the gospel to every part of Nigeria and beyond through:

- Evangelism
- Discipleship
- Service delivery
- And promotion of
- Social righteousness

Every member of The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria is committed to this mission and vision statement to make sure the vision and mission becomes a reality wherever they may find themselves.

God bless the Presbyterian Church Worldwide!!!

God bless The Uniting Presbyterian Churches in Southern Africa!!!

God bless Presbyterian Church, Synod of Zambia!!!

God bless The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria!!!

Happy Presbyterians!!!  
From glory to glory!!!

***"The Church has grown from from 1 Synod to 29 Synods, 1 Presbytery to approximately 110 Presbyteries, 500-600 Parishes, 2,000 Congregations and more than 500 mission stations."***

*Author is a Presbyterian Nigerian Reverend based in Nigeria,  
BY REV. C J NDUKWE  
+234816412777*



*The Fellowship of Men in Stuartville, Limpopo in their quarterly Council meeting held in a small village of Kopermyn. Seen above are delegates from various outstations and the Executive Committee of the branch. Important about the outstation is that the Fo M vowed to work round the clock to ensure that it gets more members to establish as a constituted Cobgregation one day.*



**BE ROOTED  
IN THE  
WORD OF GOD**





INSIDE STORIES

# M'CHING PRESBYTERY ZAMBIA

## M'CHINGA PRESBYTRY WELCOMES NEW LEADERS

The Presbytery of M'Chinga has entered an exciting season of spiritual renewal and leadership with the induction of its newly elected Commissioners and Conveners under the Moderatorship of Rev. Chala Habasila. An orientation session was held at St. Columba's Presbyterian Church on 13th September 2025, bringing together the leaders for prayer, fellowship, and training on their responsibilities. There was a palpable sense of joy and humility as each leader accepted the call to serve, reflecting a deep commitment to shepherding the work of our Lord Jesus under their care. The orientation offered a platform for discussing the core values, governance, and mission of the Presbytery, emphasizing collaboration, accountability, and spiritual guidance. Leaders were reminded that their service is not only administrative but a sacred duty to strengthen the Church, support communities, and glorify God.

## M'CHINGA PRESBYTERY *Leadership*

### Contact

- +260-977-251931.  
MODERATOR
- +260-977-878657  
CLERK
- +260-977-743239  
TREASURER



Rev. Chala Habasila  
-Moderator



Elder Stephen Ngwenya  
-Clerk



Elder Mulima Bones  
-Treasurer



Elder Richard Msimuko  
-Minute Clerk



Rev. Jane Nyirongo  
-Chaplain



Elder Boniface Moyo  
-Business Convener



Rev. Edward Chirwa  
-Ministry Convener



Rev. Amos M. Nyirenda  
-Mission & D. Convener



Rev. Robert Chawinga  
-Faith & Order Convener



Evangelist Julius Ngwira  
-Fellowships Convener



Elder Benson Njabvu  
-Education & Training Convener



Elder Lawrence Makani  
-Music Convener



Elder Dr. Stephen Gumbo  
-Projects Convener



Elder Beatrice Nyirongo  
-Health & Wellness Convener



Elder Sten Nkhoma  
-Media Convener



Elder Brighton Banda -Resource  
& Mobilization Convener



Elder Hildah Tembo  
-Stewardship Convener



Elder Ruth Chirwa -Church  
& Society Convener



*The Presbytery of Limpopo in session on the 1st of August 2025 in Mahwelereng Congregation. Seen in the picture are the Commissioners in a picture with the Moderator of Presbytery, Rev Dikobe Molaba joined by the local team of caterers. The Presbytery of Limpopo is proud to be comprised of a mixture of young and old Commissioners, a fair mix of skill, experience and young blood, who fully embrace the Moderator of General Assembly's theme of 'Partners in Mission'.*





*The Fellowship of Men attended the 4th biennial conference held in Zambia, Lusaka on the 9th 10th October 2025. The FoM delegation was led by the General Secretary, Bro Zukile Duma and a team of four members. The conference was held under the theme 'Towards a world of justice for an African child A call by African Christian Fathers'. Over hundred and fifty delegates from across the continent attended the conference, which took decisions to ensure justice for an African child. The next conference will be held in East Africa in 2027.*



*Let's celebrate together the successful election of the new PAPMF executive members, who were chosen during the 4th Biennial Conference held in Lusaka, Zambia from the 9th to the 10th of October 2025*



*Each of the delegates who attended the conference received a certificate of attendance as it is the culture in PAPMF*





# New Commissioners, induction workshop, held on the 11th of October 2025, at Duff Congregation, Rev L.L Bashe is the resident Minister





The Tiyo Soga Memorial Presbytery Ministers held a Retreat, on the 17th-19th of October 2025. The Rev Gcobani Vika, a Minister Emeritus from the Methodist Church was their facilitator. The theme was "Who am I"





## **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](mailto:gensec@unitingpresbyterian.org)