



RT REV. DR.
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The Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa

- **Consolation**
- **Youth &**
- **Commitment**

Partners in Mission (PIM),

Compliments of the New Year 2026. We thank God that we made it to this year. Unbelievably, the year is already having a marathon race of its own – You and I, at the time of writing this pastoral letter, are already in the closing 4th week of January!

Consolation

As we celebrate the New Year, we are also aware of those who are very sad due to the misfortunes caused by torrential rains and severe flooding across parts of Southern Africa, which have killed more than 100 people in three countries – South Africa, Mozambique,

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MODERATOR

PASTORAL LETTER JAN 2026

*From the Desk of Your Partner in Mission (PIM)
The Moderator of General Assembly*

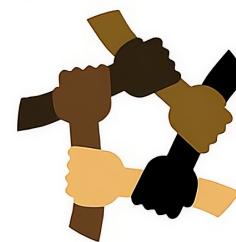
and Zimbabwe. Our UPCSAs members and their families living in these affected areas have not been spared. We would therefore, like to stand with them in prayer, asking God to console them over the loss of life and loss of property they have suffered. During these moments of loss and grief, we are reminded of this passage of scripture:

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him (Christ) who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers... will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:37-39)

May the Lord come through for all affected families.

Youth

I was reminded, when on the first day of school opening, I took a photo with one of our youngest Presbyterians who was



"Partners in Mission"

being dropped by her parents at a nearby school to start her Grade 1, that the denomination in its trans-nationality church structures has a challenge of looking after its youth and creating space for them. This should not just be a show of numbers to indicate that we have youth on our sessions and presbyteries, but it should be a deliberate intention to make sure youth are part of everyday life of the church – our plans, services, activities and all that makes us the UPCSAs. As I travel around to attend invitations of renaming and dedicating church sanctuaries, I cannot help but see that many of our UPCSAs congregations have very few youth (if not, no youth at all) who are part of the life of the church. Fellow partners in mission, I am highlighting this so that we begin to plan how we can make the youth become part of the congregation life throughout the UPCSAs. Needless to state that some congregations are contented to have no youth, but it does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that such congregations have a short life span – It is just a matter of time before such congregations begin to close its doors for lack of membership to take the church forward. May you take this as your 2026 challenge – to include on your sessions, presbyteries and synods meeting agenda, an open discussion on how we can seriously involve the youth in the life of the church. My encouragement to you is to begin with those young people who are already under your care and then work around building a mentoring strategy as you provide space for the youth to fully participate and add value to your congregation and presbytery life.

Commitment

Last year, I closed the year with a pastoral challenge on the need to support the denomination financially.

I would like to reiterate that I was shocked to see that some of our congregations, presbyteries and synods have not remitted anything to support the denomination. The purpose of me reminding you about this is not to make you feel guilty, but to challenge you in love and grace that unless we all become determined about supporting the church, the ministry and mission work in the UPCSAs will remain just a long-distant dream. May I encourage you to commit to supporting the church financially this year.



I was very encouraged by a small congregation in the North Coast of Durban that wrote to me stating that upon reading my pastoral letter in December 2025, the Minister and the elders decided to give R12,000 to both the presbytery and the UPCSAs as their ministry contributions. This was a wonderful and very much appreciated gesture by this lovely congregation. It starts where you are and with what you can afford to contribute. This is what makes partnership in mission a living reality.

Would you kindly consider making a commitment for 2026? I will leave that decision to you to make.

Your Partner in Mission (PIM),

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*Rt Rev Dr Amon Kasambala
Moderator, UPCSAs*

