

DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMISSION 2015

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission records its appreciation to the Central Office staff for their contribution in making this EXCO a success.
3. The Executive Commission implores Commissioners that attendance at Insaka Groups is compulsory as this is part of the Decision Making Process of the Executive Commission.
4. The Executive Commission notes the technical challenges with the current translation machinery/equipment as outlined in the body of the report and acknowledge that the translation cannot be done at this 2015 EXCO, as the process of improving the current machinery is still under-way.
5. The Executive Commission adopts the proposed Draft Agenda as the Final Agenda for 2015 EXCO.
6. The Executive Commission adopts the Standing Orders for 2015 EXCO to be the guide for ordering of its business.
7. The Executive Commission instructs Synods, Presbyteries and Sessions to always uphold the Key Principle of Inclusivity during decision making process.
8. The Executive Commission encourages Presbyteries to strive towards implementing the Consensus Model as a Decision Making Process.
9. The Executive Commission expresses its gratitude to Mr Tom Coulter for his contribution in the work of the ABC and the Denomination at large and wishes him well in his retirement.
10. The Executive Commission appoints the following as its Facilitation Team:
 1. Drafting team : Revs M Muller, VP Mabo, S van der Lingen and elder E. White.
 2. Minute clerks : Revs Z Mtyhobile and V Mkhungo
 3. Records : Miss E White
 4. Scrutineer for minutes : Rev M Magagane
 5. Data projector : Rev M Muller
 6. Vote of Thanks : Rev H Hans

CHANGES IN THE MINISTRY

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

CHURCH ASSOCIATIONS

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission notes the work of the committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT-CHURCH ASSOCIATIONS

1. The Executive Commission receives the supplementary report.
2. Executive Commission agrees to add Representatives from the UPMF, UPWW, YA and JBWW to the C.A.C.

CHURCH OFFICE

1. The Executive Commission received the report.
2. The Executive Commission thanks Mr Tom Coulter (outgoing Clerk of the Assembly) and Mr André Prinsloo (former accountant for the (UPCSA) for their work and years' of service to the denomination.
3. The Executive Commission appoints the Reverend Vusi Mkhungo as Clerk of Assembly of the UPCSA from 1 July 2015, for a period of five years with the option of a second term, in accordance with the Manual of Faith and Order.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission notes the progress on the Pimville house.
3. The Executive Commission instructs the Faith and Order Committee to facilitate discussion and come up with a position on Civil Unions.
4. The Executive Commission encourage peaceful participation of our members in RSA in the Forth-coming Local Government elections.
5. The Executive Commission comments the Government of South Africa for its bold stand against the April Xenophobic attacks.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT- CHURCH AND SOCIETY

1. The Executive Commission commends and upholds the SACC's position on the Nkandla report.

OVERTURE

1. CONCERNING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PRESIDENT ZUMA:

In view of the facts that

1. South Africa is rife with corruption, not least in national, provincial and local government, as is evident in the unceasing stream of reports of it in our newspapers and on television;
2. this endemic corruption robs the country of vast amounts of money that could otherwise be spent on public services, hospitals, schools, the housing and relief of the poor etc.;
3. it also inhibits foreign investment in our country and thus damages its economic future;
4. the most notable and scandalous example of such corruption is the R246 million that has been spent on President Jacob Zuma's palatial home at Nkandla in Kwazulu-Natal;
5. the Public Protector, after careful legal investigation, confirmed that this money has been misappropriated from the public coffers and called on President to repay at least some of it;
6. the General Assembly in 2014 refused to endorse a motion supporting this call on President Zuma to repay the money and calling on him to resign his office—on the grounds that:
 - a) the matter had not yet been tested in court; and
 - b) we should not make "political points"; and
7. this decision will be to the permanent shame of the UPCSA in future records of our time if it is not reversed, the Presbytery overtures the Executive Commission of the General Assembly to adopt the following form of the original motion, which
 - caters for the argument in 6(a) above by adding the words "if the allegations are true" and
 - opposes the argument in 6(b) as contrary to the witness of Scripture, the Reformed tradition and the UPCSA Confession of Faith that Jesus Christ is Lord of the whole of life, including its political sphere, and therefore the Church should speak truth to power and witness prophetically to the State against all injustice and corruption.

In view of

1. the allegations of misappropriation, or theft, of funds from the public treasury for the construction of President Jacob Zuma's palatial home at Nkandla that the press has uncovered and that the investigations of the Public Protector have confirmed and
2. the encouragement that this misappropriation constitutes for the corruption that is so endemic in the body politic in South Africa, the Assembly calls on President Zuma, if the allegations are true,
 1. to repay into the public treasury the money that has been misappropriated, or stolen, and
 2. to resign his office and step out of the public square.

The Executive Commission instructs

- its press officer to see that this resolution is issued to the press immediately, on the day it is adopted; and
- the Clerk to see that it is sent to President Zuma in a letter signed by the Moderator on its behalf.

CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission resolves that, the dates for General Assembly 2016 be set as Saturday 9 July 2016 until Friday 15 July 2016.
3. The Executive Commission resolves that General Assembly 2016 be held within the bounds of the Presbytery of Amathole at a venue to be decided and failing that the incoming Clerk be entrusted to secure a suitable venue.
4. The Executive Commission resolves that:
 - i. all Committee Conveners submit a full report to General Assembly in 2016;
 - ii. all reports to be considered by the General Assembly in July 2016 be submitted to the Clerk of Assembly by Friday 8 April 2016;
 - iii. all Supplementary Reports be submitted to the Clerk of Assembly by the end of May 2016;
 - iv. all Papers of General Assembly be made available to Commissioners, Presbytery Clerks and Committee Conveners at least 3 weeks before General Assembly;
 - v. all reports be posted on the UPCS website at least 3 weeks before General Assembly and encourages everyone to make greater use of the website;
 - vi. the Papers, Supplementaries and Proceedings and Decisions of General Assembly 2016 (Yearbook) be distributed to Ministers and Presbyteries on a CD at the end of the year and that those who don't have access to a computer or internet can make a request for a hard copy.
5. The Executive Commission notes the status of the matters concerning Ross and Rainy and Randburg Presbyteriese Kerk.
6. The Executive Commission notes the challenges concerning the ongoing management of Tiyo Soga House.
7. The Executive Commission enacts, remits;
 - i. GA/14/01.
 - ii. GA/14/02.
 - iii. GA/14/03.
 - iv. GA/14/04.
 - v. GA/14/05.
 - vi. GA/14/06.
 - vii. GA/14/07.
 - viii. GA/14/08.
 - ix. GA/14/09.Subject to any amendments approved by the Executive Commission in terms of paragraph 12.50(g) of the Manual of Faith and Order of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa.
8. The Executive Commission notes the report submitted by the Record's Committee of General Assembly 2014 as set out in Appendix A.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission encourages Presbyteries and Congregations to assist in the effective distribution of the Presbyterian Link.
3. The Executive Commission encourages Presbytery and Congregation members to submit articles to the Committee.
4. The Executive Commission instructs each Presbytery, if it has not yet done so, to appoint its Presbytery Clerk or some other suitable person as its Communications Officer, and to request this person to assist, where possible, with the distribution of the Presbyterian Link to congregations who do not have the ability to produce copies themselves.
5. The Executive Commission requests the Session of each Congregation to appoint its Clerk or some other suitable person as its Communications Officer, and to request that this person assist, where possible, with the distribution of the Presbyterian Link to members who may require a printed copy.

COURT OF ASSEMBLY AND AARP

1. The Executive Commission received the report.
2. The Executive Commission encourages the Faith and Order Committee to finalise the outstanding matters from General Assembly 2014 as set out in their report to this Executive Commission.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission instructs the Nominations Committee to nominate a team of negotiators to work with the UCCSA team.
3. The Executive Commission encourages the UPCSAs to cooperate with the corresponding structures of the UCCSA, within the parameters that will be set by the negotiating teams.
4. The Executive Commission encourages all the structures of the church to engage with the corresponding structures of the churches that the UPCSAs has relations with.
5. The Executive Commission notes the Ecumenical developments in South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
6. The Executive Commission notes that ties between the SACC and Rev M Pataki were severed.
7. The Executive Commission notes the continued involvement of the UPCSAs with the CWM and other Ecumenical bodies.
8. The Executive Commission congratulates the EPCSAs for the 140 years of existence and asks the Moderator and the General Secretary to represent the UPCSAs in the celebrations.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission expresses its sincerest thanks to all whose donations to the PEF ensure the ongoing work of the fund and thanks the members of the Task Team for their role in its continued work.
3. The Executive Commission declares Sunday, **19** June, 2016 PEF Sunday and requests all congregations to hold a retiring offering for the PEF on that Sunday or another of the congregation's choosing in June, 2016.
4. The Executive Commission urges all Ministers and Session Clerks to screen applications stringently by checking that applicants have completed the forms correctly and in full, and included all required documentation, before they sign the forms.
5. The Executive Commission instructs the Education and Training Committee to involve the Presbytery of Drakensberg and Pholela District Congregation in all matters pertaining to the school.

FAITH AND ORDER

1. The Executive Commission receives the report of the Faith and Order Committee and with it the reports of the Manual, ad hoc Confessions of Faith, Human Sexuality, and Service Book and Ordinal Task Teams.
2. The Executive Commission reminds all Presbytery Moderators and Clerks and all Ministers, Session Clerks and Sessions that the following amended reprints of the *Manual of Faith and Order* are now all available from the Assembly Office: chapter 2 (including the English language liturgical consultation version of the Apostles' Creed, the new versions of the "Nicene" creed and the UPCSAs Confession of Faith, and an amended preface to the declaration of faith), parts of chapters 4 and 10, chapter 16 (including the new provisions for the order of lay ministries) and the last page of Appendix F. Together with these is also new appendix g of the *Manual* (the basis of union).

Confessions

3. The Executive Commission enacts all the amendments to the Confession of Faith proposed in Appendix A to the report.

4. The Executive Commission thanks Professor Emeritus Stanley Ridge in Stellenbosch for his work on the Confession.
5. The Executive Commission instructs the webmaster to replace the revised version of the UPCSA Confession of Faith presently on the UPCSA website with the 2015 recension, incorporating all the amendments that the Executive Commission has enacted this year.
6. The Executive commission instructs the Translation Task Teams in their translations of the Confession of Faith to note all the amendments that the Assembly and the Executive Commission have enacted up to the present.
7. The Executive Commission follows up the 2014 General Assembly's thanks to the World Communion of Reformed Churches for its response to the Assembly's request for an assessment of the confession by sending the WCRC's new General Secretary a copy of the 2015 recension of the Cnfession.
8. The Executive Commission:
 - a) Officially approves and commends the summary of the Belhar Confession in Appendix B for use as a liturgical Declaration of Faith in services of worship; and
 - b) Instructs the webmaster to place it after the Belhar confession on the church website.
9. The Executive Commission instructs the webmaster to:
 - a) Remove the title "the confession" above the Belgic confession on the new UPCSA website;
 - b) Replace the present English translation of the Belgic confession on the new website with the translation on the website www.rca.org/resources/belgic-confession; and
 - c) Replace the present introduction to the Belgic confession on the website with the introduction in Appendix C.

Human Sexuality

10. The Executive Commission urges every Presbytery to contact Inclusive and Affirming Ministries (IAM), in order to set up Training of the Trainer (TOT) courses on sexuality and diversity within their boundaries.

NOTE: It was agreed that this should be referred back to the task team convener for fine-tuning.

11. The Executive Commission urges every Presbytery to establish contact with at least one Christian organisation working to counter sexual abuse in its area, in order to find out how its congregations can support that organisation's work.
12. The Executive Commission notes the sermon in Appendix F and encourages all Ministers, Preachers and Teachers to note it.

Service Book

13. The Executive Commission adopts the Order for the Public Profession of Faith ("confirmation") in Appendix G below for use in the UPCSA and to add it to the Service Book for circulation as soon as possible.
14. The Executive Commission adopts the Order for a Funeral or Memorial Service in Appendix H below for use in the UPCSA.

NOTE: It was agreed that this proposal be referred back to the service book task team.

15. The Executive Commission
 - a) adopts the directions for the conduct of a funeral or memorial service, as amended in 2014 and printed in appendix i, for implementation in the UPCSA;
 - b) draws the attention of all ministers to the directions.
16. The Executive Commission
 - a) approves the order for commissioning to the order of lay ministries for use and comment in the UPCSA; and
 - b) instructs the webmaster to place it on the website.
17. The Executive Commission requests all Ministers (and any others) who have translated any adopted UPCSA Orders of Worship into any vernacular languages in South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe to inform the Convener of the Service Book Team and the Clerk of Assembly of this and send them copies, so that records of them can be kept and copies be made available.

18. The Executive Commission reminds all Presbytery Moderators and Clerks and all Ministers and Sessions that the General Assembly in 2014 sent the statement on sexism and language (*supplementary papers 2014*, p.387-401, and on the website)
 - a) to all ministers. Sessions and worship leaders for discussion and comment, and
 - b) to all presbyteries with the instruction that they distribute and discuss the statement. the Executive Commission urges all Session and all Presbyteries that have not yet done so to send their responses and comments to the convener, by 28 February 2016.
19. The Executive Commission
 - a) Reminds all Presbytery Moderators and Clerks of the mutual acceptance of ministries;
 - b) Encourages Ministers to establish relationships with other CUC churches in their areas that could culminate in mutual cooperation; and
 - c) Instructs them to see that the local clergy of all other CUC churches are invited to attend and to take part in all clergy ordinations in the UPCSA.
20. The Executive Commission:
 - a) thanks all Ministers who have continued to work for, and contribute to, the *Word and Worship* series and its Afrikaans equivalent, *Word en Fees*; and
 - b) commends the latest and the forthcoming volumes in the series to all UPCSA Ministers and Preachers, as a resource for preaching and worship.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT- FAITH AND ORDER

21. The Executive Commission instructs the P&R committee as a matter of urgency to:
 - a) Consider the Supplementary Report of the Faith and Order Committee on the restructuring of Assembly Committees and the allocation of Task Teams with particular reference to the proposed unbundling of the Faith and Order Committee; and the task team to be appointed under proposal 28 (d) to review legal marriage in South Africa and the report of the law reform commission, and whether such task team remains under the Faith and Order Committee in view of the potential impact on the relations between church and state.
 - b) Consult with the convenors of committees and task teams potentially affected; and
 - c) To submit a report to the 2016 General Assembly.
22. The Executive Commission approves the material in Appendices K in the Supplementary Papers:
 - a) for all Ministers and others who instruct candidates for Believers' Baptism and the Public Profession of Faith to use in such instruction; and
 - b) for comment (comments to be sent to the Convener of the Task Team by the end of February 2016).
23. The Executive Commission instructs the Ministry Committee to ensure that the training and testing of all Probationers and any Elders for licensing to administer the sacraments include instruction
 - a) In the contents of the material listed in the supplementary report under the subheading "instruction concerning the sacraments" and
 - b) In the use of the adopted orders for baptism and Holy Communion and the directions for their administration.
24. The Executive Commission instructs the webmaster in consultation with the Convener of the relevant Task Teams to see to it that all the documents listed in the Supplementary Report under the subheading "instruction concerning the sacraments", including the Orders and Directions as amended, are placed on the website of the UPCSA.
25. The Executive Commission amends par 16.116 in the *Manual* in the manner proposed in the Supplementary Papers.
26. The Executive Commission instructs the Church Design Task Team:
 - a) To draft a statement of architectural and liturgical principles that should be observed in the designing of churches for placing on the website and to distribute them to Presbyteries; and
 - b) To submit the draft to the Assembly for its approval in 2016.
27. The Executive Commission approves the placing of the guide to the new Marriage Register (dha-30) on the church's website and expresses its thanks to Terry Wilké, Chaplain at the Diocesan school in Cape Town, for allowing the UPCSA to use his work in compiling the guide.
28. The Executive Commission:
 - a) endorses the statement in Appendix N of the Supplementary Papers on the "the legal solemnization of marriage in South Africa" in support of the CUC's approach to the South African Department of Home Affairs in connection with all the problems Marriage Officers have been experiencing with the department's management of marriages;
 - b) Calls on the Central Committee of the CUC to discuss the difficulties mentioned in the report, prepare a list of grievances and suggest a way forward in its approach to the Minister of Home Affairs;

- c) requests the CUC to call on the Minister of Home Affairs as a matter of urgency to meet with members of the Central Committee of the CUC to discuss solutions to the current crisis;
 - d) appoints an ad hoc task team to review:
 - 1. The current situation regarding the solemnisation of a legal marriage in South Africa and
 - 2. The report of the law reform commission regarding the revision of the marriage law and report to the General Assembly in 2016; and
 - e) instructs Sessions to call on members of their congregations to report any difficulties they have experienced with the current legislation regarding marriages and the management of the legalization of marriages by the Department of Home Affairs to the Convenor of the Special Task Team by 30 November 2015.
29. The Executive Commission instructs the Service Book Task Team to compile all the adopted or approved Orders of Service and to circulate them.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Commission received the report.
2. The Executive Commission endorses that the Finance Committee recommends the appointment of Mr. Ryan Johnson as Incoming General Treasurer.
3. The Executive Commission notes the report on assessments:
 - a) extends current plan of agreeing to write off all outstanding loans for those congregations, supported by their Presbyteries who can show ability to meet future assessments in full; and
 - b) extends 2% rebate until next General Assembly.
4. The Executive Commission appoints a multifaceted body to research non-compliance with General Assembly decisions with specific references to reports not sent to the Finance Committee.
5. The Executive Commission instructs the IYZA, the UPMF, the UPWW and JBWW to submit financial reports not later than 30th September, 2015.
6. The Executive Commission requests the Finance Committee and the Priorities and Resources Committee to continue with the research into venue and timing of General Assemblies and to submit a report to the next General Assembly.
7. The Executive Commission accepts the audited financial statements for 12 months to 30 June 2014.
8. The Executive Commission notes unaudited accounts for 6 months to 31 December 2014.
9. The Executive Commission notes the audit convener's report and accepts the risk analysis and adopts the audit guidelines as spelt out in the audit committee report.
10. The Executive Commission approves the Sedibeng trust audited account for the year ended 31 December 2014.
11. The Executive Commission instructs Presbyteries to submit reports on non-contributory congregations by 30 November 2015.
12. The Executive Commission notes the Annexures 8 – 10.
13. The Executive Commission approves the budget for 2015/16 endorsing the need for strict financial controls at all levels.
14. The Executive Commission authorizes the finance committee to explore the opening of bank accounts in Zimbabwe and Zambia.
15. The Executive Commission notes the Mpolweni feedback but expresses desire to see the matter brought to a conclusion.
16. The Executive Commission notes the source of support for retired ministers through the RB Hagart trust.
17. The Executive Commission endorses thanks to the investment committee and the CFO and his staff.

SUPPLEMENTARY COMMITTEE FINANCE

1. The Executive Commission receives the supplementary finance report.

PENSION FUNDS

UPCSA Pension Fund

1. The Executive Commission received the report.
2. The Executive Commission instructs the church, through the office of the General Secretary, to thank the advisors and contractors to the fund for the assistance given to the trustees over the past period.

PEPF Pension Fund

1. The Executive Commission received the report.
2. The Church thanks the advisors and contractors to the fund for the assistance given to the trustees over the past period.

GENERAL SECRETARY

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission adopts the nine strategic guidelines to be achieved by the time the UPCSA turns 20 years old.
3. The Executive Commission encourages all the structures of the UPCSA to develop their programmes (objectives and activity plans) towards the attainment of the nine strategic guidelines.
4. The Executive Commission requests the Assembly Business Committee and the Priorities and Resources Committee to monitor and evaluate the UPCSA performance against the nine strategic guidelines.
5. The Executive Commission encourages the councils of the church to roll out the following seven (7) ministries and place them as standing items in their agendas:
 - i. Ministers' welfare and development, including retired ministers
 - ii. People with disabilities
 - iii. Women's ministry
 - iv. Men's ministry
 - v. Youth ministry
 - vi. Children's ministry
 - vii. Eco justice
6. The Executive Commission notes and applauds the work that has been covered towards the rolling out of certain ministries including the Inclusive Youth Ministry Consultation held on 29 to 31 January 2015 and Women Ministers' Consultation on 3 to 5 March 2015.
7. The Executive Commission instructs the inclusion of the Youth and Women in all the decision making structures of the Church as per the Manual of Faith and Order, ch.13, para. 64(b).
8. The Executive Commission encourages the structures of the church to study the report of the Women Ministers' consultation and promote gender justice.
9. The Executive Commission supports the call by the UPCSA women ministers for an act of repentance for sexism and encourages all the congregations and structures in the UPCSA to hold such services during the month of August, and to consider using the Belhar Confession in such services.
10. The Executive Commission notes that a consultation of the General Assembly Committees' conveners was held on 18 to 20 November 2014.
11. The Executive Commission instructs Priorities and Resources Committee to convene a meeting of the General Assembly Committees' conveners within three months after the General Assembly.
12. The Executive Commission notes that a consultation of the Synods and Presbyteries Moderators, Clerks and Treasurers was held on 13 to 15 April 2015.
13. The Executive Commission instructs the structures of the church to uphold the vision and mission of the UPCSA and align their life and work thereto, beginning with workshops at Presbytery level.

14. The Executive Commission requests the Assembly Business Committee and the Priorities and Resources Committee to continuously plan and execute monitoring and evaluation processes for proper implementation of the General Assembly and/or Executive Commission resolutions and for continuous improvement in the UPCSA.

NOTE: It was proposed that this be sent back to the General Secretary for refinement.

15. The Executive Commission urges the members of the church to support prayerfully the efforts of Mthatha Presbytery to restore and reintegrate Ross and Rainy congregations into the UPCSA.
16. The Executive Commission accepts and supports the request by the Presbytery of Zimbabwe for the deferment of the implementation of the General Assembly decision of establishing two Presbyteries until the Presbytery of Zimbabwe gives a lead on the matter.
17. The Executive Commission notes that the toolkit has been distributed to the Presbyteries and requests Presbyteries to give feedback to the General Secretary on the effectiveness thereof.

The Church in Namibia NOM 1

1. The Executive Commission notes the initiative of the General Secretary to consider the request from a group of Christians at Katima Mulilo, Namibia to be part of the UPCSA and refers this to the Presbytery of Munali and instructs them to report to the 2016 General Assembly.

MINISTRY

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission confirms the admission of Rev S Nedohe into the ministry of the UPCSA.
3. The Executive Commission confirms the readmission of the Rev Dr Raphesu into the ministry of the UPCSA.
4. The Executive Commission notes the students for the ministry as listed.
5. The Executive Commission notes that Mr Masibulele Dunjana has withdrawn as a candidate for the ministry.
6. The Executive Commission notes the probationers as listed.
7. The Executive Commission seconds Rev S. Lindani as a Chaplain to the SAPS.
8. The Executive Commission seconds Rev H Barnard to the Bible Society.
9. The Executive Commission agrees to the requirements of accountability for Ministers receiving post grants as set out in the body of the report.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT- MINISTRY

1. The Executive Commission receives the supplementary report.
2. The Executive Commission notes the names of selected candidates for the Ministry; and instructs the Ministry Committee to provide the names of those who were not selected and to indicate whether they were declined or deferred.
3. The Executive Commission notes that financial assistance for post ordination studies will be limited.
4. The Executive Commission authorizes the Ministry Committee to begin implementing the "on-going ministerial training" programme.

NOTE: This was referred back to the Ministry committee for refinement.

5. The Executive Commission extends the secondment of Rev A Akih for another year.
6. The Executive Commission grants Rev Budhram a seat on the Ethekewini Presbytery.
7. The Executive Commission instructs the Ministry Committee to issue an exeat certificate to Ms Nobuhle Mbata.

NOTE: Moderator reported to the Executive Commission on his consultation on the matter of Ms Nobuhle Mbata. The Moderator ruled that no decision will be taken on this matter and that Ms Nobuhle Mbata will remain in her period of probation. The Moderator will journey with the ministry committee in this matter.

8. Executive Commission notes that Ms Chantel Riley has not been in contact with the Ministry Committee and has effectively withdrawn herself from the processes of selection of Ministry Committee.

APPLICATION FOR RETIREMENT

1. That the Executive Commission grants the Rev J Langerveld status of Minister Emeritus from 31st May 2015 and a seat on the Presbytery within whose boundaries he may reside.
2. That the Executive Commission grants the Rev GB Buhlungu status of Minister Emeritus from 31st December 2015 and a seat on the Presbytery within whose boundaries he may reside.
3. That the Executive Commission grants the Rev D van Der Spuy status of Minister Emeritus from 31st May 2015 and a seat on the Presbytery within whose boundaries he may reside.
4. That the Executive Commission grants the Rev M Masango status of Minister Emeritus from 21st October 2015 and a seat on the Presbytery within whose boundaries he may reside.

MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP

1. The Executive Commission:
 - (a) notes the progress made by the Committee in getting the UPCSAs involved in the Fresh Expressions/ Mission Shaped Ministry Movement.
 - (b) calls upon Ministers and Lay Leaders to sign up for MSM courses in centres where these will be run in 2016.
 - (c) notes that the international conference on FE will take place in Cape Town from 16 to 18 February 2016 and encourages Ministers and Lay leaders to attend.
 - (d) resolves to send a delegation consisting of the Moderator, the General Secretary, the Convener of the M&D Committee and Priorities and Resources to the international conference (in Cape Town) to represent the UPCSAs.
2. The Executive Commission:
 - (a) confirms the creation of "The Missional Congregations Project" for three years from Executive Commission 2015 to General Assembly 2018 in terms of para. 1.4. of the report;
 - (b) confirms the terms of reference of the project as described in 1.4.
3. The Executive Commission:
 - (a) Notes that the Committee has complied with the Assembly's decision to run a second Inspire Conference from 23 to 25 September 2015;
 - (b) Notes that the venue will be Emseni Conference Centre in Benoni, Gauteng, South Africa and the theme will be "Rediscovering Church".
 - (c) Encourages especially Lay leaders but also Ministers of the Church to sign up.
4. The Executive Commission:
 - (a) Celebrates the fact that the Order of Lay Ministries is now open for business;
 - (b) Encourages Sessions and Church Councils to familiarise themselves with the rules and procedures of the Order and to identify Lay leaders within their congregations who could become members of the Order;
 - (c) Encourages Sessions and Church Councils who have already appointed Lay leaders to Ministry positions included in the OLM to consider assisting these persons to apply to become members of the OLM;
 - (d) Instructs Presbyteries to forward the names and contact information of all Lay Preachers within their bounds to the OLM Administrator by 31 August 2015.
5. The Executive Commission celebrates the UPCSAs Mission and Discipleship website and encourages all Ministers, Elders, Leaders and members to use the website.
6. The Executive Commission sets the minimum Stipends, monthly travel allowances and pulpit supply fees for Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa as outlined in Section 5.2. of the report.
7. The Executive Commission resolves:

- (a) To designate the month of October "Mission Month" for Congregations within the UPCSA for the second consecutive year;
 - (b) That the M&D Committee again construct a series of sermon outlines that may be used by Preachers during "Mission Month" and distribute these to all Ministers and Session Clerks of Congregations of the Church;
 - (c) That the M&D Committee is developing additional resources for use in the Church during Mission month.
8. The Executive Commission:
- (a) Notes the Council for World Mission's programme called "Partners in Mission";
 - (b) Encourages both Ministers and Laity to participate in this programme.
9. The Executive Commission:
- (a) Affirms the work of the UPRED student groups in the South Africa Universities;
 - (b) Encourages both Ministers and Laity to participate in this programme.

NOMINATIONS (*Preliminary report*)

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission instructs each Presbytery to appoint one commission to serve on the Nominations Committee.
3. The Executive Commission instructs the Nominations Committee to prepare a report for submission on Thursday 9 July 2015.

NOMINATIONS (*additions to the current Assembly Committees*):

Church Office

Mrs Violet Mashao

Ecumenical Relationships

The Moderator

General Secretary

Mr Victor Letuka

Rev Ruth Armstrong

TW Coulter

Rev David Mushayavanhu

Education And Training

Rev Melanie Cook (Convener)

Finance

The treasurer/Convener Finance

Mr Ryan Johnson

Priorities And Resources

Mrs Eddie Stopforth (corresponding Committee already has 12 members)

Stewardship

Mrs N Sokutu

Rev Dr Hans

Rev Mdyesha

Rev SP Sam

Rev H Fortuin

Convener: H Hans

Faith and Order

Hand over to CUC: Rev Peter Langerman to Convene

Ministry Committee

Mrs Mihloti Mathye to replace Thando Mpambani

PEPF

Mr D Anderson (Employer Representative)

PRIORITIES AND RESOURCES

1. The Executive Commission received the report.
2. The Executive Commission ratifies the addition of Mrs Eddie Stopforth to the P&R committee.
3. Executive Commission notes the change in dates of the Ministers' conference from October 2015 to February 2016.

RECORDS

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission agrees that the Records Committee Convener attests the minute Books of the Ecumenical Relations Committee and the Assembly Business Committee in situ and that this be reported to the General Assembly 2016.
3. The Executive Commission reminds Committee Conveners and Presbytery Clerks that their minute books are to be submitted annually.
4. The Executive Commission advises Committee Conveners and Presbytery Clerks that requests to scrutinize minute books in situ should not become a habit, and that they may not be granted in future.

STEWARDSHIP

Proposal 2 and 3 swapped

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission notes with regret the non-functioning of some of the members of the committee and refers this to the Nominations Committee
3. The Executive Committee appoints the new members to the committee

WORKING GROUP ON ASSOCIATIONS:

1. The Executive Commission received the report.
2. The Executive Commission notes with thanksgiving and appreciation the commitment and contributions of the Executives of the Associations to the process of implementing the decisions of the 2014 General Assembly, and encourages the Associations at the Presbytery and Congregational levels to do the same.
3. The Executive Commission instructs all Presbyteries to participate fully in the processes set out by the Working Group to bring about healing, reconciliation and unity of the Associations within its boundaries and the UPCSAs as a whole.
4. The Executive Commission agrees to delay the endeavour to write a chapter on Associations in the Manual of Faith and Order until the process of the finalisation of constitutions for the Associations has been completed by the working group.