

THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17th EXECUTIVE COMMISSION HELD at GATEWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, KEMPTON PARK, WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF HIGHVELD PRESBYTERY FROM THE 13th TO THE 17th OF JUNE 2026

FIRST SESSION

At Gateway Presbyterian Church, Kempton Park, within the bounds of Highveld Presbytery, on Saturday 13th June 2026 at 11h00, Commissioners of the 2026 Executive Commission and the congregation convened for public worship.

CONSTITUTING SERVICE

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev Thomson Mkandawire, called the Executive Commission to worship reading Psalm 95:1-7.

GREETINGS AND WELCOME

The Moderator, the Rt Rev Dr Amon Kasambala, welcomed Commissioners and congregants present and declared the 2026 Executive Commission of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa to be duly constituted. The Moderator introduced his Chaplains, the Rev Thomson Mkandawire and the Rev Michelle Black, to the Executive Commission and mentioned that the Rev Black will be joining the Executive Commission in the evening.

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev Thompson Mkandawire, led the Executive Commission in worship.

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

The Moderator's Chaplain led the Executive Commission in prayer.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

At the end of the prayers, the Moderator spoke the words of the assurance of grace.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Immediate Former Moderator, the Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, led the Commission in a prayer for illumination.

READING OF THE WORD

The Chaplain invited Ms Samkeliso Siwela, Dr Overs MM Banda and the Rev Wayne van Heerden to read scriptures as follows:

Old Testament:	Joshua 1: 1 - 9
New Testament:	Titus 1: 1 - 16
Gospel:	Luke 4: 14 - 21

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Moderator delivered a message to the church on the theme, "Partners in Mission – Attend to the Unfinished Business."

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Moderator Designate, the Rev Melanie Cook, led the Executive Commission in a prayer of thanksgiving.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND PETITION

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev Thomson Mkandawire, called upon representatives from all the countries where the UPCSA is present to lead the Executive Commission in Prayers of Intercession.

Zimbabwe: praying for peace in the war-stricken countries (the middle East, Eastern Europe and some parts of Africa). The Rev Dr Garikai Mufanebadza prayed.

Zambia: praying for the proceedings of the Executive Commission, Insaka groups, Listening and Decision-Making Sessions. The Rev Chala Habasila prayed.

South Africa: praying for the frail and ill, the elderly, the young people and all congregations in the UPCSA. The Rev Bongiwe Ngebulana prayed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Assembly Business Convener, the Rev Charles Magagane, made Announcements and the Rev Wayne van Heerden who is the Moderator of the Highveld Presbytery and a Minister at Gateway Presbyterian Church and also the Convener of the LOC welcomed all commissioners.

SHORT RECESS

The Moderator pronounced the Benediction and announced that the Executive Commission would recess at 12h47 to meet again at 13h00.

CONFIRMED this _____ day of _____ 2026

MODERATOR

CLERK

FIRST SESSION (cont.) – EXECUTIVE SESSION

At Gateway Presbyterian Church, Kempton Park, within the bounds of the Highveld Presbytery, on Saturday 13th June 2026 at 13h05, the Executive Commission reconvened.

OPENING

The Moderator welcomed all the commissioners back and asked the Rev Mukondeleli Ramulondi to lead the Executive Commission in prayer. The Moderator called the Executive Commission to Order.

BUSINESS OF THE DAY

The Moderator invited the Assembly Business Convener to overview the business of the day. The Rev Charles Magagane did so, pointing out that that in this Session, the Executive would be using the Westminster (Formal majority) system of decision making.

ROLL OF COMMISSIONERS

The Clerk of Assembly presented the Roll of Commissioners to the 2026 Executive Commission as printed in pages 257 to 259 of the Supplementary Papers with only one change in the Drakensberg Presbytery, replacing the Rev Johannes Xaba with the Rev Philani Mbanjwa as Minister Commissioner.

The Clerk moved that:

The Executive Commission adopts the Roll of Commissioners as printed in the papers with the following changes: Drakensberg Presbytery, replacing the Rev Johannes Xaba with the Rev Philani Mbanjwa as Minister Commissioner.

This seconded and agreed.

NOTICES OF MOTION

The Moderator called for the notices of motion. The following notices of motion were presented:

Notice of Motion 1

The Rev TP Letsheleha gave the following Notice:

“When the Executive Commission considers the report of the Doctrine Committee or at a time convenient, I shall move:

1. The Executive Commission converts the Confessions Task Team into a Standing Committee
2. The Executive Commission instructs all Presbyteries of the UPCSA each to appoint one of its commissioners to the on Confessions Committee and to inform its convener of his/her name and email address.
3. The Executive Commission amends footnote 2 of the UPCSA Confessions of Faith to read as follows:

In adopting the Confessions, the UPCSA recognizes that its members have different (for some, overlapping) views on the relation between the Word of God and Scripture:

- Some fully equate Scripture with the Word of God, regarding it as verbally inspired and infallible;
- Some, in the wake of the so-called "critical-historical" study of the bible, distinguished between the Word of God and Scripture as its inspired but fallible human record and witness;
- Some emphasize that "Jesus Christ, as he is attested to us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God that we have to hear and that we have to trust and obey in life and in death (Jn 1:1-18, 5:39f.; 11 Cor. 3:14-4:6, Rev. 19:13) and that, in making that attestation to the living Word of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, Scripture itself becomes and is the authoritative written Word of God.

All members of the UPCSA, however, are required to accept and confess

- That the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God to be uniquely authoritative witness to God's dealings with Israel that culminated in the coming and the teaching, witness and work of Jesus Christ;
- That Jesus Christ is himself the living Word of God and as such the fulfilment, the center and the focus of scripture and so the key to scripture, but also its Lord and Judge (Matt. 5:21-48, Jn. 5:39 f.); and
- That, as that witness to the living Word, Scripture is the unique and final authority of the doctrine, teaching and practice of Christ's Church."

Proposed by the Rev TP Letsheleha.
Assembly.

Seconded by the Clerk of

The Clerk of Assembly proposed that this notice of motion be dealt with when the Executive Commission considers the Doctrine Report.
This was seconded and agreed.

Notice of Motion 2

The General Secretary, the Rev Dr George Marchinkowski, gave the following notice:
At a time convenient to the Executive Commission, I will move that:

1. The Executive Commission grants the **Rev Barbara Anne Hoy** permission to retire on 30 April 2026, grants her the status of minister emerita, and a seat on the Presbytery in which she resides.
2. The Executive Commission grants the **Rev Malungelo Jita** permission to retire on 30 June 2026, grants him the status of minister emeritus, and a seat on the Presbytery in which he resides.
3. The Executive Commission grants the **Rev Kholekile Pezisa** permission to retire on 31 May 2026, grants him the status of minister emeritus, and a seat on the Presbytery in which he resides.
4. The Executive Commission notes that the **Rev Anthony Bartlett**, who was serving Vryberg United Church in the Presbytery of Lekoa, resigned as a Presbyterian minister on 30 November 2023 and is no longer a minister of the UPCSA."

Proposed by the Rev GW Marchinkowski

Seconded by the Clerk of Assembly.

The Clerk of Assembly proposed that this notice of motion be dealt with when the Executive Commission considers the Ministry Committee Report.
This was seconded and agreed.

Notice of Motion 3

The General Secretary, the Rev Dr George Marchinkowski, gave the following notice:

At a time convenient to the Executive Commission or when the Commission considers the report of the Joint Liaison Committee with the UCCSA, I shall move that:

"The Executive Commission instructs the General Secretary to arrange, in consultation with the Moderator of the General Assembly, for the drafting of a response to the message of the UCCSA which is published to the report which shall be presented to the Executive Commission for approval when the report of the Joint Liaison Committee is considered."

GW Marchinkowski. Proposer

The Clerk of Assembly Seconded

The Clerk of Assembly proposed that this notice of motion be dealt with when the Executive Commission considers the Joint Liaison (with the UCCSA) Committee Report.

This was seconded and agreed.

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Assembly Business Committee Convener presented the committee report.

1. The Executive Commission receives the report. It was seconded and agreed.
The Commission referred item (f) under the Terms of Reference of the committee for redrafting.
2. The Executive Commission adopts the Standing Orders of the 2026 Executive Commission as contained on pages 1 to 9 in the Papers.
It was seconded and agreed.
3. The Executive Commission adopts the proposed Draft Agenda as published in these Supplementary Papers as the final Agenda for the 2026 Executive Commission.
It was seconded and agreed.
4. The Executive Commission notes that the decisions of the General Assembly 2025 were sent to all the relevant stakeholders for attention and action.
It was seconded and agreed.
5. The Executive Commission instructs the Nominations Committee to appoint Interim Conveners for the Stewardship and People with Disability Committees.
It was seconded and agreed.
6. The Executive Commission thanks the Presbytery of Highveld for hosting and planning for the Executive to meet, at Gateway Presbyterian Church in Kempton Park.
It was seconded and agreed.

7. The Executive Commission resolves that the next General Assembly will be hosted by the Presbytery of eGoli, and sets the dates as Saturday 26 June to Thursday 1 July 2027.

It was seconded and agreed.

8. The Executive Commission appoints the following as facilitating teams:

Drafting team:

The Rev Luzuko Qina (Convener), the Rev Dr George Marchinkowski (GS), the Rev Vusi Mkhungo (Clerk), Elders Ntombi Currie, Fikile Ndlovu and Sifiso Ndala
Minute Clerks: The Rev. Zwai. Mtyhobile and Elder Mike Mokgohloa.

Minute Scrutineers: The Revs. Michelle Black and Thomson Mkandawire

Technical IT and Media Team: Mr Solly Maluleke, Elders Christine Kasambara and Ryan Johnson, the Rev Theo Groeneveld, and all Gateway IT support personnel.

Vote of Thanks: The Rev Melanie Cook.

It was seconded and agreed.

CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY REPORT

The Moderator called for the report of the Clerk of General Assembly. The Clerk presented his report and moved that:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was seconded and agreed.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (PRELIMINARY)

The Moderator called for the report of the Nominations Committee.

The Convener, Mr. Siyanda Mqalo, presented the report which was published on pages 318 to 324 of the Supplementary Papers.

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was seconded and agreed.

OVERTURES

Overtures were received and tabled from the following Presbyteries:

Overture 1: The Tiyo Soga Memorial Presbytery: Withdrawal from the JH Soga Memorial Synod

The Clerk moved that the Overture be dealt with after the report of the Assembly Standing Commission.

This was seconded and agreed.

Overture 2: The Presbytery of Central Cape: Inclusion of SATS as a tertiary institution for the training of Ministers.

The Clerk moved that this Overture be dealt with after the Ministry Committee report. This was seconded and agreed.

PETITIONS

Petition 1: The Presbytery of Zimbabwe: Intent to form new Presbyteries and a Synod

The Clerk moved that this Petition be dealt after the report of the Assembly Standing Commission.

This was seconded and agreed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Assembly Business Convener, the Rev Charles Magagane, made announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator announced that the Executive Commission stands adjourned to meet again at 14h30. The meeting adjourned at 13h20.

CONFIRMED this _____ day of _____ 2026

MODERATOR

CLERK

SECOND SESSION – LISTENING

At Gateway Presbyterian Church, Kempton Park, within the bounds of the Highveld Presbytery, on Saturday 13th of June 2026 at 14h40, the Executive Commission reconvened.

The Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Amon Kasambala, called the Executive Commission to order. The Moderator called upon the Assembly Business Convener to outline the remaining business of the day. The Business Convener reminded the Executive Commission that it was now in a Listening Phase using the Consensus model of decision making.

GENERAL SECRETARY’S REPORT

The General Secretary, the Rev Dr. George Marchinkowski presented his report and moved:

1. The Assembly receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY CLUSTER

CHURCH OFFICE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The audio video recording was presented to the Commission by the Convener, the Rev. Awedzani Nemaikhwe.

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk moved the proposals that were Transactional:

2. The Executive Commission notes the progress made, at time of writing, for the recruitment of a new Clerk of Assembly.
3. The Executive Commission notes the process by which the Committee has reviewed the position of PEF Administrator and that this position has been advertised.
4. The Executive Commission notes that the Intern programme at the Central Office has been renewed for another year and welcomes Ms Mandisa Mbata to the role.
5. The Executive Commission notes the ongoing work on the request by senior members of the Central Office Staff for part-time appointments in Congregations.

Church Office and Human Resources Supplementary

1. The Executive Commission receives the Supplementary Report.

These were agreed by consensus.

AARP/COURT OF ASSEMBLY REPORT

The Convener of the Court of Assembly and Assembly Administrative Review Panel, the Rev. Mukondi Ramulondi presented the report via video recording.

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

The video recording was presented to the Commission by Mr Benny Boshielo, Convener of the Communications Committee.

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by Consensus.

The Clerk of Assembly moved those proposals that were Transactional:

3. The Executive Commission encourages Conveners of General Assembly Committees to regularly provide the Communications Committee with information and activities for publication.

This was agreed by consensus.

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION CLUSTER

FINANCE

The General Treasurer, Mr. Ryan Johnson, presented the report. The General Treasurer moved:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk of Assembly moved the proposals that were Transactional:

2. The Executive Commission notes the various financial schedules and reports.

4. The Executive Commission notes that Presbyteries that do not supply schedules detailing ministry contributions of their congregations prohibit congregations in that Presbytery from obtaining any form of financial assistance from the General Assembly.

5. The Executive Commission notes the report tabled under the Annexure on the Pele Property Development NPC and thanks Dr Langerman and all Directors involved for the work done.

6. The Executive Commission reminds all Presbyteries to assist congregations in transferring the properties and obtaining title deeds from their local municipal offices for properties still in the local municipality's name, into the General Assembly or congregation's name.

9. The Executive Commission notes that the Finance Committee will determine on a quarterly basis which congregations should fall into the "distressed" category and to notify the Pension Fund accordingly once the FSCA has approved this rule amendment of the fund.

10. The Executive Commission notes that the General Assembly will no longer be making contributions towards South African Minister's Pensions whose congregations in South Africa falls into a distressed state, and that Ministers of these congregations are communicated to regarding the risk and cover they no longer enjoy from the fund, once the FSCA has approved this rule amendment of the fund.

11. The Executive Commissions thanks the outgoing trustees and chairman of the South African Pension Fund for their dedication and years of service to the fund and welcomes the new trustees on board.
12. The Executive Commission notes the work done by the Presbytery of Zimbabwe in providing retirement benefits for its ministers.
13. The Executive Commission notes the work done by the Synod of Zambia in providing retirement benefits for its ministers.
14. The Executive Commission expresses thanks to the Investment Committee members.
15. The Executive Commission expresses thanks to those congregations in all countries who paid their Ministry Contributions during the past year.
16. The Executive Commission reminds all congregations in all countries of their obligation to pay Ministry Contributions to their Presbytery or Synod, and to the General Assembly.
20. The Executive Commission notes the reviewed annual financial statements of Sedibeng Trust for the year ended 31 December 2025.
22. The Executive Commission notes the work done by Guild Cottage and expresses thanks to all involved in its' operation.
23. The Executive Commission expresses thanks to the CFO and his finance team at the Central Office and all members of the Finance Committee.
- These were agreed by consensus.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Moderator advised the Council that there was a clinic set up at the Church Hall for commissioners to make use of when needed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator announced that the Assembly stands adjourned for tea to meet again at 17h20

CONFIRMED this _____ day of _____ 2026

MODERATOR

CLERK

THIRD SESSION – LISTENING

At Gateway Presbyterian Church, Kempton Park, within the bounds of the Highveld Presbytery, on Saturday 13th June 2026 at 17h20, the Executive Commission reconvened.

The Moderator, the Rev Dr Amon Kasambala, called the Executive Commission to order.

AUDIT

The audio recording was presented to the Commission by the Convener, Ms N Ngqungwana.

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by Consensus.

PENSIONS (UPCSAPF and PEPF)

The General Treasurer presented the report on behalf of the Chairman of Pension (UPCSAF and PEPF) committee.

The General Treasurer moved:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by Consensus.

The Clerk of Assembly moved the Proposals marked as Transactional:

2. The Executive Commission thanks the outgoing Trustees, in particular Mr A Wentzel.
3. The Executive Commission thanks the advisors and contractors to the Fund for the assistance given to the Trustees over the past period.

These were agreed by consensus.

MANUAL

The video recording was presented to the Commission by the Convener, the Rev Iain Kemp.

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk of Assembly moved the proposals that were Transactional:

2. The Executive Commission notes the committee's readiness to participate and attend to the matters of transnationality, discussions with the UCCSA and the Retirement of ministers.

7. The Executive Commission notes the amendment of replacing 'Assessments' with 'Ministry Contributions' in the Manual of Faith and Order.

These were agreed by consensus.

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMISSION

The Moderator requested the Clerk of Assembly to present the report.

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by Consensus.

The Clerk of Assembly moved the proposals that were Transactional:

2. The Executive Commission notes that the matter involving the Rev EJ Masikane and Msinga Congregation is now in the hands of the Presbytery.
 3. The Executive Commission notes that mediation between the JH Soga Memorial Synod and the Presbytery of Mthatha is ongoing.
 4. The Executive Commission instructs the ABC attend to all the areas of improvement as raised on the evaluation of the 2025 General Assembly to improve on future Assemblies.
 7. The Executive Commission notes the mediation taking place in the Central Cape Presbytery.
 8. The Executive Commission notes the mediation taking place between the Schools Trust and the Presbytery of Zimbabwe.
 9. The Executive Commission notes that the Moderator is engaged in mediation between the Presbytery of Drakensberg and the Glenbain congregation.
- These were agreed by consensus.

Assembly Standing Commission Supplementary

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

1. The Executive Commission receives Supplementary report.

This was agreed by consensus.

2. The Executive Commission notes the Interim report of the Special Commission to St Andrew's Henley on Klip attached as Appendix B(T).

This was agreed by consensus.

OVERTURE 1

Application for withdrawal from the JH Soga Memorial Synod

Preamble:

In the spirit of ecclesial integrity, communal restoration, and fidelity to the founding vision of the JH Soga Memorial Synod, the Tiyo Soga Memorial Presbytery hereby submits this overture for withdrawal for the purpose of inviting the General Assembly/Executive Commission's indulgency. This decision arises from sustained discernment, pastoral concern, and a commitment to the principles of transparency, accountability, and unity in Christ.

The JH Soga Memorial Synod was established to co-ordinate the collective voice and articulate the core values of its constituent Presbyteries. It was envisioned as a space of theological coherence, mutual accountability, and shared witness. However, the Synod has increasingly departed from this foundational purpose.

Resolution:

That the Tiyo Soga Memorial Presbytery formally withdraws its membership and participation from the JH Soga Memorial Synod. The Tiyo Soga Memorial Presbytery requested the following members to draft and submit the overture:

- Rev. X Mluma
- Rev. B Gobodo
- Elder FI Qithini

The Crave for Withdrawal

The Presbytery submits the following reasons as her crave for withdrawal:

1. Deviation from Founding Purpose:

The Synod has undergone a substantive shift away from its original mandate and theological vision, undermining the legacy it was established to uphold. It is therefore failing dismally from its fundamental existence.

2. Perpetuation of Division:

The Synod has become a site of persistent conflict and factionalism, often instigated or exacerbated by inadequate leadership and procedural breakdowns. The Synod is now being used as a battleground when matters are referred to it by the same Councils, which is spiritually demoralizing. Some members use the Synod to settle scores between each other.

3. Failure to Conduct Business:

Even in specially convened meetings, the Synod has demonstrated an inability to conclude its business in a manner that reflects order, discernment, and ecclesial responsibility.

4. Lack of Financial Accountability:

The Synod has failed to provide transparent and verifiable accounting for funds contributed by congregations within its constituent Presbyteries, raising serious concerns about stewardship and trust. The Synod is more expensive to maintain.

5. Undermining of Presbytery Cohesion:

The Synod's structures have become vulnerable to manipulation, enabling divisive actions within a member Presbytery that compromise its internal unity and erode its communal trust and pastoral mission. The Synod is not by far a unifying factor, but instead when debating issues divisions are more severe than unity. The disunity affects relationship and the level of hating each other is growing. The very same Presbyteries sometimes will ignore the existence of the Synod and will jump straight to the General Assembly.

6. Absence of Vision:

The Synod currently operates without a coherent theological or strategic vision, rendering its gatherings and decisions directionless and disconnected from the life of the church.

7. General Assembly Participation:

The Synod participation in our church structures is rather not clear. The representation of the Executive Commission and General Assembly, the recognition is not the same.

Conclusion:

This Overture is submitted as a clear and conscientious act of ecclesial responsibility. The Tiyo Soga Memorial Presbytery affirms its unwavering commitment to the healing of the church, the honouring of its prophetic heritage, and the restoration of trust among its members. Withdrawal from the JH Soga Memorial Synod is a necessary step toward safeguarding the integrity of our witness and renewing our vocation in Christ.

The Rev Gobodo and Ms Qithini who were appointed by the Tiyo Soga Presbytery to speak on the Overture motivated the Overture.

The Overture was sent for discussion in Insaka Groups.

PETITION

INTENT TO FORM NEW PRESBYTERIES AND A SYNOD

BACKGROUND

In 2015, the following decision was made by the UPCSA:

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.

Since that Executive Commission decision in 2015, the Presbytery of Zimbabwe has been working to figure out the best way to organize our UPCSA structures in Zimbabwe. The best way is perceived as one that would strengthen growth by facilitating the mission and ministry of the church effectively as well as strengthening the unity of the UPCSA within and beyond Zimbabwe. There have been a number of significant developments in that regard over the last ten years. These include:

Mission Enabling Commissions

After the 2015 decision the Presbytery of Zimbabwe divided itself into three geographical Districts, and appointed special Commissions such that each District is led by a Mission Enabling Commission made up of all Ministers and Presbytery Commissioners from the District.

The objective of setting these Districts up was to see if they can become Presbyteries. The Mission Enabling Commissions were granted some powers to enable them to oversee some of the life and work of the churches in their Districts. These delegated powers were mainly in the execution of the mission and ministry of the church in the relevant Districts with the Presbytery retaining judicial powers.

These Districts and their Mission Enabling Commissions were reviewed over the years as they were required to present Reports to the Ordinary meetings of the Presbytery.

Important information was obtained from the reviews on the life and work of the Mission Enabling Commissions that oversee the geographical Districts. Key information includes:

- a) Geographical expanse of each of the three Districts remains too vast for effective interactions by congregations. Long distances did not only stifle interactions by congregations, but they also affected the life of the various church Fellowships. It was observed that the cost of travel to meetings of the Mission Enabling Commissions was too high in terms of both money and time such that meaningful participation by members was hampered.
- b) Each of the Districts ended up organizing congregations into smaller Clusters that were effective for carrying out mission and ministry together. In all three Districts, the Mission Enabling Commissions reported that members find energy in more localized programs that are carried out by congregations at Cluster level
- c) Growth of the UPCSA in Zimbabwe is slowed down by negative aspects such as tribalism, dependency syndrome, lack of appreciation of contextual issues caused by lopsided transnationally binding decisions and policies as well as lukewarm spirituality.

Significant growth areas

Since the 2015 decision of the Executive Commission the Presbytery of Zimbabwe has seen a remarkable increase in the number of ordained ministers. One of the challenges that had been observed in trying to implement the decision of establishing two Presbyteries in Zimbabwe was that there were very few ministers in the country at that stage. The number of ministers has trebled since then.

The other development is that since 2015 we have seen a considerable increase in the number of congregations constituted in the Presbytery. We have close to ten new congregations that have been constituted.

Leadership Development

One of the effects of having the three Districts under Mission Enabling Commissions is that we were able to discover more people with leadership potential as opportunities to serve emerged in the districts. To add to that, several of our members have played significant roles in the denomination as well as in ecumenical organizations.

INTENTION

Considering the above, the Presbytery of Zimbabwe decided at its meeting in September 2025 to work towards establishing a Synod with multiple Presbyteries in Zimbabwe. The establishment of a Synod would ensure that the UPCSA has a platform to speak with one voice in the country while the various Presbyteries do the necessary work of serving and overseeing local congregations. The following is the Extract from the Minutes of the Presbytery meeting on 27 September 2025 at Highfield Presbyterian Church:

1. Presbytery resolves to petition the General Assembly for the constitution of the Synod of Zimbabwe at the end of 2027. Seconded and agreed
2. Appoint a Synod establishment Committee at this 27th September meeting and give it the following terms. (Names of the Committee members to be presented at the next Council meeting.)

- i) to review the current Mission Enabling Commissions and assess if they can be turned into Presbyteries.
 - ii) After reviewing Mission Enabling Commissions, draft boundaries for Presbyteries that will make up the Synod.
 - iii) Report and make recommendations to the 2026 February Administrative Council meeting.
3. Ensure that the necessary steps are taken for the General Assembly Executive Commission in 2026 to be appraised on the process to ensure the timely constitution of the Synod Zimbabwe. Seconded and agreed

PROPOSAL:

1. The Executive Commission notes the intention of the Presbytery of Zimbabwe to divide multiple Presbyteries and thereafter form a national Synod.

Ms. Siwela presented the petition from the Presbytery of Zimbabwe. The Clerk advised that since there was only a proposal to note that the Petition should be considered Transactional.

The Clerk moved that the crave of the Petition be granted.
This agreed by consensus.

WORSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE CLUSTER

WORSHIP

The Acting Convener, the Rev Mike Muller, presented the report via video recording.
The Clerk of Assembly moved

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk moved those proposals that are Transactional:

2. The Executive Commission conveys to the Rev. Lulama Mshumpela its thanks for his leadership as Convener of the Committee and its good wishes for his health.

This was agreed by consensus.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Convener, Dr. Nomzi Zibi-Hlope presented the report.

The Clerk of Assembly moved

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk moved those proposals that are Transactional:

2. The Executive Commission notes the GAHWC Activity Plan for the year 2026 attached as Annexure A.

3. The Executive Commission notes the GAHWC 2026 schedule of meetings attached as Annexure B.

4. The Executive Commission notes the effort of inter-committee collaboration underway with Church Fellowships Committee.

5. The Executive Commission encourages members of the UPCS with health sector skills and knowledge to be actively involved in health and wellness activities at

congregations and Presbyteries.
These were agreed by consensus.

PRIORITIES AND RESOURCES

The Convener, the Rev Sauros Phaika, presented the report by video clip.

The Clerk of Assembly moved

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk moved those proposals that were Transactional:

3. The Executive Commission notes the work of the P&R committee on the areas of financial sustainability, Gender Desk and on monitoring and evaluation tool.

4. The Executive Commission notes and encourages sustainable working relations between P&R and the Church Fellowships Committee.

5. The Executive Commission notes the work that the committee has done on the topic of Transnationality in the UPCS.

These were agreed by consensus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The business Convenor, Rev Charles Magagane, advised the Moderator that the Executive Commission had finished the business of the day. He made announcements regarding the programme for Sunday 14 June 2026.

CLOSING PRAYERS

The Moderator's chaplain, the Rev. Thomson Mkandawire, led with a word of prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

At 18h45, the Moderator announced that the Assembly stands adjourned until 09h00 on Sunday 14th June 2026.

CONFIRMED this _____ day of _____ 2026

MODERATOR

CLERK

FOURTH SESSION

At St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Benoni, within the bounds of the Highveld Presbytery, on Sunday 14 June 2026, at 09h00, the Ministers and Elders, as Commissioners of the Executive Commission appointed to meet this day, reconvened.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev Michelle Black, called the Executive Commission to worship. The congregation sang the processional hymn while the Clerk of Assembly carried the General Assembly Bible into the Church followed by Presbytery Moderators, the Moderator of the Synod of Zambia, former Moderators of the General Assembly, the Assembly Business Convener and the General Secretary processing into the sanctuary with the Moderator of General Assembly walking last of all.

GREETINGS AND WELCOME

The Moderator, the Rt. Rev Dr Amon Kasambala, greeted and welcomed all present and called upon the Rev Michelle Black to lead the Executive Commission in worship.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

The Moderator's Chaplain led the Executive Commission in the prayer of praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Moderator's Chaplain led the Executive Commission in the prayer of confession.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

The Moderator spoke the words of the assurance of grace.

IN MEMORIAM MINUTES

The Clerk of Assembly presented the In Memoriam Minutes for the following Ministers and Elders, who had died between the 2025 General Assembly and the 2026 Executive Commission:

Ministers:

The Rev. David Christie

The Rev. Allan Mchulu

The Rev. Malemela Charlie Mafokoane

The Rev. Matorofa Mutonganavo

Probationer: Ms Nozuko Dyosini

Elders: Mr Witboom

The Moderator lit candles in memory of the departed and led the Executive Commission in prayer.

PRAYERS OF ILLUMINATION AND THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev Michelle Black called upon the Rev Dr. Christopher Mkandawire, Former Moderator of the General Assembly to lead the Executive Commission in prayer.

The Rev Thomson Mkandawire read the Old Testament Scripture from Psalm 127:1– 2.

The Rev Edward Chirwa read the New Testament Scripture from Ephesians 4:1 - 16.

Elder Samkeliso Siwela read the second New Testament Scripture from Philippians 1:3 – 6.

The Rev Bongwiwe Ngebulana read the Gospel from John 17:20 – 26.

MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

The Moderator of the General Assembly delivered his address on the theme of "Partners in Mission –Build Bridges."

THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE

The Executive Commission confessed its faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

OFFERING

The offering was taken up by the Elders of St Andrew's and the Rev Mkondeleli Ramulondi, Former Moderator of the Assembly prayed for the offering.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Moderator led the Executive Commissioners in the celebration of the Holy Communion.

The Moderator invited the commissioners to the Executive Commission to stand and commit themselves to the Lord.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND PETITION

The Moderator led the Executive Commission in prayers of intercession and petition.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The General Secretary made announcements.

The Minister of St Andrew's, Benoni, the Rev Janco Mocke, welcomed the Executive Commission to St Andrew's.

The Moderator prayed for a congregant who had lost his wife during the preceding week.

ADJOURNMENT

The Executive Commission adjourned at 11h10, to meet for Insaka Groups at 12h00 at the Gateway Presbyterian Church, Kempton Park.

The Moderator pronounced the benediction and while the congregation sang the recessional hymn, the Clerk of Assembly carried the General Assembly Bible out of the Church followed by Moderator of the General Assembly walking first, the Assembly Business Convener and the General Secretary following with the former Moderators of the General Assembly, Moderator of the Synod of Zambia and the Presbytery Moderators processing into the sanctuary.

CONFIRMED this _____ day of _____ 2026

MODERATOR

CLERK

INSAKA GROUPS

At the Gateway Presbyterian Church, Kempton Park, within the bounds of Highveld Presbytery, on Sunday 14 June 2026, at 12h00 the Ministers and Elders as Commissioners of the Executive Commission appointed to meet this day, reconvened at their Insaka groups.

FIFTH SESSION

At the Gateway Presbyterian Church, Kempton Park, within the bounds of Highveld Presbytery, on Sunday 14 June 2026, at 16h30 the Ministers and Elders as Commissioners of the Executive Commission appointed to meet this day, reconvened in a Special Plenary Session entitled, "Sharing your story/Celebrating the life of the UPCSA."

A Moderator's banquet was held from 18h00 during which Mr Ronnie Maqubela and the Rev Vusi Mkhungo were honoured for their service to the UPCSA. Mr Maqubela retires on 30 September 2026 and the Rev Vusi Mkhungo comes to the end of his term on 30 September 2026.

SIXTH SESSION

At the Gateway Presbyterian Church, Kempton Park, within the bounds of the Highveld Presbytery, on Monday, 24th June 2026 at 09h00, the Ministers and Elders, as Commissioners of the Executive Commission appointed to meet this day, reconvened.

DECISION SESSION

The Moderator called upon the Business Committee Convener to lead the Executive Commission through the Agenda for the day.

The Drafting Committee raised a question before the Executive Commission regarding the consideration of additional proposals that had not been addressed in the submitted reports.

Following deliberation, the Executive Commission agreed, by Consensus, to permit the Drafting Committee to present all such additional proposals for consideration.

The General Secretary asked that his dissent be recorded in terms of para 14.34 and requested that the General Assembly review the Executive Commission's decision to allow Insaka Groups to add new proposals in their reports in terms of para 14.44 of the *Manual of Faith and Order*.

CHURCH OFFICE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Supplementary Report

The Clerk of Assembly moved the following proposals

1. The Executive Commission approves the appointment of Elder Malibongwe Gwele as Clerk of the General Assembly from 1 October 2026 with a hand-over process with the current Clerk of Assembly during the month of September 2026.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Executive Commission agreed to refer the following Additional proposals to the Church Office and Human Resources Committee:

1. The Executive Commission instructs the COHRC to table a plan of action targeted at intentionally addressing and actively monitoring the advancement of women and persons with disabilities at all levels of the denomination.
2. The Executive Commission resolves not to change the job description for the Clerk of the Assembly.
3. The Executive Commission instructs the Church Office & HR Committee to:
 - include the Salary package on the advert meaning the bracket
 - share the profiles of the top three candidates six months before the approving Assembly or Executive Commission.
 - start the process of filling a new vacancy a year before the contract expires.
4. To encourage the nominations committee to include people with HR skills in the committee.
5. The Executive Commission instructs the committee to make sure that the Salary notch to be fair without discriminating based on colour, gender, race, nationality etc. as well as an advert, needs to include salary notch, qualification, etc. Transparency needs to be exercised.

This was agreed by consensus.

COURT OF ASSEMBLY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PANEL

The Clerk moved the following proposals

2. The Executive Commission instructs the AARP to develop structured awareness programmes for all Sessions, Presbyteries, and Synods with specific emphasis on compliance with established administrative procedures as per the *Manual of Faith and Order*, and the consistent application of the principles of natural justice, including fairness, impartiality, and the right to be heard.

This was agreed by consensus.

3. The Executive Commission:
 - (i) encourages the Manual Committee in collaboration with the AARP, to develop a clear, uniform, and accessible guideline governing the lodging and adjudication of applications for review within Sessions, Presbyteries, and Synods, and for the proper conduct of disciplinary proceedings, ensuring procedural fairness and transparency.
 - (ii) instructs the AARP to report at the next General Assembly.

This was agreed by consensus.

4. The Executive Commission:
 - (i) instructs all Church Courts to maintain accurate, complete, and secure records of all proceedings; and provide written reasons of decisions in all matters, such reasons to be sufficiently detailed to demonstrate fairness, accountability, and due process.
 - (ii) instructs the AARP to report at the next General Assembly.

This was agreed by consensus.

5. The Executive Commission instructs the AARP in conjunction with the Manual Committee to develop a standardized procedural training manual, which shall promote uniformity and practice across the Church; serve as an authoritative guide for office bearers; strengthen accountability, transparency, and good order in all ecclesial processes, and submit to the General Assembly in 2027 for approval.

This was agreed by consensus.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk of Assembly moved the following proposals:

2. The Executive Commission amends the Communications Committee's Terms of Reference to include media monitoring and protection of Church symbols.

This was agreed by consensus.

4. The Executive Commission instructs the Clerk of Assembly to circulate the proposal on the identification of languages in our four countries earmarked for translation to Presbyteries for consultation and comments by 31 July with responses by 30 September 2026.

This was agreed by consensus.

5. The Executive Commission approves the interim guidelines on the use of Church symbols and logo for implementation until the development of the policy and the patenting process is complete and permanent guidelines are completed and approved.

This was agreed by consensus.

FINANCE

The Clerk of Assembly moved the following proposals:

2. The Executive Commission:
 - a) reminds Presbyteries to submit up-to-date reports on non-contributory congregations with reasons for non-compliance, by 31st August 2026
 - (b) instructs the Finance Committee to explore the model of the GA assessing Presbyteries for Ministry Contributions and report to GA 2027.

This was agreed by consensus.

7. The Executive Commission
 - a) 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 31st August 2026, together with a letter stating they will not sell their property without the consent of both the Presbytery and the General Assembly Finance Committee.
 - b) instructs the Finance Committee to submit a register/inventory of all properties, indicating whether they are in the name of the congregation or the UPCS in line with the *Manual of Faith and Order*.
 - c) instructs Presbyteries and congregations to verify that all properties within their boundaries are registered in the name of the Church.

This was agreed by consensus.

8. The Executive Commission 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 the 31st August 2026.

This was agreed by consensus.

17. The Executive Commission expresses thanks to the expense task team for the work done, and notes the recommendations and improvements made.

This was agreed by consensus.

18. The Executive Commission approves the Audited Financial Statements for the 12 months of the 2025 financial year-end (30 June 2025).

This was agreed by consensus.

19. The Executive Commission appoints CM and Associates Inc. as auditors for the 2026-2027 financial year.

This was agreed by consensus.

21. The Executive Commission approves the budget for the 2027 financial year (01 July 2026 to 30 June 2027), endorsing the need for more stringent financial controls at all levels.

This was agreed by consensus.

Additional Proposal:

1. The Executive Commission instructs that the GA Moderator be empowered to request at his discretion access to funds over and above budget where required and a report be maintained where such additional funds were and were not granted.

This was agreed by consensus.

2. The Executive Commission noting that the Pele Property Development NPC, which is a business model of the UPCSA, its operations and functions are not fully understood, resolves that:
- (i) Its operations be held in abeyance until 2027 General Assembly;
 - (ii) Establishes a Commission of Enquiry to provide a full disclosure on:
 - (a) the formation and functioning of the Pele Property Development NPC,
 - (b) the powers of PELE in relation to properties of the UPCSA;
 - (iii) The Commission of Enquiry to report on its work to the 2027 General Assembly; and
 - (iv) instructs the Nominations Committee to bring nominations of members to serve on this Commission.

This was agreed by consensus.

MANUAL

The Clerk of Assembly moved the following proposals:

3. The Executive Commission amends paragraphs 6.82 and 6.83(b) as follows:

- 6.82 When the Congregation is dissolved, all its assets vest in the Presbytery. The Presbytery uses the assets to satisfy the debts and liabilities of the Congregation. Any remaining assets remain vested in the Presbytery. Note: The congregation's immovable properties, whether in the name of the congregation or the UPCSA, cannot be sold without prior approval from the Finance Committee of General Assembly with the nett proceeds from the sale being divided equally between the General Assembly and the Presbytery. See para 9.4.2.
- 6.83(b) that the work in the former Congregation shall cease and all its assets shall vest in the Presbytery and the Presbytery shall use such assets to satisfy the debts and liabilities of the Congregation. Any assets which remain shall be retained by the Presbytery and used, or disposed of, and the proceeds thereof used, for the purposes of its work. Note: The congregation's immovable properties, whether in the name of the congregation or the UPCSA, cannot be sold without prior approval from the Finance Committee of General Assembly with the nett proceeds from the sale being divided equally between the General Assembly and the Presbytery. See para 9.4.2.

This was agreed by consensus.

4. The Executive Commission amends paragraph 4.2.1 of the Standing Orders as follows:

- 4.2.1. The Nominations Committee Process shall be as:
- (a) The Convener of the Nominations Committee corresponds by e-mail or other suitable electronic means with the members appointed to it by the General which consists of one member per Presbytery. The committee meets using a virtual meeting platform. Together they decide before the end of May which Conveners of Assembly committees should continue in office, bearing in mind Assembly's decision about length of tenure. The Convener ascertains from current Conveners who are otherwise due to retire in terms of that decision, whether there are good reasons for them to continue in office.
 - (b) The Convener of the Nominations Committee contacts all Committee Conveners, whom the committee thinks should continue in office by **15th**

April, requesting them to let him/her have, by **15th May**, the names of those they wish to be members of their committees.

- (c) The committee compiles a preliminary report. The Convener sends this to all members of the Committee by **31st May**.
- (d) All members of the Committee comment to the Convener on the report by **15th June**.
- (e) The Convener compiles a first draft report for the Assembly and submits that for printing in the Supplementary Papers. He/she tables this without discussion on the Sunday of the Assembly and requests commissioners to communicate comments on it to him/her.
- (f) The Nominations Committee meets virtually during Assembly to consider the first draft and amends it in light of information and comments from Assembly commissioners made directly to the Convener. The Convener then presents the second draft on the Tuesday of the Assembly and the final report.

This was agreed by consensus.

5. The Executive Commission amends paragraphs 12.13, 14.15, 18.32.3 and 18.32.4 of the Manual of Faith and Order as follows:

Election of the Moderator (Chap.12 pg. 3)

12.13 (c) If on any ballot¹ a candidate receives more than half the votes cast, he/she is elected. If not, the name of the candidate with the fewest votes falls away and a new vote is taken with the remaining names on the ballot. In cases where two or more candidates each receive the fewest number of votes, the Assembly decides whether the names of all those candidates fall away or an intermediate vote is taken to decide which name falls away.

- (d) If more than one vote is necessary, after the first vote the names of the remaining candidates will be listed on the ballot in the order of the one who has received the most votes, to be listed first, to the one who has received the least votes. The number of votes each candidate received in the previous vote will be listed next to his/her name. The Clerk of the Assembly will inform the losing candidate(s), if present at the meeting, immediately after the result of each vote is known. If a candidate is not present at the meeting the Clerk informs him/her of the outcome of the voting as soon as possible after the final result is known.

D COURT OF ASSEMBLY ELECTION, we amend adding or paper after widget, that is it should be widget or paper.

¹ **Ballot** refers to the object of voting (either the electronic widget (primarily) or paper)

Voting for appointments to fill vacancies (Chap. 14 pg. 5)

14.15 The Moderator decides whether voting will be by show of hands or by ballot¹. Counting is to be done by persons appointed by the Moderator, or, in the case of a ballot, by at least two persons appointed by the Council.

¹ **Ballot** refers to the object of voting (either the electronic widget (primarily) or paper)

THE COURT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (Chap.18 pg.8 & 9)

18.32.3 i. Voting is by Secret Ballot¹.

ii. Voting will be done through the electronic widget. The electronic widget will display the list of the nominees, both from Presbyteries and those nominated from the floor of Assembly.

iii. In instances where the Moderator determines the need to use physical ballot paper the following procedure will apply: When the election takes place, the Clerk gives each Commissioner a ballot paper containing a list of the nominees of Presbyteries, plus a list of those nominated from the floor of the Assembly. The ballot paper containing the list stipulates the number of persons to be elected and states that each of the Commissioners has that number of votes, only one being allowed for each candidate. Anyone who votes for more than the required number, or gives more than one vote to any one candidate, spoils the ballot paper. Spoilt ballot papers are discarded.

18.32.4 i. After the first vote those who received more than half of the votes cast are declared to have been elected.

ii. If there are some positions not yet filled the names of all those who on the first ballot received twenty percent or fewer of the votes cast fall away. A second ballot is prepared as in the election of the Moderator Designate (see para 12.13) and a second vote is taken. Those who receive more than half the votes cast in the vote are declared to have been elected.

iii. If there are still some positions to be filled the number to be filled is announced and a third ballot as in the election of the Moderator-Designate is prepared. The names it contains are those of the persons who on the second vote came closest to more than half the votes cast, the number of names in the third vote being twice the number of positions still to be filled. All the other names on the second ballot fall away.

iv. If nominations are less than, or equal in number to, the number of vacancies the ballot will contain each nominee's name. Only those that receive more than half the votes cast are declared to be elected.

¹ **Ballot** refers to the object of voting (either the electronic widget (primarily) or paper)
This was agreed by consensus.

6. The Executive Commission removes paragraph 16.105 under the 'Long Leave Fund' (Chap 16 Pg.34) section and instructs congregations to budget for pulpit supply.

This was agreed by consensus.

THE ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMISSION

The Clerk of Assembly moved the following proposals:

5. The Executive Commission adopts the report of the Special Commission to Mahwelereng as published in Appendix A.

This was agreed by consensus.

6. The Executive Commission instructs the ABC and Communications Committees to develop a policy regarding the recording, editing and distribution of General Assembly and Executive Commission proceedings.

This was agreed by consensus.

OVERTURE 1

It was moved that Overture 1 be referred to the Assembly Standing Commission and the ASC was instructed to report to the 2027 General Assembly.

This was agreed by consensus.

WORSHIP

The Clerk of Assembly moved the following proposals:

3. The Executive Commission adopts the following revised documents,
(a) *The Christian Festivals: their Colours and their Celebration* and
(b) *How Can We Be More Effective Preachers? A Questionnaire for Feedback on Preaching*, and instructs the Clerk of Assembly to send them to all Presbytery Clerks for them to distribute to all the ministers and probationers in their Presbyteries.

This was agreed by consensus.

4. The Executive Commission instructs the Clerk of Assembly to send the document, *The Art of Marriage*, to all Presbytery Clerks for them to distribute to all the ministers in their Presbyteries for the ministers for use in the way described in the Report.

This was agreed by consensus.

5. The Executive Commission instructs the Clerk of Assembly to
 - a) replace the old versions of the documents in proposal 3 on the UPCS website with the revised versions; and
 - b) to place the document on *The Art of Marriage* on the website with a note that it is for use in premarital counselling and for couples to frame and hang up in their bedrooms, should they wish to do so.

This was agreed by consensus.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Clerk of Assembly moved the following proposal:

6. The Executive Commission encourages congregations who have the capacity to do so, to establish Health and Wellness Committees.

This was agreed by consensus.

PRIORITIES AND RESOURCES

The Clerk of Assembly moved the following proposals:

2. The Executive Commission
 - a) approves the timeline for the review process for Mission Priorities as outlined;
 - b) approves the proposed questions for the survey.

This was agreed by consensus.

6. The Executive Commission
 - a) notes the progress of the P&R committee in the area of transnationality.
 - b) instructs the Committee to continue consultation and dialogue between Presbyteries and Fellowships on the matter of transnationality.

This was agreed by consensus.

7. The Executive Commission instructs Presbyteries to meaningfully participate in consultations and engagements in the area of transnationality.

This was agreed by consensus.

8. The Executive Commission instructs the Manual Committee to undertake a review of Chapter 20 of the *Manual of Faith and Order* with a view to investigating whether it might serve as a viable legal outline for a Chapter on National Synods in the UPCSA and whether Chapter 11 may not, as a result, fall away.

This was agreed by consensus.

9. The Executive Commission

(a) endorses the proposed consultation on Transnationality which will deliberate on possible structural change in the UPCSA, shaping the denomination to more appropriately reflect its transnational nature, and;

(b) instructs the Priorities and Resources Committee to bring a proposal out of the outcomes of the consultation to the 2027 General Assembly for discussion.

This was agreed by consensus.

10. The Executive Commission approves the roll out of the Marketing and Advocacy slides and instructs the Communications Committee to ensure the dissemination thereof.

This was agreed by consensus.

Adjournment

At 10h39 the meeting was adjourned for tea to resume at 11h00.

CONFIRMED

this _____ day of _____ 2026

MODERATOR

CLERK

EIGHTH SESSION

At Gateway Presbyterian Church, Kempton Park, within the bounds of the Highveld Presbytery, on Monday 15th June 2026 at 14h00, the Executive Commission reconvened.

LISTENING

The following reports were listened to:

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

The Convener, the Rev Dr George Marchinkowski, presented the report through video recording.

The Convener moved:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk moved the proposals that were Transactional:

2. The Executive Commission commends participation in the Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ), the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), and the South African Council of Churches (SACC) and thanks the representatives for their work on behalf of the UPCSA.
3. The Executive Commission notes the report on the General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches which took place in October 2025 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and thanks the delegation for their meaningful participation.
4. The Executive Commission notes that the Church Unity Commission will meet from 21 to 23 July 2026 in Durban and affirms the delegation as appointed by the Ecumenical Relationships Committee.
6. The Executive Commission celebrates the UPCSA's relationship with the Council for World Mission, calls on members in eGoli, Tshwane and Highveld Presbyteries to attend the CWM Anniversary Service on Sunday 19 July 2026 and affirms the work of the Ecumenical Relationships Committee to make opportunities available for all Presbyterians to take part in CWM programmes such as Training in Mission, the Academic Accompaniment Programme and other programmes.
7. The Executive Commission encourages the Priorities and Resources Committee to facilitate a review of the UPCSA's Mission Priorities so as to ready the UPCSA for applications for Grants under CWM's MSP (5) programme.

These proposals were agreed by consensus.

JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE WITH THE UCCSA

The General Secretary presented the report on behalf of the Convener.

The General Secretary moved:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report

This was agreed by consensus.

ETHICS AND DISCIPLINE

The Convener, the Rev Allan Nyoni, presented the report via video recording.

The Clerk of Assembly moved

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

TASK TEAM ON HOMOSEXUALITY

The Convener, the Rev Wayne van Heerden, presented the video report .

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

The Convener, Elder Gloria Spelman, presented the report via video recording.

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk of Assembly moved the proposals that were transactional:

2. The Executive Commission notes that the CiS Committee has conducted an in-person Strategic planning session.
10. The Executive Commission notes the appointment of Ms. Mpotseng Thema & Kelebogile Maketa to the South African Council of Church Eco Justice Desk.

These proposals were agreed by consensus.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIPS

The Convener, the Rev Thabani Masikane, presented the report via video recording.

The Convener moved:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report

This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk moved the proposals that were transactional:

2. The Executive Commission notes that all decisions taken in the 2025 General Assembly have been attended to and they are work in progress.
3. The Executive Commission applauds the FOM for the legacy project conducted during the 2025 conference in Limpopo.
4. The Executive Commission encourages Presbyteries to support the concept of the festival introduced by the FCCM.

These proposals were agreed by consensus.

The Executive Commission adjourned for the afternoon tea break at 16h00.

NINTH SESSION

At the Gateway Presbyterian Church, Kempton Park, within the bounds of the Highveld Presbytery, on Monday, 24th June 2026 at 16h30, the Ministers and Elders, as Commissioners of the Executive Commission appointed to meet this day, reconvened.

LISTENING SESSION

MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP

The Convener, the Rev Richard Mkandawire, presented the report via video recording.

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report

This was agreed by consensus.

MINISTRY

The Convener, the Rev Mautji Pataki, presented the report via video recording.

The Clerk of Assembly moved

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk moved those proposals that are transactional:

2. The Executive Commission notes the students currently enrolled in Institutions of higher learning.
3. The Executive Commission notes the status of probationers.
4. The Executive Commission urges Congregations and Presbyteries to facilitate and support the placement of probationers who have not yet been placed.
5. The Executive Commission notes that the matter concerning the Rev Eric Masikane remains unresolved.
10. The Executive Commission notes the efforts made to fill the Sedibeng House of Studies as a short-term measure.
11. The Executive Commission:
 - (a) notes the successful hosting of the Trauma Counselling Bootcamp and
 - (b) encourages ministers to give serious consideration to participating in these refresher courses, which are intended to empower all ministers of the UPCSA.

Ministry Supplementary report:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
5. The Executive Commission receives and notes the verbal report of the Convener on the outcomes of the 2026 Discernment Conference.
6. The Executive Commission grants the Ministry Committee additional time to undertake further consultation with Ministers, the Finance Committee, and other relevant stakeholders regarding Ministers' Travel Allowance, and that the Committee bring a comprehensive report and recommendations to the 2027 General Assembly.

These proposals were agreed by consensus.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Convener, the Rev Ndimpiwe Qupuna, presented the report via video recording.

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Clerk moved the proposals that were transactional:

2. The Executive Commission notes that the Pholela High School Principal has retired with effect from the end of January 2026.
3. The Executive Commission notes that the problem of electricity at Pholela has been resolved with the installation of Solar Panels.
4. The Executive Commission notes that the Education and Training Committee will undertake an investigation, in consultation with the General Secretary, into the relationship between the Pholela High School and the KZN Department of Education regarding the alleged Memorandum of understanding by the late Rev Chunky Young and will also investigate payment of rentals and report to the 2027 General Assembly.
5. The Executive Commission notes and commends the work that is being done by the Presbytery of Limpopo Education and Training in the development of Children's Ministry.
6. The Executive Commission notes and commends the active involvement of the Presbytery of Limpopo in the running of the Gooldville Mission School.
11. The Executive Commission notes with appreciation the contributions made by the Cook Family and the Robert Niven Trust.
12. The Executive Commission notes with appreciation that the Tiyo Soga Memorial Presbytery's Congregations has already enacted the resolution by the 2025 General Assembly, that each Congregation to donate a minimum of R 1 000.
13. The Executive Commission reminds congregations that PEF Sunday was on 7 June 2026 and that they should remit the Special Offerings taken to the PEF Account as soon as possible.
14. The Executive Commission encourages the UPCSA Fellowships and individuals to make donations towards PEF.

The Rev Philani Mbanjwa moved that proposal 4 be made missional. This was agreed by consensus.

The rest of the proposals were agreed by consensus.

DOCTRINE

The Convener, the Rev Judith Mkandawire, presented the report via video recording.

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

2. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Moderator called upon the Rev Wayne van Heerden to report on the engagement between members of the Adhoc Committee on Confessions of Faith, the Gender Desk, the movers of Notice of Motion 1 and the Doctrine Committee that had taken place under the leadership of Moderator in an effort to find a workable solution to the conflict between the proposals of the Committee and the views of the other parties. The request was that the Executive Commission grant time to the Committee to continue this engagement with all the stakeholders and hold the current report proposals and report to the 2027 General Assembly.

The Clerk of Assembly moved that the Executive Commission allow the committee to withdraw the proposals of the Doctrine Committee and grant time to the committee for more engagement with all the relevant stakeholders.
This was agreed by consensus.

NOTICE OF MOTION 1

The mover of Notice of Motion 1 withdrew the proposal of which he had given notice with the permission of the Executive Commission.
This was agreed by consensus.

NOMINATIONS

The Convener, Elder Siyanda Mqalo, presented the committee's final report.

The Executive Commission instructed the Nominations Committee to be sensitive to the transnational nature of our denomination when appointing Committee Conveners.

ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 18h24, to meet again at 08h15 on Tuesday the 16th June 2026.

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev Michelle Black, led the Executive Commission in the closing prayer.

CONFIRMED

this _____ day of _____ 2026

MODERATOR

CLERK

THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17TH EXECUTIVE COMMISSION

At Gateway Presbyterian Church, Kempton Park, within the bounds of Highveld Presbytery, on Tuesday 16th of June 2026 at 08h15, Commissioners of the 2026 Executive Commission appointed to meet this day, convened.

MORNING DEVOTIONS

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Thomson Mkandawire, welcomed those present at 09h02. He opened with prayer and read from Isaiah 26:23.

The Moderator announced that the next Insaka Sessions could commence now and after morning tea, at 11h30.

The Insaka Groups met.

TENTH SESSION

At Gateway Presbyterian Church, Kempton Park, within the bounds of Highveld Presbytery, on Tuesday 16th June 2026 at 14h00, Commissioners of the 2026 Executive Commission reconvened for a Special Session to launch the fiftieth anniversary of the ordination of women to the ministry of the Word and sacraments.

A Celebration Service was held led by the Rev Fezeka Jobela. Various persons participated. A keynote address was given by the Rt Rev Dr Vicentia Kgabe, the Anglican Diocesan Bishop of Pretoria.

The Moderator concluded proceedings and pronounced the benediction.

A high tea in honour of women in ministry was held at 15h00.

ELEVENTH SESSION

At Gateway Presbyterian Church, Kempton Park, within the bounds of Highveld Presbytery, on Tuesday 16th of June 2026 at 17h00, Commissioners of the 2026 Executive Commission reconvened.

DECISION SESSION

The Moderator welcomed all the Commissioners and opened the session with prayer.

APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The Clerk of Assembly announced that the following commissioners requested leave of absence for Wednesday 17 June 2026:

- (1) The General Secretary for the last two Sessions of the Executive Commission to attend a meeting (as part of a SACC delegation) at the Union Buildings with the President of the Republic of South Africa.
- (2) Elder Ryan Johnson to meet his flight requirements as he was travelling abroad.
- (3) The Rev Mziwonke Goba for an early flight departure.
- (4) Elder Overs Banda for an early flight departure.

These applications were approved.

The Assembly Business Convenor announced that the Executive Commission would now consider two official statements, a response to the UCCSA (Notice of Motion 3) and a Youth Day Statement to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of 16th of June 1976.

NOTICE OF MOTION 3

The General Secretary read the following message of response to the UCCSA which had been requested in Notice of Motion 3:

Message to the United Congregational Church in Southern Africa (UCCSA)

The Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa, meeting as the Executive Commission, in Kempton Park, South Africa, from 13 to 17 June 2026 received the message of our ecumenical partner, the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) which was compiled in your September 2025 Executive meeting.

We join you in affirming the call of Christ for the Church to be one. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians calls us to: *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace* (4: 3) and he encourages the Corinthians: *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ* (1 Cor. 12:12). We are indeed one body and our two churches have walked together through generations now.

Thank you for your warm response to our invitation to exploring union together. We acknowledge that this has been a common goal for many years and indeed we have much in common, serving together in the regional and world ecumenical bodies, having congregations that are United (Presbyterian & Congregational) and some living a greater unity within the Church Unity Commission. This has indeed provided a foundation for further engagement. We stand ready to explore further together.

Let us now begin in earnest then as you suggest by having a meeting of officers. In addition, we have elected a committee – the Joint Liaison Committee – which may explore deeper ways of working together in mutually beneficial areas such as Church in Society, Mission and Discipleship, and Ministry. We may also explore closer working relationships in Zimbabwe and South Africa where both denominations are active.

We welcome your openness to “rekindle dialogue with us in a spirit of mutual respect, faithfulness to the Gospel, and openness to the leading of the Holy Spirit.” We are grateful for your companionship. There are so many challenges in Southern Africa today – political, economic and otherwise. We believe we may benefit from trying to face these together.

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

(Ephesians 3: 20 & 21)

Your sisters and brothers in the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa
Tuesday 16 June 2026

It was proposed that the message of response to the UCCSA be adopted by the Executive Commission.

This was agreed by consensus.

NOTICE OF MOTION 2

The General Secretary, the Rev. Dr. George Marchinkowski, presented the Motion of which he had given notice on ministers who are to be formally retired from the Uniting Presbyterian Church upon reaching retirement age.

1. The Executive Commission grants the Rev Barbara Anne Hoy permission to retire on 30 April 2026, grants her the status of minister emeritus, and a seat on the Presbytery in which she resides.

This was agreed by consensus.

2. The Executive Commission grants the Rev Malungelo Jita permission to retire on 30 June 2026, grants him the status of minister emeritus, and a seat on the Presbytery in which he resides.

This was agreed by consensus.

3. The Executive Commission grants the Rev Kholekile Pezisa permission to retire on 31 May 2026, grants her the status of minister emeritus, and a seat on the Presbytery in which she resides.

This was agreed by consensus.

4. The Executive Commission notes that the Rev Anthony Bartlett, who was serving Vryberg United Church in the Presbytery of Lekoa, resigned as a Presbyterian minister on 30 November 2023 and is no longer a minister of the UPCSA.

This was agreed by consensus.

A statement commemorating June 16th was read by Mr Sonwabo Khumalo, President of the Highveld Presbytery Fellowship of Youth.

The Clerk moved the adoption of the following statement:

Statement on the 50th Anniversary of the 16 June 1976 uprisings

"CALLED AND SET APART FOR GOD'S PURPOSE IN A TIME SUCH AS THIS"

As we gather at this Executive Commission of the UPCSA during this significant year of remembrance and celebration, the UPCSA joins the nation in commemorating the youth of 1976, marking fifty years since the historic uprising that forever changed the course of South Africa's history. We do so with gratitude to God for the courage, conviction, and sacrifice of a generation of young people who responded to the demands of their time.

The youth of 1976 were ordinary young people who found themselves in extraordinary circumstances. Faced with injustice, inequality, and oppression, they refused to remain silent. They recognized that history had placed a responsibility upon their shoulders, and they courageously answered that call. Their actions remind us that young people are not merely the leaders of tomorrow, they are agents of transformation today.

As the Church reflects on this legacy, we are reminded of the words spoken to Esther:

"for if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who know but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this." (Esther 4:14)

Today, fifty years after the event, the context has changed, but our calling remains. The youth of 2026 are not called to confront the same political realities faced by the youth of 1976. Instead, they face different challenges:

spiritual apathy, unemployment, social fragmentation, violence, substance abuse, mental health struggles, poverty, and the growing disconnect between faith and public life. These challenges demand the same courage, conviction, and commitment that characterized the generation of 1976.

The ideology of the youth of 1976 was rooted in the pursuit of freedom, dignity, justice, and equality. Their struggle sought to restore humanity where it had been denied. Likewise, the mission of the Church's youth today is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which calls us to proclaim freedom to the oppressed, hope to the discouraged, and reconciliation to a divided world. The methods may differ, but the pursuit of transformation remains the same.

Just as the youth of 1976 refused to be side-lined from shaping the future of their nation, so too must the UPCSA refuse to side-line young people from shaping its present and future witness.

As the UPCSA, we commemorate fifty years since 1976 and we honour the sacrifices of those who came before us, not merely through remembrance, but through a commitment to action. Their legacy challenges today's generation to rise above complacency and embrace their divine calling. We honour them when we use our voices to call for justice, become servants of peace, witnesses to Christ, and faithful partners in God's mission.

The youth of 1976 responded to the call of history. The youth of 2026 are called to respond to the call of God.

CALL TO ACTION

We begin by recognising young people as full members of the Body of Christ. The UPCSA commits its worship, ministry, and public witness to their empowerment, discipleship, and development into leaders and we affirm their indispensable role in the mission of God and the life of the Church.

WE URGE THE UPCSA to:

1. Launch intentionally safe sanctuaries for spiritual formation, mentorship, and vocational discernment, enabling young people to grow in faith, leadership, and their participation in God's mission.
2. Promote educational advancement through offering financial assistance to the UPCSA youth, skills development, and employment-readiness initiatives.
3. Advocate for and safeguard the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of children and young people, addressing the challenges of violence, abuse, poverty, substance dependency, and hopelessness that threaten their flourishing.

4. Create opportunities for meaningful youth participation in the life, witness, governance, and mission of the UPCS, recognising young people not merely as the future of the Church but as active partners in ministry today.

5. Speak against injustice and champion policies and practices that uphold the dignity, rights, and God-given potential of all young people.

In so doing, the UPCS bears faithful witness to Christ's call to nurture, equip, and empower the next generation for lives of discipleship, service, and transformative leadership in Church and society.

May God bless the youth of our Church.

May God bless the youth of Zambia, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Africa.

And may God grant us grace to faithfully answer His call in this generation.

"Called and set apart for God's purpose in a time such as this."

This was agreed by consensus.

DECISION SESSION

The Moderator called upon the chairperson of the drafting team, the Rev. LL Qina to present the proposals:

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

5. The Executive Commission:
 - a) approves the Revised Covenant of the CUC as attached as Appendix A.
 - b) sends the revised covenant of the CUC to Presbyteries and congregations for noting and information.

This was agreed by consensus.

UPCS JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE WITH THE UCCSA

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

2. The Executive Commission refers to the Ecumenical Relationships Committee the matter of the intention of an organic union mentioned in the statement of the UCCSA, and guide on whether it is in line with the mandate given at the UPCS GA 2025.

This was agreed by consensus.

ETHICS AND DISCIPLINE

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

2. The Executive Commission cautions Ministers, lay leaders, and members on the use of Artificial Intelligence.

This was defeated by consensus and fell way.

3. The Executive Commission cautions ministers, lay leaders, and members on the use of Artificial Intelligence and instructs them to understand the proper use of Artificial Intelligence.

This was agreed by consensus.

4. The Executive Commission encourages congregations to:
 - a) adopt schools within their precincts as part of their mission to integrate faith and learning;
 - b) nurture character formation, moral development, and holistic growth among learners with sensitivity and respect for the presence of other faith groups within schools.

This was agreed by consensus.

5. The Executive Commission urges Sessions and Presbyteries to openly speak out against child abuse at Church, home and in schools.

This was agreed by consensus.

6. The Executive Commission urges Ministers, lay leaders and members to make financial decisions with spiritual values in mind.

This was agreed by consensus.

Additional Proposal

7. The Executive Commission instructs the Ethics and Discipline committee to develop child safeguarding policies to be adopted in all our congregations.

This was agreed by consensus.

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

3. The Executive Commission instructs all Presbyteries to submit the names of their Conveners as corresponding members to the GA CiS committee.

This was agreed by consensus.

4. The Executive Commission notes and endorses the Theme of the CiS committee intended to guide its focus.

This was agreed by consensus.

5. The Executive Commission acknowledges and endorses the contribution of the Presbyteries' exam prayers offered by the congregations that contributed to the pass rate in South Africa and encourages other Presbyteries who haven't started to conduct the same.

This was agreed by consensus.

6. The Executive Commission encourages congregations in the UPCS to empower children about the impact of corruption, dishonesty and cheating, to build an ethical UPCS membership. This should be included starting from the Sunday School up to the confirmation class teaching.

This was agreed by consensus.

7. The Executive Commission thanks the Amathole Presbytery for submitting its reports and encourages all other Presbyteries to submit their reports too.

This was agreed by consensus.

8. The Executive Commission

- (a) instructs the committee to include the gender desk programmes in their 3year plan.
- (b) instructs the Clerk of Assembly to circulate the updated strategy with three specific focus areas, together with Addendum A to all Synods & Presbyteries;
- (c) encourages the implementation and awareness of the plan with its three focus areas of Eco-Justice in Synods, Presbyteries, and Fellowships.

This was agreed by consensus.

9. The Executive Commission acknowledges and endorses the advocacy work done by the UPCSA in environmental remediation and health, economic relief and job creation, infrastructure, urban development and planning, in social and developmental support.

This was agreed by consensus.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIPS

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

5. The Executive Commission reaffirms the membership of Presidents/Secretaries of all the Fellowships to the Church Fellowships committee and resolves that this will also apply to Synod, Presbyteries, and congregations.

This was agreed by consensus.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The Moderator called upon the Commissioner from the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Rev. Kitobo Homer Kasongo to address the Executive Commission.

Mr Kasongo spoke about the humanitarian challenges faced by the people and congregations in the DRC.

The Rev. Mukondeleli Ramulondi requested permission to address the Executive Commission, which was granted. The Rev. Ramulondi urged the Executive Commission to take a retiring offering to be handed over to the brothers and sisters in the DRC church.

The Moderator asked the Executive Commission to respond to the proposal, and it was agreed by consensus.

The Executive Commission resolved that a statement of sympathy with foreign nationals be drafted. The Rev. Mukondi Ramulondi was instructed to draft the statement. The statement was to be presented in the final decision-making session.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Moderator requested the Rev. S. Gordon to make announcements regarding an offering to assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo Presbytery in addressing the challenges they are facing.

The Rev. Stewart Gordon reported that a special offering would be collected on Tuesday 17 June 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

At 18h25, the Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Thomson Mkandawire, led the closing service and requested the Rev. Judith Mkandawire to close in prayer.

The Moderator adjourned the session at 18h30.

CONFIRMED this _____ day of _____ 2026

MODERATOR

CLERK

THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17TH EXECUTIVE COMMISSION

THIRTEENTH SESSION

At Gateway Presbyterian Church, Kempton Park, within the bounds of Highveld Presbytery, on Wednesday 17th June 2026 at 08h15, Commissioners of the 2026 Executive Commission appointed to meet this day, met.

MORNING DEVOTIONS

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Michelle Black, welcomed all Commissioners to the Executive Commission at 08h45 and opened with prayer.

DECISION SESSION

The Moderator called upon the Convener of the Drafting Team, the Rev. Luzuko Qina, to present the proposals from the Insaka Groups.

MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

2. The Executive Commission urges Presbyteries to hold a Going for Growth Retreat / Indaba / Workshop / Think Tank using the funds and materials provided by the Mission and Discipleship Committee, and report progress to the 2027 General Assembly.
This was agreed by consensus.

3. The Executive Commission urges Presbytery Mission & Discipleship Committees to develop a succession plan.
This was agreed by consensus.

MINISTRY

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

6. The Executive Commission adopts the report submitted on the 50-year celebration of the ordination of women.

This was agreed by consensus.

7. The Executive Commission notes the significant number of ministers from ecumenical partners joining ministry of the UPCSA and instructs the Ministry committee to produce a comprehensive report on this for submission to the 2027 General Assembly.

This was agreed by consensus.

8. The Executive Commission authorizes the Ministry committee to investigate the feasibility of selling Ministerial vestments through the Central Office and report to the 2027 GA.

This was agreed by consensus.

9. The Executive Commission resolves that on Reformation Sunday (last Sunday in October) every year, a Special Offering will be taken up in all congregations towards Ministry work and offering to be sent to the Central Office through Presbyteries.

This was agreed by consensus.

Ministry Supplementary

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

2. The Executive Commission affirms the existing position of the Church regarding the recognition of institutions of higher learning for the purposes of ministerial formation and theological education.

This was agreed by consensus.

3. The Executive Commission pastorally advises the Presbytery of Central Cape and the persons bringing the overture that the matter of SATS being recognized as a training institution of the UPCSA has been conclusively addressed by the Councils of the Church and ought not to be repeatedly resubmitted in the absence of compelling new grounds or materially changed circumstances.

This was agreed by consensus.

4. The Executive Commission reaffirms the mandate of the Ministry Committee, as provided for in Chapter 17 of the *Manual of Faith and Order*, to research, evaluate, and make recommendations to the General Assembly concerning institutions of higher learning utilized for ministerial formation within the UPCSA.

This was agreed by consensus.

OVERTURE 2

Central Cape Presbytery

Inclusion of SATS as a tertiary institution for the training of Ministers

The Central Cape Presbytery resolved to forward the above overture to the General Assembly, requesting the General Assembly to recognize the SATS as one of the recognized Theological Institutions. The Presbytery agreed to send the overture simpliciter. The Presbytery also resolved to appoint the Rev Rory Spence to speak on the matter.

The Executive Commission resolved that the Overture was incompetent.
This was agreed by consensus.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

4. The Executive Commission instructs:

- a) the Education and Training Committee to investigate the relationship between the Pholela High School and the KZN Department of Education regarding the alleged Memorandum of Understanding by the late Rev Chunky Young;
- b) and to investigate payment of rentals and report to the 2027 General Assembly.

This was agreed by consensus.

7. The Executive Commission notes that the issue to change the status of the Gooldville Mission School to be under Section 14 of the South African Schools' Act (SASA) is at the Provincial Human Resource Department of the Limpopo Province for finalization.

This was agreed by consensus.

8. The Executive Commission

(a) notes with concern the non-attendance of committee meetings of the Education & Training Committee by representatives from the Synod of Zambia and

(b) instructs the Synod of Zambia to ensure the representatives from the Synod attend the meetings.

This was agreed by consensus.

9. The Executive Commission instructs Presbyteries to identify capable members who will start to translate the training material in their local languages, and report to the 2027 General Assembly.

The proposal was rejected by consensus.

10. The Executive Commission notes that the electronic and 'paper' forms for PEF applicants will be uploaded in mid-July and urges Ministers to help the applicants in this regard.

This was agreed by consensus.

15. The Executive Commission reminds Presbyteries of the decision of General Assembly that the PEF Sunday contribution is not less than R1000 or its equivalent per congregation.

This was agreed by consensus.

A. STATEMENT ON SOCIAL COHESION, HUMAN DIGNITY, AND A DAY OF PRAYER

Having offered to draft a statement on behalf of the Executive Commission, the Moderator invited the Rev M. Ramulondi to present the draft statement.

After discussion, where further suggestions were made, the Executive Commission agreed to defer the statement for further presentation at a later stage.

B. STATEMENT AGAINST GBVF AS PRESENTED BY THE UPCSА FELLOWSHIP OF WOMEN

FOW STATEMENT TO THE UPCSА AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE, AS ADOPTED AT THE 4th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF WOMEN HELD WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EGOLI FROM 07 – 10 AUGUST 2025

We, members of the FOW: -

Concerned about the persisting and escalating issue of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) in the Country.

Realising that this pandemic continues to rear its ugly head within our church community;

Believing that it is our responsibility, as the Church, to promote a culture of compassion, respect, and love for one another, including protecting the vulnerable.

Noting that GBVF is a scourge that affects many women and children in our community,

Deeply troubled by the fact that some men within our own church community have contributed to this problem;

Recognising that GBVF is a pervasive and devastating issue that affects individuals, families, and communities.

Accepting that GBVF is a painful reality that requires our collective attention and action as Christian youth, men, and women;

Pained by our sore hearts as we observe, witness, and often experience acts of violence in our own church.

Aware that these heinous crimes include, but are not limited to: -

- Physical violence which manifests in physical abuse, such as hitting, kicking, or beating.
- Sexual violence in the form of rape, sexual assault, or other forms of non-consensual sexual activity.
- Emotional or psychological violence, including verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, or manipulation.
- Economic violence evident in controlling or exploiting women's access to their own financial resources.

We would like to draw the attention of the Church to our cry.

We are cognisant of the fact that many men in the church are committed to promoting gender equality and ending GBVF. We are grateful to God for that. We are also conscious of the fact that it may happen that some of the men who are perpetrators of GBVF may not know their actions qualify for classification as GBVF due to cultural stereotypes. It is

against this background that we appeal to all men in the Church to journey with us in the fight against GBVF.

We are also mindful of and strongly condemn the escalating level of female-perpetrated violence on other females and on men.

We commend the UPCSA on its strong stance against GBVF. We would like the Church to up its game by: -

- Developing a clear policy on GBVF that outlines the church's stance, procedures for reporting incidents, and support services for survivors.
- Providing training and education for church members, particularly men, on healthy masculinity, GBVF prevention, and response.
- Holding accountable any church members who perpetrate GBVF and provide support to survivors.
- Promoting a culture of respect and empathy towards survivors of GBVF and encourage church members to speak out against GBVF.
- Promoting healthy masculinity and positive role modelling, encouraging men to be allies in the fight against GBVF.

We acknowledge that this is a painful reality that requires the attention and action by all of us in the UPCSA. To this end, the FOW commits to continue to challenge the patriarchal attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate GBVF in our church. We pledge our willingness to collaborate with the Church and other organizations to address GBVF. By so doing we hope to create a safer and more just society for all.

The Clerk of Assembly proposed that the statement be adopted by the Executive Commission as a statement of the UPCSA.

This was agreed by consensus.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Convenor Nominations Committee Mr Siyanda Mqalo, presented the report.

The Clerk of Assembly proposed

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

This was agreed by consensus.

UPCSA COMMITTEES OF GA - 2025/27		
COMMITTEE CONVENERS & MEMBERS NAMES		M/F
1	AARP/COURT OF ASSEMBLY	
	Convener: Rev Mukondi Ramulondi	M
	Ministers:	
	Rev Thabane Masikane	M

	Rev Luzuko Qina	M
	Rev John Gordon	M
	Rev Lulama Mshumpela	M
	Rev Awedzani Nemaikhwe	M
	Alternate Ministers	
	Rev Thamsanqa Memela	M
	Rev Sandisele Xhinti	M
	Rev Vuyolwethu Mbaru	M
	Elders:	
	Ms Nomakorinte Mlatsheni	F
	Mr Sipho Nhlabathi	M
	Adv Themba Masuku	M
	Adv Lulama David Halam	M
	Mr Benny Boshieho	M
	Mr Harry Bopape	M
	Alternate Elders:	
	Mr Thabo Masete	M
	Mr Buti Sithole	M
	Mr Matthews Seseko	M

2	ASSEMBLY BUSINESS	
	Convener: Rev Mamolotjie Magagane	M
	Members:	
	Moderator: Rt Rev Dr Amon Kasambala	M
	Moderator Designate: Rev Melanie Cook	F
	General Secretary: Rev Dr George Marchinkowski	M
	Clerk of Assembly: Rev Vusi Mkhungo/Mr Malibongwe Gwele	M
	Ms Samkeliso Siwela	M
	Rev Farisi Sakala	F
	Rev Chala Habasila	M
	Rev Shona van der Lingen	F
	Rev Vusumzi Mabo	M

GENERAL ASSEMBLY CLUSTER Cluster Convener: Ms Samkeliso Siwela
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3	CHURCH OFFICE AND HUMAN RESOURCES	
	Convener: Rev Awedzani Nemaikhwe	M
	Members:	
	Moderator: Rt Rev Dr Amon Kasambala	M
	General Secretary: Rev Dr George Marchinkowski	M
	General Treasurer: Mr Ryan Johnson	M
	Dr Inette Taylor (Specialist)	F
	Rev Tafadzwa Kasere	M
	Zambian Synod Representative	
	Mr Mpendulo Mkentane	M
	Dr Kefiloe Masiteng	M
	Dr Nonceba Mashalaba	F
	Rev Sibusiso Zungu	M
	Ms Reneilwe Mokgalabone	F
	Ms Manyabela Ngoatje	F

4	COMMUNICATIONS	
	Convener: Mr Benny Boshieho	M

	Members:	
	General Secretary: Rev Dr George Marchinkowski	M
	Clerk of Assembly:	M
	Rev Lazarus Sajeni	M
	Mr Jeremiah Munthali	M
	Mr Solly Maluleke	M
	Ms Grace Ngidi	F
	Ms Nosipho Mdedetyana	F
	Mr Rajane Koloko	M
	Ms Saron Maja	F
	Ms Nomusa Phungula	F
	Ms Zintle Fili	F
	Corresponding members:	
	Conveners of Presbytery Communications Committees	

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION CLUSTER

Cluster Convener: Rev Shona van der Lingen

5	FINANCE	
	Convener: General Treasurer Mr Ryan Johnson	M
	Members:	
	Moderator: Rt Rev Dr Amon Kasambala	M
	Moderator Designate: Rev Melanie Cook	F
	General Secretary: Rev Dr George Marchinkowski	M
	Chief Finance Officer: Rev Thembinkosi Nopapaza	M
	Clerk of Assembly:	M
	Ministry Secretary: Rev Mzwamadoda Mtyhobile	M
	Mr Thomas Nyagwaya	M
	Mr Hambani Ngwenya	M
	Mr Colin Gauld	M
	Ms Violet Baloyi	F
	Ms Nobabalo Majokweni	F
	Rev Christopher Judehlson	M
	Rev Robert Thema	M
	Ms Xolisa Futshane	F
	Corresponding Members:	
	Treasurers of Presbyteries and Treasurers of Church Fellowships	
	Associated with the Committee:	
	Representative from Priorities and Resources Committee	

6	AUDIT COMMITTEE	
	Convener: Ms Nomhlobo Ngqungwana	F
	Members:	
	General Treasurer: Mr Ryan Johnson	M
	Chief Finance Officer: Rev Thembinkosi Nopapaza	M
	Mr Nondo Zombe	M
	Mr Thomas Nyagwaya	M
	Mr Simphiwe Mzozoyane	M
	Ms Ntombikayise Mbobela	F
	Rev Colin Campbell	M
	Ms Vuyolwethu Mndawo	F
	Mr Thabo Gumede	M
	Ms Bukeka Nohashe	F
	Mr Tom Borril	M

7	MANUAL	
	Convener: Rev Iain Kemp	M
	Members:	
	Rev Anna Banda	F
	Rev Thomson Mkandawire	M
	Ms Thulani Nayo	F
	Ms Fikile Ndlovu	F
	Adv Irene Mukwevho	F
	Ms Thembie Nxumalo	F
	Rev Bongiwe Ngebulana	F
	Rev Christopher Judelsohn	M
	Rev Willingmore Mhlana	M

8	ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMISSION	
	Moderator: (as chair) Rt Rev Dr Amon Kasambala	M
	Immediate Former Moderator: Rev Lydia Neshangwe	F
	Moderator Designate: Rev Melanie Cook	F
	General Secretary: Rev Dr George Marchinkowski	M
	Clerk of Assembly: (as secretary) Rev Vusi Mkhungo	M
	General Treasurer: Mr Ryan Johnson	M
	Ministers:	
	Rev Theo Groeneveld	M
	Rev Qaqamba Xalisa	F
	Rev Jane Nyirongo	F
	Elders:	
	Mr Augustice Stuurman	M
	Ms Mathandi Mbense	F
	Ms Sarah Masekela	F

9	NOMINATIONS	
	Convener: Mr Siyanda Mqalo	M
	Members:	
	Zambian Synod Representative	
	Mr Arthur Nhau	M
	Rev Andile Nyawo	M
	Mr Augustice Stuurman	M
	Ms Nomfundiso Mdoda	F
	Ms Nobuntu Pona	F
	Rev Yolisa Mlalandle	F
	Rev Armando Sontange	M
	Rev Colin Campbell	M
	Rev Nozinhle Madlala	F

WORSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE CLUSTER Cluster Convener: Rev Farisi Sakala

10	WORSHIP	
	Convener: Rev Mike Muller	M
	Members:	
	Rev Dephine Murove	F
	Rev Robert Chawinga	M
	Rev Kim Brown	F
	Rev Douglas Bax	M

	Rev Lebo Molokoane	M
	Rev Hendry Fortuin	M
	Rev Zephney Kennedy	F
	Ms Fuziwe Qithini	F
	Rev Thamsanqa Memela	M
	Church Design Subcommittee (Convener)	
	Rev Tony Robinson	M
	Corresponding members:	
	Representatives from Presbyteries	

11	HEALTH & WELLNESS	
	Convener: Dr Nomzi Zibi-Hlophe	F
	Members:	
	Mrs Pauline Mushayavanhu	F
	Ms Beatrice Nkunika Nyirongo	F
	Dr Phindiswa Mnana	F
	Ms Nombeko Mpongo	F
	Ms Nosisa F Mkosana	F
	Ms Nomakhaya Matutu	F
	Ms Yolisa F Bomela	F
	Ms Nomlibo Jacobs	F
	Mr Onke Ngwendu	M
	Mr Luzuko Bunu	M
	Mrs Matshidiso Mamabolo	F

12	STEWARDSHIP	
	Convener: Rev Celani Mbhele	M
	Members:	
	Chief Finance Officer: Rev Thembinkosi Nopapaza	M
	Mr Stanley Mudzingwa	M
	Rev Sonye Banda	M
	Ms Akhona Dyantyi	F
	Rev Khonani Maselesele	M
	Mrs Keitumetsi Mosime	F
	Rev Celani Mbhele	
	Ms Nomsa Ndiki	F
	Ms Violet Baloyi	F
	Corresponding members:	
	Conveners of Presbytery Stewardship Committees	

13	PRIORITIES AND RESOURCES	
	Convener: Rev Sauros Phaika	M
	Members:	
	Moderator: Rt Rev Dr Amon Kasambala	M
	Moderator Designate: Rev Melanie Cook	F
	General Secretary: Rev Dr George Marchinkowski	M
	Clerk of Assembly	M
	General Treasurer: Mr Ryan Johnson	M
	Ministry Secretary: Rev Mzwamadoda Mtyhobile	M
	Rev Brian Mazanhi	M
	Ms Jane Mkalipi	F
	Ms Sarah Masekela	F
	Rev Iain Kemp	M
	Mr Sisa Mtwana	M
	Ms Buli Mabizela	F

	Mr Pedzisayi Sakuhuni	M
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SERVICE AND WITNESS CLUSTER

Cluster Convener: Rev Chala Habasila

14	ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS	
	Convener: Gen Sec Rev Dr George Marchinkowski	M
	Members:	
	Moderator: Rt Rev Dr Amon Kasambala	M
	Moderator Designate: Rev Melanie Cook	F
	Church Unity Commission Rep: Rev Michelle Black	F
	Mr Benson Njobvu	M
	Rev Dr Garikai Mufanebadza	M
	Ms Karabo Mamabolo	F
	Ms Afika Rwayi	F
	Rev Nkululeko Nojoko	M
	Rev Bukelwa Hans (GRAPE Champion)	F
	Rev Mzwamadoda Mtyhobile	M
	Rev Craig Morrison	M
	Corresponding members:	
	Conveners of Presbytery Ecumenical Relations Committees	

15	JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE WITH THE UCCSA	
	Convener: Rev Elries Fortuin	M
	Members:	
	General Secretary: Rev Dr George Marchinkowski	M
	Rev Talkmore Chilanga	M
	Zambian Synod Representative	
	Mr Siphamandla Paul Fayaka	M
	Ms Gloria Spelman	F
	Ms Naume Somo	F
	CFC Rev Thabani Masikane	M

16	ETHICS AND DISCIPLINE	
	Convener: Rev Allan Nyoni	M
	Members:	
	Rev Biggie Mususa	M
	Zambia Synod Representative	
	Ms Kalipa Qaba	F
	Rev Lita Madaka	M
	Adv Sharon Mthimunya	F
	Ms Fezekile Mtete	F
	Rev Gavin Lock	M
	Rev James Lungu	M
	Rev Zukisani Sotashe	M
	Mr Buti Sithole	M
	Rev Mbulelo Mandiyase	M

17	CHURCH in SOCIETY	
	Convener: Ms Gloria Spelman	F
	Members:	
	Rev Sam Kudakwashe Ruzivo	M
	Rev James Lungu	M
	Rev Mzwamadoda Mfene (Eco-Justice Champion)	M

	Mr Oliver Muwowo	M
	Rev Matshidiso Piroe	F
	Rev Vuyolwethu Mbaru	M
	Ms Kelebogile Milanzi	F
	Ms Anda Mtshutshwana	F
	Rev Sharon Simelane	F
	Mr Vuyani Maguga	M
	Ms Belinda Crawford	F
	Rev Robert Stiener	M
	Mr Sakhele July	M
	Corresponding members:	
	Conveners of Presbytery Church in Society Committees	

18	CHURCH FELLOWSHIPS	
	Convener: Rev Thabani Masikane	M
	Members:	
	Rev Sauros Phaika	M
	Rev Elias Simango	M
	Rev Dr Victor Letuka	M
	Rev Thembazana Ngalwana	F
	Rev Caroline Hlati	F
	Rev Nonyamezela Tati	F
	Dr Mmameno Pataki	F
	Mr Green Moeketsi	M
	Rev Bongiwe Ngebulana	F
	Presidents / Secretaries of Fellowships	
	Corresponding Members:	
	Conveners of Presbytery Fellowships Committees	

19	PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	
	Convener: Rev Mafasa Nyama Ratsoma	M
	Members:	
	Mrs Elizabeth Malunga	F
	Zambian Synod Representative	
	Ms Dorah Nkosi	F
	Mr Malefetsane Mtshali	M

PREACHING AND TEACHING CLUSTER Cluster Convener: Rev Vusumzi Mabo

20	MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP	
	Convener: Rev Richard Mkandawire	M
	Members:	
	OLM Administration: Ms Eddie Stopforth	F
	Rev Judith Chirwa Mkandawire	F
	Rev Dr David Mushayavanhu	M
	Rev Theo Groeneveld	M
	Rev Mzwamadoda Mfene	M
	Rev Jackie Barker	F
	Rev Matshidiso Piroe	F
	Rev Wayne Van Heerden	M
	Mrs Buhle Tafatawona	F
	Rev Stewart Gordon	M
	Ms Mokgadi Modiba	F

	Rev Xolisa Mashibini	M
	Rev Cecil Subroyan	M

21	MINISTRY	
	Convener: Rev Mautji Pataki	M
	Members:	
	Ministry Secretary: Rev Mzwamadoda Mtyhobile	M
	Dr Inette Taylor (Specialist)	F
	Rev Dr Christopher Mkandawire	M
	Rev Tatenda Garande	M
	Rev Yolisa Mlalandle	F
	Rev Fezeka Jobela	F
	Ms Mpumi Mthembu	F
	Rev Brian Smith	M
	Mrs Nqabisa Mtshake	F
	Rev Thanduxolo Nkayi	M
	Rev Luyanda Ruka	M
	Rev Sandiso Njeza	M

22	EDUCATION AND TRAINING	
	Convener: Rev Ndimpiwe Qupuna	M
	Members:	
	PEF Administrator:	M
	Dr Tecla Usai	F
	Mr Kenneth Mtonga	M
	Rev Dr Robert Munthali	M
	Rev Nozinhle Madlala	F
	Ms Nosipho Mdedetyana	F
	Mr Dumisani Khoza	M
	Mr Twasile Mbandazayo	M
	Mr Thabo Masete	M
	Rev Philani Mbanjwa	M
	Mr Zamuxola Langa	M
	Corresponding members:	
	Conveners of Presbytery Education and Training Committees	

23	DOCTRINE	
	Convener: Rev Judith Mkandawire	F
	Members:	
	Rev Biggie Mususa	M
	Rev Dr Godfrey Msiska	M
	Mr Gabriel Mampane	M
	Mr Kevin Bestwick	M
	Mr Kieren Edge	M
	Rev Michael Craig	M
	Adv Irene Mukwevho	F
	Rev Wayne van Heerden	M
	Rev Douglas Bax	M
	Ms Fikile Ndlovu	F
	Rev Kokkie Smith	M

24	TASK TEAM ON HUMAN SEXUALITY	
	Convener: Rev Wayne van Heerden	M
	Members:	
	Rev Thompson Mkandawire	M

	Rev Paul Neshangwe	M
	Rev Yolisa Mlalandle	F
	Ms Nomusa Phungula	F
	Rev Michael Craig	M
	Rev Willingmore Mhlanga	M
	Rev Graham Fryer	M
	Mr Twasile Mbandazayo	M
	Ms Ntombivelile Xhelithole	F
	Rev Jackie Barker	F

COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY: PELE NPC

The Commission of Enquiry on Pele and its terms of reference were presented, including the nominated members of the Commission.

The Nominations Committee proposed a Commission consisting of nine members. The composition should include a fair mix of ministers and elders, also being gender sensitive. Expertise of commission members should consist of: Legal, Investigative, Audit, Understanding of Corporate Governance, Project Management, Property Development.

The following names are proposed:

1. Adv Lulama David Halam
2. Mrs Buli Mabizela
3. Dr Overs Banda
4. Rev Thabani I Masikane
5. Rev Bongiwe Ngebulana
6. Rev Dr David Mushayavanhu
7. Rev Prof. Graham Duncan (Convener)
8. Rev Michelle Black
9. Adv Themba Masuku

Terms of Reference

1. The commission will endeavour to balance the administrative and legal requirements of the Pele NPC enquiry with a pastoral spirit.
2. The commission will handle all proceedings, testimonies, and documentation with appropriate discretion until the final report is tabled.
3. The commission will co-opt expert skills as required (internally and externally) to assist with the technical aspects of the Pele NPC enquiry.
4. The commission has full authority to request relevant documents and interview all current and former UPCS or Pele office bearers (e.g. directors, project managers, staff, contractors, associates, Presbyteries, committees, central office, ministers, Elders, congregants, etc.).
5. The commission will assess the complete Pele NPC current and future programme of work and devise an actionable plan for those work streams to be delivered within the period of the commission of enquiry.

6. The commission will assess the feasibility of the Pele business model within the context of the UPCSA (including the relationship between both entities).
7. The Commission shall compile and present a comprehensive written report directly to the 2027 General Assembly, detailing the:
 - 7.1. Findings of fact relating to the financial, legal, and functional state of Pele NPC.
 - 7.2. Clear indicators of any administrative and financial areas of improvement, including where there is a breach of trust.
 - 7.3. Actionable steps regarding the continuation, restructuring, or winding down of the Pele NPC.

This was agreed by consensus.

SPECIAL OFFERING

A special offering was collected to assist the congregations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

ADJOURNMENT

The Executive Commission adjourned at 10h55 to meet again at 11h30.

FOURTEENTH SESSION

At the Gateway Presbyterian Church, Kempton Park, within the bounds of the Highveld Presbytery, on Thursday 17 June 2026, at 11h30, the Ministers and Elders, as Commissioners of the Executive Commission appointed to meet this day, reconvened.

CLOSING SERVICE

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev Michelle Black, called the Executive Commission to worship reading Psalm 100.

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION AND CONFESSION

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev Michelle Black, led the Executive Commission in prayer

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Moderator announced the words of forgiveness.

VALEDICTORY SERVICE

The Moderator's Chaplains read the tributes in honour of the retiring ministers:

1. The Rev Fiona Margaret Benson
2. The Rev Michael Mutaaurwa
3. The Rev Dr. Micah Nthali
4. The Rev Frederick Johannes Botha
5. The Rev Lulama Mshumpela
6. The Rev Songezo Patrick Ndibongo
7. The Rev Victor Ntshona
8. The Rev Dr. Tobias Steyn

The Clerk of Assembly moved:

1. The Executive Commission grants the Rev Dr Tobias Steyn permission to retire on 1 August 2026, grants him the status of minister emeritus, and a seat on the Presbytery in which he resides.

This was agreed by consensus.

2. The Executive Commission grants the Rev Dr Micah Mhlupheki Nthali permission to retire on 31 March 2026, grants him the status of minister emeritus and seat on the Presbytery in which he resides.

This was agreed by consensus.

3. The Executive Commission grants the Rev Frederik (Frikkie) Johannes Botha permission to retire on 31 March 2026, grants him the status of minister emeritus and a seat on the Presbytery in which he resides.

This was agreed by consensus.

4. The Executive Commission grants the Rev Fiona Margaret Benzon permission to retire on 31 July 2026, grants him the status of minister emerita and a seat on the Presbytery in which she resides.

This was agreed by consensus.

5. The Executive Commission grants the Rev Tichawona Michael Mutaaurwa permission to retire on 31 July 2026, grants him the status of minister emeritus and a seat on the Presbytery in which he resides.

This was agreed by consensus.

6. The Executive Commission grants the Rev Mxolisi Victor Ntshona permission to retire on 17 June 2026, grants him the status of minister emeritus and a seat on the Presbytery in which he resides.

This was agreed by consensus.

7. The Executive Commission grants the Rev Lulama M Mshumpela permission to retire on 28 February 2026, grants him the status of minister emeritus and a seat on the Presbytery in which he resides.

This was agreed by consensus.

8. The Executive Commission grants the Rev Songezo Patrick Ndibongo permission to retire on 13 February 2026, grants him the status of minister emeritus and a seat on the Presbytery in which he resides.

This was agreed by consensus.

The Moderator requested that the retiring ministers, together with their families, to remain standing. He then invited the Rev. Prof. Graham Duncan to pray for the ministers and their families.

PRAYERS OF ILLUMINATION

After a prayer for illumination, the following Scriptures were read:

Old Testament	Joshua 13:1-7	by the Rev Prof Graham Duncan
New Testament	3 John 1:1-15	by the Rev Judith Mkandawire

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Moderator delivered his closing address on the theme, "Partners in Mission – Make a choice to stay helpful."

PEOPLE'S RESPONSE

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Michelle Black, led the Executive Commission in confessing its faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Assembly Business Convener made announcements.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Rev Mukondeleli Ramulondi read the prepared Statement of the Executive Commission on "Social Cohesion, Human Dignity, and a Day of Prayer."

"For Christ himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility." — Ephesians 2:14

The General Assembly Executive Commission of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA), meeting in Kempton Park from 13–17 June 2026, has reflected prayerfully and with deep concern on the recent protests, violence, and growing hostility directed toward undocumented, documented, and irregular migrants in various communities across South Africa.

We recognize that Southern Africa's migration challenges cannot be understood apart from the enduring legacies of colonialism, empire, and apartheid. Artificial borders, extractive economic systems, and patterns of labour migration established during these periods continue to shape our societies, contributing to persistent inequality, economic exclusion, and competition for limited opportunities.

For generations, people across our region have crossed borders in search of safety, work, education, and opportunity. Yet the structural inequalities inherited from the past remain deeply entrenched. We therefore affirm that current tensions surrounding migration are

rooted not simply in the presence of foreign nationals, but in broader historical injustices and ongoing socio-economic failures.

We recognize the pain, frustration, and anxiety experienced by many South Africans who face unemployment, poverty, inequality, inadequate service delivery, crime, and economic exclusion. These challenges demand urgent, ethical, and effective responses from government, business, civil society organisations, and faith communities.

However, no social crisis can justify violence, intimidation, or the denial of human dignity.

As a Church rooted in the Reformed tradition and guided by the lordship of Jesus Christ, we affirm that every person bears the image of God and possesses inherent worth and dignity, regardless of nationality, citizenship, ethnicity, economic status, or documentation.

The biblical narrative reminds us that the people of God have repeatedly experienced migration, displacement, exile, and the vulnerability of being strangers in foreign lands.

Israel was called to remember its own history: "The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt" (Leviticus 19:34).

The UPCSA rejects all forms of vigilantism, scapegoating, hate speech, and violence directed at migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and foreign nationals, irrespective of their legal status. Such actions undermine the Gospel of reconciliation and the vision of a society founded on justice, peace, and the common good.

We recognise the legitimate responsibility of the state to manage migration effectively, maintain secure borders, combat corruption within immigration systems, and uphold the rule of law with fairness, transparency, and compassion.

At the same time, we call upon the Government of South Africa to strengthen diplomatic engagement and regional cooperation with governments whose citizens are affected by migration-related tensions and violence. The realities of migration in Southern Africa cannot be addressed by any one nation acting alone. We therefore encourage closer collaboration through regional bodies, including the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union, to promote safe, orderly, and humane migration policies, address the root causes of displacement, and advance sustainable development across the region.

We call upon all spheres of government to address the structural causes of social unrest, including poverty, unemployment, inequality, corruption, and failures in public administration.

We urge political leaders and public representatives to refrain from rhetoric that exploits fear and division for political gain.

We call upon congregations of the UPCSA and all churches in Southern Africa to become communities of hospitality, dialogue, healing, and peacebuilding. The Church is called to stand alongside all who suffer while advocating for justice that embraces both citizens and migrants.

Our shared future as nations and as a region cannot be built upon exclusion and hostility. It must be founded upon the biblical vision of justice flowing like a river and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream (Amos 5:24).

Accordingly, the General Assembly Executive Commission hereby declares Friday, 26 June Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa across the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

We call upon all presbyteries, congregations, ministers, elders, fellowships, and members of the Church to set aside this day for prayer, fasting, reflection, and acts of reconciliation.

We invite the Church to pray:

- For peace and protection in communities experiencing unrest.
- For wisdom, integrity, and compassion among government leaders and public officials.
- For unemployed and struggling citizens.
- For migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and undocumented persons living in fear and uncertainty.
- For an end to exclusion, violence, and division.
- For economic justice, social transformation, and ethical governance.
- For healing and reconciliation throughout Southern Africa.

May our prayers lead us beyond words into faithful action. May the Holy Spirit empower us to build bridges where others erect walls and to embody the reconciling love of Christ in a wounded world.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” — Matthew 5:9

Issued by the General Assembly Executive Commission of the Uniting Presbyterian

Church in Southern Africa, meeting in Kempton Park, Johannesburg, South Africa, from 13–17 June 2026.”

The Clerk of Assembly moved that

1. The Executive Commission adopts the Statement.
This was agreed by consensus.

The Convener of the Assembly Business Committee, the Rev Charles Magagane announced that the business of the Executive Commission had been completed.

He also announced that the evaluation questionnaire link for the 2026 Executive Commission would be sent to all Commissioners in due course. Commissioners were encouraged to evaluate the 2026 Executive Commission in its entirety.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

The Moderator Designate, the Rev. Melanie Cook, thanked the host congregation, Gateway Presbyterian Church, the Local Organizing Team, all the Commissioners, and the Rev. Wayne van Heerden, who served as the Convener of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and as minister of the host congregation and Moderator of the Highveld Presbytery.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

The Moderator the Rt. Rev Dr Amon Kasambala led the Executive Commission in prayer.

RETIRING OFFERING FOR DRC

The Moderator's Chaplain, the Rev. Michelle Black, invited the Commissioners to make a donation in support of our friends and colleagues in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The Moderator requested the Rev. Vusi Mkhungo, the retiring Clerk of Assembly, and Mr Ronnie Maqhubela, retiring PEF Administrator, to stand, and wished them both well on their future journey.

CLOSING PRAYERS

The Moderator led the Executive Commission in Prayer of Intercession.

Adjournment

The Moderator declared that the Executive Commission stands adjourned until it reconvenes on Saturday 26 June 2027 as the General Assembly, within the bounds of the Presbytery of eGoli. At 13h36, the Moderator pronounced the Benediction and invited the eight retired (Emeriti) ministers to join the Recessional.

CONFIRMED this _____ day of _____ 2026

MODERATOR

CLERK