

2009 DECISIONS OF EXECUTIVE COMMISSION

APPLICATIONS TO RETIRE:

1. The Executive receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission grants the Rev MLT du Preez, the status of minister emeritus from 31 December 2009 and a seat on the presbytery within whose bounds he may reside.
3. The Executive Commission grants the Rev BD Yanta, the status of minister emeritus from 31st August 2009 and a seat on the presbytery within whose bounds he may reside.
4. The Executive Commission grants the Rev AD Vorster, the status of minister emeritus from 31 March 2010 and a seat on the Presbytery within whose bounds she may reside.

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission adopts the Standing Orders as published in the Supplementary Papers for use at this meeting of the Executive Commission.
3. The Executive Commission adopts the FINAL Draft Agenda as published in the Supplementary Papers for Executive Commission 2009.
4. The Executive Commission appoints the following "Facilitation Committee" for the duration of the Executive Commission:
 - i) Drafting Committee: The Revs. M Taylor, M Magagane and BJ Gaborone
 - ii) Minute taker: The Rev T Groeneveld.
 - iii) Minute Scrutineers: The Revs. M. Muller, V. Mkhungo and Mrs Mashao
 - iv) Video Operator : The Rev. CK Moore
 - v) Notices of Motion : Mrs S Hunt
 - vi) Vote of Thanks : Elder Z Jojwana

vii) Records: The Commission notes that the records committee was appointed at Assembly as a standing committee convened by Rev. BJ Gaborone.

5. The Executive Commission resolves that the Moderator shall tour the Presbytery of Tshwane during this, his second year of office.

ASSOCIATES:

1. The Executive Commission associates all non commissioned attendees contained in the attached schedule.

BURSARIES COMMITTEE-PRESBYTERIAN EDUCATIONAL FUND:

1. The Executive Commission receive the report.
2. The Executive Commission declares the 13th June, 2010 as P E F Sunday.
3. The Executive Commission request Clerks to advise the Trustees of the names of their Corresponding Trustees.
4. The Executive Commission express thanks for donations received during the financial year.

CALVIN CELEBRATIONS;

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission encourages all Ministers and Sessions to inform their congregations about our Reformed heritage.
3. The Executive Commission agrees to be part of the ecumenical celebrations planned for 2010.
4. The Executive Commission agrees to entrust the Ecumenical Relations Committee with the appointment of at least 20 delegates to officially represent the UPCSA at the national celebrations.
5. The Executive Commission agrees to the UPCSA making a financial contribution towards the preparation for these celebrations and instructs the Ecumenical Relations Committee to recommend an amount to the Finance Committee.
6. The Executive Committee agrees that the General Secretary and the Ministry Secretary represent the UPCSA at the *Planning and Steering Committee* for the celebrations.

CHANGES IN THE MINISTRY:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

CHURCH ASSOCIATIONS:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission notes the work done by all the Associations.
3. The Executive Commission encourages Aggrieved Groups to participate in the process of listening, dialoguing and mediation as, proposed by the General Secretary.
4. The Executive Commission notes with disapproval how some of our association members disrupt the unity of the UPCS and calls upon those involved to adhere to the decisions of the Councils of the UPCS.
5. The Executive Commission instructs:
 - i) the Manual Committee to consider the inclusion of a section in the Manual of Faith and Order which deals with Church Associations, and
 - ii) urges the Church Associations to make submissions to the Manual Committee, through the Assembly Church Associations Committee, concerning the proposed inclusion.
6. The Executive Commission encourages those ministers who attend Association conferences to offer positive contributions to the growth and development of the Association.
7. The Executive Commission requests the Presbytery Moderators' to encourage the IYZA and ex JB's to commit to the agreed process of Healing and Reconciliation.
8. The Executive Commission notes the dates of conferences of different associations and their venues.
9. The Executive Commission approves the Constitution of the Youth Fellowship as the corrections required by the General Assembly have been done.
10. The Executive Commission notes the challenges in the formation of the Church Association Committee.
11. The Executive Commission instructs the Nominations Committee to put a new Associations' Committee in place.
12. The Executive Commission approves the terms of reference for the Presbytery Association Conveners as set out in the report.

13. The Executive Commission notes that the INDABA has not taken place due to financial matters and will take place later.

14. The Executive Commission requests Presbyteries to give due consideration to appointing Presbytery Church Associations Conveners who are members of Church Associations.

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report
2. The Executive Commission notes that the purpose of the work of the committee is:
 - a. To function as a Church Growth resource group within the UPCS that will enable and equip established congregations to develop and grow their ministry. To get Ministers, Elders, Congregations and Presbyteries thinking and doing church growth.
 - b. To seek creative ways to enable and equip congregations and Presbyteries in planting new churches.
3. The Executive Commission notes the recently held Church Growth Conference at which 13 Presbyteries were represented and the enthusiasm and passion for Church Growth the conference generated amongst the delegates.
4. The Executive Commission notes the new work the committee is engaging in within the 4 focus areas of its work.
5. The Executive Commission notes the intention of the committee to present a comprehensive proposal to the 2010 Assembly for the establishment of a UPCS Church Growth Fund.
6. The Executive Commission commends the Appendix to this report entitled 'Ministry in different contexts in the UPCS' to all Sessions/Councils as a discussion document discussion starter for Church Growth in their congregations.

CHURCH OFFICE:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission ratifies the appointment of Mr. Andre Prinsloo in the Finance Department as from 01 December 2008 for a period of 5 years.

3. The Executive Commission approves the decision of the Church Office Committee to hand over the management of the position of the manager of the Sedibeng House of Studies to the Ministry Committee.

4. The Executive Commission:

- a) instructs the Church Office Committee to attend to the matter of the impending end of the Clerk of General Assembly's first 5 year term as a matter of urgency; and
- b) authorises the Church Office Committee to consider and act on their decision by either:
 - i) reappointing Mr. TW Coulter as the Clerk of General Assembly for a second and final 5 year term of office as from the 1st of January 2010, or
 - ii) advertising for applications for the post of Clerk of Assembly and appoint the new incumbent should that become necessary

5. With regard to the recently purchased Church Office property in Parktown, Gauteng, the Executive Commission

- a) adopts the name 'Tiyo Soga House,' and
- b) instructs the Church Office Committee to arrange for the name and the words 'The Office of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa' (as a sub-heading) to be displayed with the Denomination's logo on signage at the entrance to the property.

CHURCH UNITY COMMISSION:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission endorses the ministry of the Christ Healing Fellowship and commends it to all congregations/parishes.
3. The Executive Commission instructs the General Secretary, in consultation with the Doctrine, Ethics and Discipline and the Church Unity Commission (UPCSA) to comment on the proposed Model for a United Church and to relay those comments to the Church Unity Commission (CUC).
4. The Executive Commission approves the use of the Model for a United Church as a basis for working out detailed plans for the ultimate union of the Member Churches of the CUC.
5. The Executive Commission
 - a) notes the work being done by the CUC on the concept of a relationship of Full Communion;

b) approves of the concept in principle as a step towards an ultimate union of the Member Churches; and

c) requests the CUC to prepare a more detailed statement and proposals for consideration.

CLERK OF ASSEMBLY:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission approves the process for the submission of reports as contained in the main body of the report and set out below:
 - i) All reports to be submitted by the due date as contained in the Standing Orders or approved by the Executive Council or General Assembly, and that any reports submitted after the due date will only be heard by the relevant Council if it agrees to do so.
 - ii) That Supplementary Reports be defined as any reports submitted in addition to a report that has already been submitted and be understood to include supporting memoranda to reports that were submitted in time.
 - iii) That the Assembly Business Committee report be the only report circulated with the Supplementaries as an original report.
3. The Executive Commission resolves:
 - i) That the dates for General Assembly 2010 be set as Saturday 2nd to Friday 8th October.
 - ii) That the General Assembly starts proceedings at 10h30 on Saturday 2nd October and concludes after the Closing Service on Friday the 8th October.

Withdrawn: See Supplementary report

4. The Executive Commission resolves:
 - i) That all reports to be considered by the General Assembly in October 2010 shall be submitted to the Clerk of Assembly by 30th June 2010.
 - ii) That all reports received shall be made available to Commissioners at least two weeks before General Assembly.
 - iii) That the Proceedings and Decisions of General Assembly 2010 be distributed to ministers with the Yearbook at the end of the year.
5. The Executive Commission:

- i) Sends down to Presbyteries a second time Remit GA/08/01 in terms of paragraph 12.50 (i) of the Manual of Faith and Order of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa.
- ii) Instructs all Presbyteries to submit their replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31st March 2010 with a copy to be sent to the Convener of the Worship Committee.
- iii) Enacts Remits EC/07/03 and EC/07/04 in their original form or subject to any amendments approved by the Executive Commission in terms of paragraph 12.50 (j) of the Manual of Faith and Order of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa.

Supplementary Report

- 3. The Executive Commission resolves:
 - i) That the dates for General Assembly 2010 be set as Saturday 25th September to Friday 1st October.
 - ii) That the General Assembly starts proceedings at 10h30 on Saturday 25th September and concludes after the Closing Service on Friday the 1st October.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
- 2. The Executive Commission instructs the outgoing Convener to supply the incoming Convener with the Minute Book and other relevant documents.
- 3. The Executive Commission notes:
 - a. the three year plan
 - b. the annual activity plan for 2009 contained in the Appendix
- 4. The Executive Commission tasks the General Secretary to investigate the feasibility of appointing a journalist, writer or webmaster who will write for our newsletter and regularly update our website on a part time basis and report to the Church Office Committee before 31 October 2009.
- 5. The Executive Commission requests each Presbytery to appoint a Communication person/Committee to liaise with the General Assembly Communication Committee.
- 6. The Executive Commission authorises the General Secretary to act as Editor in Chief of all UPCSAs publications.

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

- 1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
- 2. The Executive Commission;
 - a) sends the proposed amended Prelude and Articles 1, 2 and 18 of the UPCSAs Confession of Faith in Appendix A below together with the rationales for the amendments in them in the body of the report to all Ministers and Sessions for their consideration and urges them to send their comments to the convener by 30 April 2010. (The second clause was deleted as superfluous)
- 3. The Executive Commission;
 - a) sends the proposed Points of Doctrine Fundamental for Ordination as a Minister or an Elder in Appendix B below to all Ministers and Sessions for their consideration and urges them to send their comments to the convener by 30 April 2010. (The second clause was deleted as superfluous)
- 4. The Executive Commission amends the Assembly's instruction to the Committee in 2003 to draft teaching material based on the confessions of the Church for use in Sunday Schools to an instruction to it to draft a course on the basics of the faith for use in preparing young people for believers' baptism or 'confirmation'—when it has finished its other work.

CONGREGATIONAL INTEGRATION:

- 1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
- 2. The Executive Commission:
 - i) Instructs Presbyteries to appoint a representative to serve on the Congregation Integration Committee and submit their names to the General Secretary by the 30th of September 2009.
 - ii) Instructs the General Secretary and the Clerk of Assembly to initiate and facilitate the first meeting of the Church Integration Committee by the 30th of November 2009.

COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION:

- 1. Executive Commission receives the report.
- 2. Executive Commission notes and encourages the members within the UPCSAs to apply for the current programmes on offer by the CWM.

3. Executive Commission notes the CWMAR Mission priorities.
4. Executive Commission agrees that the disbursement of the CWM Grant (Mission Support Fund- MPSF2) given to the UPCSAs should be done in accordance with the procedures and process laid down by the CWM.
5. Executive Commission endorses the nominations of names submitted to serve in the CWMAR committees.
6. Executive Commission urges the Presbyteries and sessions to encourage the youths to apply for TIM (Training in Mission) programme.
7. Executive Commission holds in abeyance the General Assembly 2008 decision to appoint the Mission Enabler until the next General Assembly 2010.

COURT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PANEL:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission notes:
 - i) two reviews have been dealt with by the ARP, and
 - ii) Proposal 2 of the Manual Committee and Overtures 2 and 3 of the 2008 General Assembly have been referred to the Manual Committee.
3. The Executive Commission appoints a Committee to determine how best we can commemorate our 10th Anniversary and report to the 2010 General Assembly. **(Withdrawn)**

DECISION-MAKING (AD-HOC COMMITTEE):

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission:
 - 2.1. endorses the values of the consensus model as set out in the body of the report, and
 - 2.2. urges all councils within the UPCSAs to adhere to these values.

3. The Executive Commission instructs all Presbyteries, in consultation with the Ad Hoc Committee on Decision-Making, to hold a "Consensus Imbizo" by the 31st May 2010.
4. The Executive Commission sends down the following in terms of 12.50 (Barrier Act) of the Manual of Faith and Order:
 - a) Amend 12.3(b) by replacing the word "six" with "four."
 - b) Remove 12.3(c)
 - c) The matter then to be considered by the General Assembly 2010 for possible enactment for the Assembly of 2012.
5. The Executive Commission agrees to rescind the decision of Assembly in 2006 to send Remit EC/07/01 down to Presbyteries.

DOCTRINE ETHICS AND DISCIPLINE:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission
 - a) adopts the document on 'INFANT BAPTISM' as printed in the Appendix below as a document of the UPCSAs;
 - b) commends it to Ministers and Elders for use in instruction on Baptism and whenever the question is raised whether children should be baptized; and
 - c) instructs the Clerk to see that the document is printed as a booklet, made available on a cost-recovery basis and advertised to all Ministers and Sessions.
3. The Executive Commission approves the items in the report listing the areas on which the Committee intends to focus.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission notes that the Ecumenical Consultation will take place in October 2009 or some time thereafter.
3. The Executive Commission instructs all Congregations and Presbyteries that have not already submitted details about their ecumenical partnerships to do so by the 30th September 2009.
4. The Executive Commission

- a) instructs all Presbyteries to ensure that the ACCRA Confession is adequately studied within the Presbytery, and
 - b) instructs all Presbytery Clerks to submit the questionnaire by 30th November 2009.
5. The Executive Commission expresses in writing our support, encouragement and commitment to pray for the DRC and the URCSA as they journey through their process of mediation in addressing the issues that have led to the moratorium on union.
6. The Executive Commission :
- a) notes the initiative that has been undertaken by the General Secretary to bring Reformed Churches together in the celebration of John Calvin's 500th Birthday, and
 - b) Expresses its commitment to participate in the activities that would be embarked upon on the regional, national, and Transnational levels of the Church.
7. The Executive Commission:
- a) notes that the Moderator of the Church of Scotland has conducted an official visit to the UPCSA from 16-30th July 2009, and
 - b) expresses our thanks to the Moderator and his team for choosing to undertake such a visit with the UPCSA.
8. The Executive Commission:
-) resolves to apply for membership of the Bible Society of South Africa, and
- b) instructs Presbyteries in the nearest proximity to the BBSA region centres to appoint representatives as set out in the body of the report.
9. The Executive Commission expresses our thanks to CWM for the continued exposure and enrichment it offers to some of our members, and for the resources it makes available for these initiatives.
10. The Executive Commission notes that congregations have been requested to observe Disability Sunday on 30th August 2009 and encourages them to do so.

Supplementary report to Executive Commission 2009:

- 1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

- 2. The Executive Commission encourages members within the UPCSA to apply for some of the ministry positions offered by the CWM.

FARMS:

- 1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
 - 2. The Executive Commission requests all Presbyteries with a farm(s) to furnish this Committee with the locality and contact details of the responsible person.
 - 3. The Executive Commission resolves that Mpolweni farm need not be disposed of at any stage.
- This was ruled **Out of Order**.
- 4. The Executive Commission resolves that where applicable rent should be collected to benefit the denomination.
 - 5. The Executive Commission notes those projects initiated by the local Committee for the benefit of the Church at large.

Withdrawn.

FINANCE:

- 1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
- 2. The Executive Commission appoints Ms White and Mr Henley as members of the Finance Committee.

Referred to Nominations Committee

- 3. The Executive Commission approves:
 - i) The annual Financial Statements for the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa and the Sedibeng Trust for year ended December 2007, audited by KPMG, and
 - ii) The annual Financial Statements for the Sedibeng Trust for the year ended December 2008 be audited and prepared by Chassell's Accountants Inc.
 - iii) And instructs the Finance Committee to investigate alternative auditing firms and report to the General Assembly in 2010.
- 4. The Executive Commission notes:
 - i) That the decision made at the 2008 General Assembly to dispose of the Mpolweni Mission Farm has reached an advanced stage and that

contractual negotiations with the Department of Land Affairs, who have offered R4.5 million, are in process.

ii) That a contract has been drawn up by Land Affairs and is being perused by our attorneys J Leslie Smith Inc. prior to finalisation.

5. The Executive Commission authorises the Finance Committee to assist the RPCSA Pension Fund with an amount not exceeding R190,000 because of the liquidation of the Pension Fund Administration wing of Glenrand MIB, being ABSA's requirement to continue with the administration of this fund

6. The Executive Commission thanks the Investment Sub-Committee for the work they are doing to monitor and maintain growth of the Pension Fund and UPCSAs investments

7. The Executive Commission notes that the RB Hagart Trust Fund established to assist retired ministers and their spouses invites applications to assist with emergency medical expenses and requests Presbyteries to advise retired ministers of this facility

8. The Executive Commission notes that a stringent accounting governance procedure, including the signing of affidavits, has been set up to record, monitor follow up and audit disbursements made against the Council for World Mission Support Programme grant related to detailed motivations.

9. The Executive Commission notes that the on-going non-identification of payments made into the UPCSAs banking account will have major negative financial implications for the denomination, congregations and ministers.

10. The Executive Commission notes that an amount of R650,000 remains owing to the UPCSAs for past loans, many of which are not being serviced.

GENERAL SECRETARY:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

2. The Executive Commission notes the work that has been done to re-image the Central Office.

3. The Executive Commission instructs the Priorities and Resources Committee to:

3.1 continue the auditing process of General Assembly Committees;

3.2 review the current structures of the Assembly to see if they are conducive to our needs;

3.3 draw up terms of reference for each committee and ensure that they are distributed to all new conveners of Assembly Committees.

3.4 provide guidelines for conducting a meeting and information on the rules and procedures for committee work;

3.5 draw up policy for the handing over of committee work to a new convener.

4. The Executive Commission instructs the General Secretary to arrange a Workshop for Committee Conveners some time soon after the sitting of each General Assembly.

5. The Executive Commission urges all Committee Conveners to display the work of their committee, where possible, at the 2010 General Assembly.

6. The Executive Commission instructs all Presbyteries that have not set up dates for a visit by the General Secretary to do so as soon as possible.

7. The Executive Commission instructs all Church Association leaders and others concerned to participate in the processes to effect unity, reconciliation and healing within the UPCSAs.

8. The Executive Commission instructs Presbyteries, where possible, to act on the issues identified at the Moderators, Clerks and Treasurers Consultation.

9. The Executive Commission:

9.1 notes that the Manual Imbizo will take place 28 – 29 September 2009

9.2 endorse the initiative of the General Secretary, Moderator and Clerk and instructs them to proceed with the arrangements of the Manual Imbizo and agrees that they will now constitute the Steering Committee.

9.3 agrees to the inclusion of a representative from each of the Associations in the Manual Imbizo.

10. The Executive Commission agrees that the 2011 Ministers' Conference be reformatted to include the Ministers' spouses as well and

a) Directs the General Secretary in consultation with representatives of the Ministerial Marriage and Family Care Committee, and the Priorities and Resources Committee, with powers to co-opt, to arrange this Conference

b) Instructs all congregations and Presbyteries to financially support their minister/s and their spouses to attend

11. The Executive Commission:

a) applauds the request of the UCCSA to "start talks on closer cooperation and possible union" with the UPCSAs, and

b) appoints five representatives, including the Moderator, General Secretary, Moderator-Designate and two Elders, preferably female, to represent the UPCSAs in such talks,

- c) that these representatives reflect the trans-nationality of the UPCSA and
- d) that the representatives take cognisance of the previous talks in order to learn from them.

12. The Executive Commission instructs the Worship Committee to prepare and distribute to congregations a liturgy to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the UPCSA, and urges all congregations to use the liturgy in their services on 27th September 2009.

13. The Executive Commission instructs the Assembly Committees and Associations to submit details of their meetings and activities for 2010 to the Central Office by 30 November 2009.

HIV/AIDS (COMBINED REPORT):

1. The Executive Committee receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission notes that the Finance Committee of the General Assembly has released most of the funds for the HIV & AIDS Committee which were approved by the Joint Committee of CWM and Priorities and Resources Committee.
3. The Executive Commission instructs the HIV & AIDS Committee to report to the 2010 General Assembly on the measured effects of this Committee's initiatives

LIFE CONCERNS:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission urges Presbyteries within the bounds of South Africa to heed the resolution of the 2008 General Assembly and schedule an opportunity for the Life Concerns Committee to present information and respond to questions relating to the issues of abortion and euthanasia at a time suitable to both the Presbytery and the Committee.
3. The Executive Commission
 - a) instructs the General Secretary of the UPCSA to issue a statement (to relevant bodies, including governing authorities, as necessary) affirming that sex is a sacred gift given by God to be enjoyed consensually within the context of marriage, and condemns the sale of sex as a commodity as well as the exploitation of people to this end;
 - b) instructs the General Secretary of the UPCSA to write a letter to the South African Government to encourage the Government to

promulgate and apply just laws that will also provide for exit programmes for those trapped in prostitution;

c) encourages congregations to teach on Biblical sexuality and the marriage covenant, and to initiate and support practical outreach work to both the buyers and the sellers of sex.

d) instructs Presbyteries to use this statement when and where necessary.

MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission:
 - (a) adopts the Stipend scale for the year 1st January – 31st December 2010 as recorded in the body of the report in the case of South Africa.
 - (b) resolves that the travel allowance for ministers be set as recorded in the body of the report as from 1 January 2010 with regard to South Africa.
 - (c) sets the pulpit supply fee at R 350 (and equivalent in Zimbabwe Dollars and Zambian Kwacha) per service.
 - (d) grants to the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee the authority to approve the minimum Stipend scales and transport allowance for churches in Zambia and Zimbabwe in consultation with the Synod of Zambia and Presbytery of Zimbabwe respectively.
3. The Executive Commission instructs Presbyteries to require a report from every congregation in their bounds detailing the complete 2009 emoluments of their minister/s by 30 September 2009.
4. The Executive Commission instructs congregations to comply with the requirement of Presbyteries for a report detailing the complete 2009 emoluments of all ministers.
5. The Executive Commission instructs all Presbyteries to report, by 31 January 2010, to the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee (in terms of para 10.27 (q) of the *Manual*) on the complete 2009 emoluments of all the ministers under their care and discipline (seconded or in pastoral charge).
6. The Executive Commission expresses its thanks to:
 - (a) The Robert Niven Trust for their continued generosity to the committee in enabling it to augment grants in aid of Stipend again this year;

(b) Mrs Sheila Hunt and Ms Bester Mahlangu for their service to the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee during the past year.

MANUAL:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

2. The Executive Commission;

(a) amends para 7.45-46 of the *Manual* to read:

“7.45 An Elder, once elected, is ordained for life and inducted to office. Ordinarily this means that an Elder remains a member of the Session to which he/she was inducted until:

- (a) he/she ceases to be a member of the Congregation;
- (b) the Session declares him/her to be no longer a member of the Session under the conditions set out in para 7.47 below;
- (c) the Session accepts his/her resignation from the Session;
- (d) he/she is removed from office under discipline;
- (e) the period for which Presbytery has appointed him/her in terms of para 7.50 has expired; or
- (f) he/she retires (see para 7.48).

7.45.1 Alternatively, a Session may limit the period for which its Elders are inducted to 3, 4 or 5 years. If a Session has decided to impose such limits, it may then also rule that after 2 or 3 consecutive periods of service an Elder must step down for at least one year, unless there are no suitable candidates to replace him/her.

7.45.2 Any Session wanting to introduce this system informs the congregation at a duly constituted Congregational meeting and in addition informs the Presbytery.

7.46 If an Elder moves to another Congregation, he/she does not thereby become a member of its Session. If nominated and elected as an Elder in that Congregation, he/she is then not re-ordained but is inducted to office in it following the normal procedures.

(b) sends these amendments to Presbyteries in terms of the Barrier Act and sets the date for returns as 31 March 2010.

3. The Executive amends para 7.56 of the *Manual* to read:

7.56.1 The Session considers all nominations submitted to it. If it has good reason to disapprove the nomination of any nominee, it may at this point approach the nominee to inform him/her of the reason and give him/her the option of withdrawing.

7.56.2 If a nominee whom the Session considers unsuitable for election to the eldership fails to withdraw his/her nomination when given the option to do so, the Session may, without furnishing reasons, decline to sustain the nomination. The Session Clerk then simply informs the nominee that his/her nomination has not been sustained and that the list of nominees to be put to the congregation in terms of para 7.57 will therefore not include his/her name.

7.56.3 If the Session so wishes, the Awareness Workshops referred to in para 7.58 may be arranged at this point in the procedure.

4. The Executive deletes para 7.62 of the *Manual*.

5. The Executive amends para 8.24 of the *Manual* to read:

“The period in office of a Steward is 3 years. If at any time during this period a Steward is for any reason unable to continue in service, the Stewardship Board may decide to co-opt another member of the Congregation to serve in his/her place until the next Annual Congregational Meeting. The Stewardship Board seeks the approval of the Session before co-opting the person. At the next Annual Congregational Meeting an election takes place to fill the places of

(a) those who retired at the end of their three year period of service, and

(b) those who were not able to continue in service.

Those elected in terms of (a) serve for a period of three years. Those elected in terms of (b) serve for the unexpired portion of the period of service of the person being replaced. Stewards are eligible for re-election for further periods of three years.”

6. The Executive amends para 8.44 of the *Manual* by changing the date from “31 March” to “30 April”.

7. The Executive amends paras 7.2 and 7.3 of the *Manual* to read as follows:

7.2 The Session is a Council of the Congregation that is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the Congregation’s life and work other than the actual conduct of Public Worship, which is the responsibility of the Minister, who is accountable to the Presbytery in this task (see paras 6.69 and 10.27(b)).

7.3 The Session's responsibility is to see to the Congregation's spiritual well-being. It exercises oversight over the Congregation's instruction in the faith and its doctrine, life, work, witness, mission, pastoral care, fellowship, discipline and administration. It sees that regular public worship (cf. 7.2 above) is arranged and the sacraments are duly celebrated. It approves the names of those to be baptized and those to be confirmed, on the recommendation of the Minister. It also shares with the financial authority in the Congregation responsibility for the relief of the poor in the

Congregation and outside it. It is accountable to the Presbytery for the discharge of its duties.

8. The Executive Commission amends para 8.16 of the *Manual* to read as follows:

The relevant financial authority does not administer the funds collected in the name of the Session for the relief of the poor unless the Session specifically requests it to do so. It does however, administer other funds collected, or set aside, for the poor.

9. The Executive Commission amends the first sentence in para 14.17 of the *Manual* to read as follows:

A point of order refers to any matter in which the provisions of the Manual or the Standing Orders of the Council in question have not been followed; or to a question of fact contained in the proceedings or papers of a Council; or to any serious misinformation being given to the Council.

10. The Executive Commission

a) adds to the end of para 14.27(b) of the *Manual* the following:

If a member of Session or Presbytery proposes as a petition that Assembly act or legislate in any way that does not affect the mover's own personal interests, the mover should be told to move it not as a petition but an overture (para 14.18).

b) adds to the end of para 14.27 the following:

A Council may not pass from the subject when debating a petition (para 14.11(c)).

11. The Executive amends Appendix A (1) of the *Manual* to read as follows:

We, the undersigned office-bearers and other members of ... Congregation of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa, being without a fixed Minister and being assured of your godliness and other ministerial qualifications, warmly invite and call you, A.B., to be our Minister; and, further, upon your accepting our call and being (ordained and) inducted into the pastoral charge of this Congregation, we promise you all dutiful respect, encouragement and support in the Lord.

12. The Executive;

a) amends para 16.45 of the *Manual* to read as follows:

In the notice calling the Presbytery meeting at which the Call is to be considered, the Clerk also calls for objections to the life, character, conduct or doctrine of the Minister being called to be made before the Moderator and Clerk and two other representatives of Presbytery in the vestry of the church of

the Congregation calling the Minister or at the Presbytery meeting itself. Any objections made are dealt with by the Presbytery before the Call is considered.

b) amends Appendix C (1) of the *Manual* to read as follows:

The Presbytery of will resolve at its meeting on [day] [date] whether to proceed to the (ordination and) induction of AB, who has been called to be Minister (or Colleague or Colleague and Successor) of this Congregation. Presbytery hereby notifies the members of this Congregation that if anyone has any objections to offer to the life, conduct, character or doctrine of AB, he or she must appear before the Moderator and Clerk and two other representatives of Presbytery in the vestry of this church on [day] [date] at [time] or alternatively at the Presbytery meeting itself. Any relevant objection made will then be reported to the meeting of Presbytery that follows, and Presbytery will decide at that meeting whether to (ordain and) induct AB to the pastoral charge of this Congregation (or to the collegiate pastoral charge of this Congregation).

13. The Executive;

(a) approves the Court of Assembly Worksheet included below as Appendix 1 and directs that this be published in the *Manual* as an Appendix to Chapter 18, on Discipline; and

(b) approves the Assembly Administrative Review Panel Worksheet included in Appendix 2 below and directs that this be published in the *Manual* as an Appendix to Chapter 15, on Administrative Reviews and Dissenters' Complaints.

14. The Executive sends down to Presbyteries in terms of para 12.50 proposals 3, 5 and 7 and instructs Presbyteries to return their responses by 31 March 2010.

MINISTERIAL MARRIAGE AND FAMILY CARE:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

2. The Executive Commission commends the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee especially for the work already done in seeking ways to provide the proper remuneration of ministers and urges the Committee to continue in this endeavour.

MINISTRY:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

2. The Executive Commission notes the list of Students and Probationers.

3. The Executive Commission notes the names of ministers who have been allocated study grants.

4. The Executive Commission notes with sadness the passing on of Ms Sandra Sithole a student for the ministry.
5. The Executive Commission notes the candidates selected in 2009, to be trained as Students and Probationers for the Ministry of the UPCSA.
6. The Executive Commission seconds the Rev DD Monokoane to the SAPS and places him under the care and discipline of the Presbytery of eGoli.
7. The Executive Commission seconds the Rev P Neshangwe to the Presbytery of Denver within the PCUSA.
8. The Executive Commission seconds the Rev VS Vellem to the SACC as Deputy General Secretary and remain within the care and discipline of the Presbytery of eGoli.
9. The Executive Commission seconds the Rev H Mbambo to the Presbytery of Dunedin in New Zealand.
10. The Executive Commission withdraws the secondment of the Rev M Hershensohn.
11. The Executive Commission grants Rev L Mpetsheni a seat on the Presbytery of Western Cape.
12. The Executive Commission instructs the Ministry Committee to investigate the role and place of Evangelists and Missionaries within the structures of the UPCSA and report to the 2010 General Assembly.
13. The Executive Commission authorises the Ministry Committee, in consultation with the Church Office Committee, to investigate and implement an appropriate structure that will address:
 - a) The institution of a process for the formulation and signing of the Partnership Agreement
 - b) The designing of a process for the appointment of further subsidised academic appointments
 - c) The drawing up of Conditions of Employment and tenure of office
 - d) The initiating of a formal Review (appraisal) Management System for: 1) subsidised academic staff and 2) seconded academic staff, and

report to the General Assembly in 2010.

MISSION PRIORITIES TRUST:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commissions appoints an interim Nominations Committee under the convenership of the Rev Xolani Mzendana with the Rev Alastair Rodger (as both are members of the core committee) and Mrs EN Dipa and Mr Webster Ngulube as elders to deal with the matters that have arisen since the General Assembly.
3. The Executive Commission adopts the changes to the Committees and Commissions of General Assembly contained therein.

OVERTURES AND PETITIONS:

1. The Executive Commission resolves to deal with the overtures as follows:
 - Overture 1 under the Finance Report.
 - Overture 2 under the Manual Report
 - Overture 3 under the Manual Report.
2. The Executive Commission resolves to deal with Petition 1 under the General Secretary's report.

OVERTURE 1: ARREARS IN PAYMENT OF ASSESSMENTS

The Sessions of The Hill Presbyterian Church and St Martin's Presbyterian Church, within the bounds of the Presbytery of the Central Cape, overture the General Assembly of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa to;

- a) *Allow congregations who have fallen in arrears in the payment of Assessments to either General Assembly or Presbytery to proceed to call a minister to fill a ministerial vacancy.*
- b) *Remove the words "or is in arrear with the payment of Assessments to the Councils of the Church" from Chapter 16 paragraph 3 and any other reference to the same rule from the Manual of Faith and Order 2007 of the Uniting Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa.*

This was **referred** to the Finance Committee

OVERTURE 2: PRESBYTERY BOUNDARIES

The Presbytery of the Central Cape and the Presbytery of the Western Cape overture the venerable the General Assembly (or the Executive Commission of the General Assembly in a year in which the General Assembly does not meet) to change the boundary between the two Presbyteries as follows:

- a) *Remove from the Presbytery of the Western Cape the magisterial districts of Heidelberg, Ladismith and Riversdale and*

b) Add them to the Presbytery of Central Cape

OVERTURE 3: THE BARRIER PROCEDURE

The Executive Commission requests the AARP:

(1) to issue a statement to the effect that if anyone wishes to bring forward into The Manual of Faith and Order a proposition that was in the Interim Manual or in the Manual of the UPCSA but is not in the Manual of Faith and Order, the only way in which the wish can be given effect is for an overture or proposal to be sent to Assembly, which overture or proposal if the Assembly considers it to be one involving a material change in the Church's constitution, or in its laws respecting doctrine, discipline, government or worship, is then sent down to the Presbyteries under the Barrier procedure in para 12.50 of The Manual of Faith and Order, and

(2) to issue a statement to the effect that the rule that was in the Interim Manual and is quoted in point 4 of the Overture of the Presbytery of the Western Cape in Proceedings and Decisions of General Assembly 2008 pp449 col.2-450 col.1 not having been sent down to the Presbyteries, can only become a rule of the UPCSA if it is sent down to the Presbyteries in terms of para 12.50 of The Manual of Faith and Order."

This Overture fell away due to the adoption of Proposal 2 of the Manual report.

PENSION FUND (UPCSA):

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive thanks the Actuary, Mr Arthur Els, for all his help in implementing the new fund.
3. The Executive Commission notes that in terms of the Rules of the Fund an additional Trustee cannot be appointed.
4. The Executive Commission urges all congregations to make regular, timeous payments in respect of their ministers to the Fund, and ensures that these are properly identified by using the members name as the reference.
5. The Executive Commission notes that the Trustees are in negotiations with the administrators and that changes to the Rules or structure of the Fund may be necessary.

PETITION 1: MEN'S CHRISTIAN GUILD

The Executive Commission refers to the General Secretary the Petition from Session of the JJR Jolobe Memorial Congregation that "the General Assembly recognises the Men's Fellowship as an organisation of the Uniting Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa".

This petition was LOST.

PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATIONAL INTEGRATION:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission approves the Committee's plan to monitor relations between the two denominations in the Western Cape as a pilot project in a way described in the report, in order to facilitate improved relations between them.
3. The Executive Commission approves the Committee's intention eventually to seek to apply the same way of monitoring relations in the Western Cape to other areas where united congregations exist.

PRIORITIES AND RESOURCES:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report
2. The Executive Commission adds the names of Mrs. S. Nyonya, Mrs. Sheila Hunt and Rev. B.J. Gaborone to the committee.
3. The Executive Commission notes the change of dates for the Minister's Conference.
4. The Executive Commission authorises the Priorities and Resources Committee to proceed with the consultation with other committee conveners.
5. The Executive Commission authorises the Priorities and Resources Committee to work on the Mission Statement and Mission Priorities.
6. The Executive Commission agrees to establish
 - (a) The Christian Education Committee which should also incorporate the training of Elders and Lay Preachers
 - (b) The Mission and Evangelism Committee and instructs the P & R Committee to set out clear terms of reference to ensure that it does not duplicate the work of the Church Development and Planning Committee
7. The Executive Commission re-emphasises the need for all Committees and Presbyteries to implement the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Executive Commission.

RECORDS:

1. The Executive receives the Report.

2. The Executive Commission instructs Presbyteries and Committees to bring their records to Assembly 2010.

SCHOOLS:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission authorizes the Schools Committee, in consultation with the Finance Committee, to take the necessary action to ensure the UPCSA does not suffer any further financial loss due to lack of payment by the Kwa Zulu Natal Education Department.
3. The Executive Commission thanks St. Columba's and all other parties who have helped the Pholela Institute thus far.
4. The Executive Commission gives thanks for the work at The Gooldville Mission School and encourages them in all future endeavours.
5. The Executive Commission:
 - a) notes the introduction of the Schools Trust Document and the developments in the Zimbabwe schools; and
 - b) instructs the Manual Committee to replace the current Constitution contained in Appendix F of the *Manual of Faith and Order* with the new Schools Trust document.
6. The Executive Commission thanks all those organizations, congregations and individuals who have helped sustain the work in Zimbabwe during these trying times.

Supplementary Report

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

STEWARDSHIP:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

STIPENDS:

1. The Executive receives the report
2. The Executive disbands the Committee with thanks and refers the work of this committee to the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

SUSTAINABILITY OF ZAMBIAN SYNOD;

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

2. The Executive Commission instructs the Sustainability Committee in consultation with the Manual Committee to research models of Transnational relationships used by other Churches and report to the 2010 General Assembly.

TRAINING IN ELDERSHIP:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.

WORSHIP:

1. The Executive Commission receives the report.
2. The Executive Commission
 - a) approves the Order for the Baptism of Believers in Appendix A below for use and comment; and
 - b) urges that all comments be sent to the convener by 31 May 2010, in order for the Order to be proposed, with any necessary amendments, to the Assembly for adoption in 2010.
3. The Executive Commission adopts the amendments, with the exception of Point 5, to the Order for the Baptism of Children in Appendix B below.
4. The Executive Commission amends par. 3.22 in the *Manual* to read as follows:

Because a right understanding and appreciation of baptism depends on the Word that accompanies the sacrament, every Minister is enjoined to preach on the meaning, power and/or necessity of baptism whenever he/she baptizes, and to point out the promise and significance of baptism frequently when preaching on other themes at other times as well.
5. The Executive Commission ;
 - a) commends to all Ministers the Sunday Order without Holy Communion adopted in 2004 as a model for use in their congregations;
 - b) commends the Sunday Orders with Holy Communion adopted in 2004 to all Ministers and urges them to use one or more of them in their congregations (and, if they do not use them, to use Orders that follow their order and contain all their basic elements).
6. The Executive Commission points out to all Presbytery Clerks and to the chaplains of Moderators of General Assembly that services held by the councils of the Church, in particular, should use the Orders for worship that the Assembly or the Executive Commission has authorized.

7. The Executive Commission enacts the amended forms of the Declaration of Standards and the Ministers' Vows that the Assembly adopted last year and sent to Presbyteries for their consideration and approval under the barrier act.

Fell away due to enactment under the Clerk's report

8. The Executive Commission adopts with the small amendment proposed above in the report:
 - a) the revised Order for the Ordination and Induction/Appointment of a Minister that the Assembly approved last year (with its title corrected); and
 - b) the revised Order for the Ordination and Induction/Appointment of a Minister that the Assembly approved last year.
9. The Executive Commission enacts the forms of the Elders' Vows that the Assembly adopted last year and sent to Presbyteries for their consideration and approval under the barrier act.

Fell away due to enactment under the Clerk's report

10. The Executive Commission adopts
 - a) the revised Order for the Ordination and Induction of Elders that the Assembly approved for use and comment last year; and
 - b) the revised Order for the Induction of Elders that the Assembly approved for use and comment last year.
11. The Executive Commission adopts all the amendments to par.2.6 of the *Manual of Faith and Order* proposed in the report.
12. The Executive Commission approves all the points that the report makes with regard to Chapter 8 ('The Congregation's Finances') of the *Manual of Faith and Order* and adopts the amendments to this Chapter proposed in the report, leaving the final wording to Manual Committee.
13. The Executive Commission
 - a) approves the Order for the Induction of Deacons in Appendix E below for use and comment; and
 - b) urges that all comments be sent to the convener by 31 May 2010, in order for the Order to be proposed, with any necessary amendments, to the Assembly for adoption in 2010.

14. The Executive Commission

- a) adopts the Order for the Confession of Sins and Assurance of Grace as printed in Appendix D of the Worship Report in 2006, with a brief rationale inserted into the rubrics at the beginning; and
- b) again commends to all Ministers in the UPCS the practice of private confession of sins and assurance of grace whenever afflicted consciences need this; and
- c) commends the use of this Order to that end.

15. The Executive Commission

- a) approves the contents of Appendix H below on a New Lectionary for comment;
- b) urges that any comment on Appendix H below and on the *Revised Common Lectionary* or any other lectionary be sent to the convener by 31 May 2010.