

**2009**  
**DECISIONS OF EXECUTIVE COMMISSION AFFECTING PRESBYTERIES**

**APPLICATIONS TO RETIRE:**

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:**

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

**BURSARIES COMMITTEE:**

3. The Executive Commission request Clerks to advise the Trustees of the names of their Corresponding Trustees.

**CHURCH ASSOCIATIONS:**

3. The Executive Commission encourages Aggrieved Groups to participate in the process of listening, dialoguing and mediation as, proposed by the General Secretary.
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.
9. The Executive Commission approves the Constitution of the Youth Fellowship as the corrections required by the General Assembly have been done.
12. The Executive Commission approves the terms of reference for the Presbytery Association Conveners as set out in the report.

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:**

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 UPCSA 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.
6. The Executive Commission commends the Appendix to this report entitled '**Ministry in different contexts in the UPCSA**' to all Sessions/Councils as a discussion document/discussion starter for Church Growth in their congregations.

**CHURCH OFFICE:**

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.

**CLERK OF ASSEMBLY:**

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 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 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010.
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.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

5. The Executive Commission requests each Presbytery to appoint a Communication person/Committee to liaise with the General Assembly Communication Committee.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL INTEGRATION:**

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

#### **COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION:**

2. Executive Commission notes and encourages the members within the UPCSA to apply for the current programmes on offer by the CWM.
6. Executive Commission urges the Presbyteries and sessions to encourage the youths to apply for TIM (Training in Mission) programme.

#### **DECISION-MAKING (Ad- hoc committee)**

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 UPCSA 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 of the Manual of Faith and Order:
- a) amend 12.3 (b) by replacing the word "six" with "four"
  - b) remove 12.3 (c)
- The matter then to be considered by the General Assembly in 2010 for possible enactment for the Assembly 2012.
5. The Executive Commission agrees to rescind the decision of Assembly in 2006 to send Remit EC/07/01 down to Presbyteries.

#### **ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS:**

3. The Executive Commission instructs all Congregations and Presbyteries that have not already submitted details about their ecumenical partnerships to do so by the 30<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009.
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 500<sup>th</sup> 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.
8. The Executive Commission:
  - a) 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.

#### **FARMS:**

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.

#### **FINANCE:**

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:**

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.
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 on 29 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009.
  - 9.2 ratifies the position of the General Secretary, Moderator and Clerk 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 to the Manual Imbizo.
10. The Executive Commission agrees that the 2011 Ministers' Conference be reformatted to include the Ministers' spouses as well, and
  - i) Directs the General Secretary in consultation with the representatives of the Ministerial Marriage and Family Care Committee and the Priorities and resources Committee, with powers to co-opt, to arrange this Conference
  - ii) Instructs all congregations and Presbyteries to financially support their minister/ministers and their spouses to attend;

#### **LIFE CONCERNS:**

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.

#### **MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY:**

2. The Executive Commission:
  - (a) adopts the Stipend scale for the year 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> 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 October 2009, 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).

**MANUAL:**

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.

**MINISTRY:**

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.

**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*

## **PENSION FUND (UPCSA):**

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.

## **PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATIONAL INTEGRATION:**

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:**

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:**

2. The Executive Commission instructs Presbyteries to bring their Records to Assembly 2010.

## **WORSHIP:**

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.