



THE UNITING
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA

Statement on Mediation Meeting

By decision of the 2012 General Assembly, External Mediators (from the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the All Africa Conference of Churches, as chosen by the Groups) met with representative Groups to address the conflicts around the Church Associations. The meeting was held at the Lumko Retreat Centre, Benoni, from 19th -20th October 2013. On the second day of the meeting a way forward was proposed in which both Groups could work together to resolve the current situation. In the end, however, we were not able to agree on the proposal and thus are in the same place as reported to the 2012 General Assembly. The following positions are therefore maintained:

1. Both Groups are committed to and will continue to affirm the unity of the UPCSA.
2. The Associations formally approved by the General Assembly are keen to work towards the unity of only four Associations within the UPCSA, excluding the ACCM, and are committed to support initiatives towards this end.
3. The other Group does not feel ready, at this time, to work towards the unity of the four Associations and perceive the need to first engage something like the TRC to address the issues of hurts and pain. In light of this, they would prefer to pursue their desire of co-existence.

In spite of this outcome, we continue to pray and hope that God will direct us into a path in which we can find one another, preserve the unity and witness of the Church, focus on the real mission of the Church, and work together peaceably to the Glory of God. Our hope and prayer is that the 2014 General Assembly will lead us decisively on this matter of Associations which continue to hurt and cause pain for so many of our members in the UPCSA. In the theme chosen by the External Mediators, let us keep on "*Striving for the Kingdom of God*" based on Ephesians 2:14. We wish to thank all those who have prayed for the mediation meeting this past weekend and encourage you to continue to pray and work together for the unity of the Church and the Associations.

Yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Rod Botsis
Moderator of the General Assembly

The Rev. Prof. Jerry Pillay
General Assembly

The Rev. Lulama Mshumpela
Convener of the Assembly Church Associations Committee

Tiyo Soga House
28 Rhodes Ave, Parktown, 2193
PO Box 96188, Brixton 2019
Tel: +27 11 727 3500
Fax: +27 11 727 3506
Email: gensec@presbyterian.org.za

Moderator : Rt Rev RJ Botsis BA
General Secretary: The Rev Dr J Pillay BTh(Hons) MTh PhD
Clerk of Assembly : Mr TW Coulter B Ed DPLR
General Treasurer : Mr DH Anderson BCom, FCIS, AEP(Unisa), ISMP
(Harvard)