



THE UNITING
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA

6 December 2013

TO : ALL MINISTERS, PRESBYTERY CLERKS AND CONGREGATIONS OF THE UPCSA

RE: THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Dear Colleagues,

I write to you on the morning after Nelson Mandela has died. As one RSA newspaper's simple headline reads today " THE WORLD WEEPS". We give thanks for a beautiful life and we remember and pray for his family especially.

Another major sadness for us as the UPCSA family is that Jerry Pillay, our General Secretary, has handed me and the Church Office Committee his resignation with effect from 31 August, 2014. He has accepted the position of Associate Professor in Church History and Polity at the University of Pretoria and begins there in September next year.

We are grateful to Jerry for this long notice - his contract only required a 3 month notice - as this will help us in finding a replacement and overseeing a handover without a rush. But the Church Office Committee will meet on Monday 09th December to begin the work needed to find our next General Secretary.

Please pray for Jerry and his family, for the Committee and its work. And please talk widely amongst each other about who you think God will have us appoint in this position, even encouraging those you feel gifted to be a General Secretary to apply. An advert for the position will be posted early in January and we hope to complete the process by the end of March.

Jerry has been an outstanding "GS". We will pay full tribute to him later.

God bless you all and give thanks for the Resurrection--God's might working telling us all things will be made new. As you move through Advent season enjoy too the wonder that He keeps His promise to never leave us or forsake us: Jesus Christ is the Lord, Immanuel.

Love,

Rod Botsis
Moderator of the General Assembly

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