

### 3.8 CHURCHES IN ASIA

The Scribe was contacted by the Rector of Timothy Bible Institute regarding a request by a church in Pakistan. (**Addendum 4**)

The Executive discussed the request and would like to recommend that we assist the church in Pakistan.

#### GS 2016 Decision 127

##### **Executive 2<sup>nd</sup> Report 2016 Recommendation 5: Church in Pakistan: To be Approved**

1. The GS approves the request from the church in Pakistan to be called the Uniting Reformed Church in Pakistan; **Approved**
2. The GS mandates the newly elected Moderamen to enter into dialogue with our brothers and sisters in Pakistan and to assist them. **Approved**

#### 5. General remarks

The Executive wishes the meeting God's blessing

Yours in Christ

#### **REPORT OF GENERAL SYNOD SUPPORT MINISTRY FOR JUDICIAL MATTERS (SMJM) TO THE GENERAL SYNOD**

Rev DP Carlse presents the report.

#### 1. MEETINGS HELD **Noted**

##### **SMJM Recommendation 1:**

1. GS takes note of the meetings held.

#### 2. MEMBERS OF THE MINISTRY AS APPROVED BY THE GS 2012

2.1 (As appointed by a General Synod of 2012)

#### 2.2 CHANGES IN THE MEMBERS OF THE MINISTRY AS APPROVED BY THE GENERAL SYNODICAL COMMISSION

2.2.1 Changes on the Actuarii based on the elections of the new moderamen.

2.3 Composition of elders in the Ministry



## **GS 2016 Decision 128**

### **SMJM Recommendation 2:**

1. GS takes note of the members approved by the GS 2012 and the development during the recess on members as approved by the GSC. **Noted**
2. GS approves the replacement of Rev. Prof. Dr RW Nel by Rev. L Kekana for Southern Synod. **Approved**

## **3. PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH ORDER AND ACTA**

### **3.1 The process to publish the Church Order and supplementary**

## **GS 2016 Decision 129**

### **SMJM Recommendation 3: FOR NOTING**

1. GS takes note of the Action by the Actuariarius and the GS Executive in connection with the Church Order. **Noted**
2. The GS takes note of the actions of the **SMJM** in connection with the printing of the Church Order as approved by the GSC 2013. **Noted**

### **3.2 Publication of a Church Order**

#### **SMJM Recommendation 4: FOR NOTING**

GS takes note of the printing and distribution of the Church Order and supplementary regulations books to different Synods and the revenue that must be generated through the sales of these books. **Noted**

## **4. DEVELOPMENT ON REGISTER OF MINISTERS DURING THE RECESS**

## **GS 2016 Decision 130**

### **SMJM Recommendation 4: Noted**

GS takes notes on the following:

1. The development of the register for Ministers as approved by the GSC 2013, 2014, and 2015.



2. The current register of Ministers needs to be updated by adding particulars of ministers from the new submissions from the Cape and KZN.
3. The cut-off date for submission was Mid-September 2016.
4. The register of Ministers will be published in the URCSA News before the General Synod, so that each and every Minister must be aware that he/she is registered or not.

**SMJM Recommendation 5: Approved**

GS approves that the submission of the forms for registration takes place after every three years as in accordance with the forfeiture of status took three if a Minister is not in service of the church.

## **5. APPLICATION FOR STATUS OF MINISTERS**

### **5.1 CANDIDATES FOR MINISTRY**

On this section your ministry will report on status of candidates for Ministry from different **MFTT** within Regional Synods from 2012 to 2015.

As follow:

- 5.1.1 Candidates For Ministry 2012
- 5.1.1 Candidates For Ministry 2013
- 5.1.3 Candidates for Ministry 2014
- 5.1.4 Candidates For Ministry 2015

**SMJM Recommendation 6:Noted**

1. GS takes note the candidates licensed during the recess, as approved by GSC 2013 - 2015.

### **5.2 RETENTION OF STATUS**

- 5.2.1 Retention of Status In 2013
- 5.2.2 Retention Of Status In 2014
- 5.2.3 Retention Of Status In 2015



**SMJM Recommendation 7: Noted**

1. GS takes note the applications for retention of status during the recess, as approved by GSC 2013 -2015.

**5.2.4 RETENTION OF STATUS IN 2016**

**GS 2016 Decision 131**

**SMJM Recommendation 8:Approved**

1. GS Approves in principle the application, there are documents outstanding. It will reflect on the second report pending the submission of fully documentation from the Cape Synod.

**GS 2016 Decision 132**

**SMJM Recommendation 9:**

1. GS Approves in principle the applications.

**GS 2016 Decision 133**

**SMJM Recommendation 10:**

1. GS Approves in principle the application, there are documents outstanding. It will reflect on the second report pending the submission of fully documentation from the Northern Synod.

**GS 2016 Decision 134**

**SMJM Recommendation 11:**

1. GS Approves in principle the applications.

**5.2.4.7 SOUTHERN TRANSVAAL SYNOD:** No applications received.

**5.3 FORFEITURE OF STATUS**

**5.3.1 FORFEITURE OF STATUS 2013**

**5.3.2 FORFEITURE OF STATUS 2014**



### **SMJM Recommendation 12: Noted**

GS takes note forfeiture of status during the recess, as approved by GSC 2013 -2015.

### **5.3.3 FORFEITURE OF STATUS 2016**

#### **SMJM Recommendation 13:**

The meeting decides to request the chairperson to write the letter to Mr FW Mokoena to inform him about the decision of **SMJM** and advise him to follow the correct procedure to apply for re-instatement as a minister in URCSA. The church council where he resides must receive that letter, Presbytery as well as the Regional Synod Southern.

Point of Order raised by Rev. P Grove. Refer to Temp **SMJM** if there if any new information is available

### **GS 2016 Decision 135**

#### **Decision**

In view of the alledged additional information regarding this matter, the GS decides to refer the matter to the Temp Commission **SMJM** for futher reflection by engaging the Presbytery of Wits.

Proposed by Dr. Moraka and Seconded: Dr. M T Masuka

## **6. MATTERS REFERRED TO SMJM BY GS**

### **6.1 Decision 61 of GS**

#### **SMJM Recommendation 14: Noted**

1. GS takes note that the matter was handled by **MFTT** as stated in decision 49 of GSC 2013. **Noted**
2. GS takes note that the first candidate who has studied from **DCMA** was licensed with full status of a Minister of the Word in URCSA. **Noted**

### **6.2 Decision 211**

#### **SMJM Recommendation 15: Noted**

GS takes note of development around **CWL** and how **CMCM** and **SMJM** has handled the matter. **Noted**



### **6.3 GSC 2013 decision 5 and Decision 140**

#### **SMJM Recommendation 16:**

GS takes note of the following:

1. There is no duplication, but similar work responsibilities, at different working levels.

**Noted**

2. The regulations remain as they are in the Church Order and supplementary regulations.

**Noted**

### **6.4 GSC 2013 Decision 11: Exec Recommendation 4: Regional Synod meetings and church order stipulations.**

#### **GS 2016 Decision 136**

##### **SMJM Recommendation 17:**

1. The GS takes note of point 1- 3 on the advice of **SMJM. Noted**
2. The GS approves point 4 of the advice of **SMJM. Approved**

### **6.5 GSC 2013 Decision 108: Register for Ministers of the Word and status cards.**

#### **GS 2016 Decision 137**

##### **SMJM Recommendation 18:**

1. GS approves that the register is fully updated in ~~2016~~2017 and published in the URCSA News ~~in the issues before the synod.~~ **Approved as amended**
2. GS approves the card system as the identification for Ministers ~~in good standing.~~ **Approved. Amended**
3. GS approves, the insertion in regulation 4 (8) as regulation 4 (8.4). **Approved**

### **6.6 GSC 2013 Decision 118 Ministers from other denominations**

#### **GS 2016 Decision 138**

##### **SMJM Recommendation 19:**

1. GS approves that, there is a need for broadening our unity talks to Reformed churches



like Maranatha Reformed Church, where we need to start a partnership with the view of unity with these churches. The partnership agreement will allow the movement of ministers between these churches and URCSA. **Approved**

## **6.6 GSC 2013 Decision 121: Regulation regarding severance of ties in terms of ill-health in regional synods regulation**

### **GS 2016 Decision 139**

#### **SMJM Recommendation 20: Approved**

1. **SMJM** recommends that, the GS approves that stipulation 25. 4 in the Common stipulation to be replaced by regulation 24.4 from the Southern Synod regulations, and the necessary changes are affected in the Regulations of the Church Order and supplementary regulations.

## **7. REVISIONS OF THE GS REGULATIONS**

### **7.1 INSERTION OF THE SET OF COMMON STIPULATIONS FROM 76.3 TO 137**

#### **GS 2016 Decision 140**

#### **SMJM Recommendation 21: Approved**

1. GS approves the translation from Afrikaans to English.
2. GS approves the insertion of common stipulations 76.3 to 137.

Rev P Grove asks his name to note in the minority report. **Noted.**

## **7.2 DEVELOPMENTS ON INTERIM CHURCH ORDER OR PROVISIONAL CHURCH ORDER 16**

### **GS 2016 Decision 141**

#### **SMJM Recommendation 22: Already approved on 6/10**

7. GS expresses itself on the Provisional Church Order.
8. GS approves that regulation 12 remains the key regulation for unification process in



URCSA (See Regulation 12 as Addendum G).

9. GS approves the insertion of Provisional Church Order as a guideline for the process to unification, but not as a regulation because it will be a church Order within the other church Order and regulations.
10. GS approves the footnotes in Regulation 12, that Provisional Church Order be guideline for the unification process from all levels in the church namely: Congregations, Presbyteries, Regional Synods and General Synod.
11. GS approves the insertion in regulation 12 that address the approval from the GS or GSC based on the confession of Belhar (As point 6).
12. GS approves that regulation 12 remains the key regulation for unification process in URCSA, and footnote be inserted that states that, if there is a Congregation or Presbytery or Regional Synod that wants to start unification process at that level they must use the Provisional Church Order as the guideline on the basis of Belhar confession. The General Synod must approve that arrangement.

### **7.3 Including Mediation in the regulations in the Church order and regulations of the General Synod.**

#### **GS 2016 Decision 142**

##### **SMJM Recommendation 23:Not approved**

SMJM recommends that:

1. The ADR used for disputes, but not for disciplinary issues.
2. The regulation to be changed that the neighbouring Presbytery to adjudicate in all cases. The presbytery should approach the neighbouring Presbytery in consultation with the Regional Moderamen.
3. GS approves that a team of 14 members of the GS, two per Regional Synods be trained to be trainers to train the **ADR** teams in the Regional Synods.
4. GS approves that all Regional Synods may use **ADR** on disputes, but not on disciplinary (Tug) measures.
5. GS instructs the GS **SMJM** to monitor the process, and provide advices when needed.





**Decision:**

The GS refers the **ADR** to regional synods for inputs and ratification with feedback to GSC during the recess and tabling of same at the next General Synod for approval.

Proposed by Rev. M G Betha

Seconded: Dr. W M Moime

**a. Amendment on the election of office bearers in the Presbytery**

**GS 2016 Decision 143**

**SMJM Recommendation 24:**

1. GS approves the Bi-annual election of the office bearers of the presbyteries.
2. GS approves the insertion in the common stipulations that will stipulate the frequency of the election in the Presbytery.
3. GS approves retention of the stipulation 22.1.9 that, the minister of the Word must be the chair of the meeting.

**b. AMENDMENT ON THE RETIREMENT STIPULATION FROM Prof. J N J Kritzinger**

**GS 2016 Decision 144**

**SMJM Recommendation 25: Refer back to Regional synods**

1. GS approves that retiring minister should not apply for retention of status to the GS **SMJM**, but the presbytery must release them with retention of the status of emeritus.
2. GS approves that the **SMJM** designs a deed of demission which will indicate that the Minister retires with honour and retention of status (Emeritus). The Presbytery will also register such a minister as an emeritus minister in the register of the ministers of the Word in URCSA. In this sense there will be no need to apply for retention of status when one retires.

The GS refers this issue back to regional Synods for inputs and feedback to next GSC

Proposed by Rev. M G Betha

Seconded: Dr. Moime



c. **AMENDMENT ON THE RETIREMENT STIPULATION FROM CAPE SYNOD**

**GS 2016 Decision 145**

**SMJM Recommendation 26: Not accepted**

1. GS approves the change of age limit of 65 years to 70 years for retirement of ministers based on the reasons given above.
2. GS instructs it **SMJM** to change stipulation 27.1.1 and 27.1.2 to affect the change requested above.

**Amendment: Not accepted**

GS approves the change of age limit of 65 years to 70 years for retirement of ministers based on the reasons given above but he or she may retire at the age of 65

Proposed by Rev. P Grove

Seconded Rev. E Matundu

**Decision**

Proposal:

The GS refer this issue of retirement to the Regional Synods for their inputs and feedback to GSC and table it at the next GS

Proposed by Rev. M Betha and Seconded: Dr. W Moime

**TEA**

d. **AMENDMENT 22.3 OF CHAPTER 3 ON LANGUAGE OF RECODING FROM PHORORO SYNOD:**

**GS 2016 Decision 146**

**SMJM Recommendation 27: Approved**

GS approves the following amendment in regulation 22.3 of chapter 3 of the church Order and regulations of the GS:

1. At General Synod level the recording of minutes and discussions must be in English.
2. For recording of minutes must be in English while, discussion will be the right of the Regional Synod to use the language of their choice.



e. **AMENDMENT ON RS 49.5 AND GS COMMON STIPULATION 51.1 FROM PHORORO SYNOD:**

**GS 2016 Decision 147**

**SMJM Recommendation 28: Approved**

1. GS approves the request from Phororo for the amendment on their RS stipulation 49.5 and GS common stipulation 51.1 in line with the **IM** model.
2. GS instructs its **SMJM** to affect the change in the Church Order and regulation of the GS.

**7.10 GSC 2015 DECISION ON SMFA on COMPLIANCE OF THE CONGREGATIONS, PRESBYTERY AND REGIONALS**

**GS 2016 Decision 148**

**SMJM Recommendation 29: Approved**

1. GS approves that the **SMJM** draft a regulation that will force members to pay their dues to the General Synod, as mentioned above.

**7.10 Revision of the CWM constitution**

**10.1.4 Term of Office**

The term of office for the congregational committee is two years.

10.2.2.5 Duties and Responsibilities of the Presbyterial committee:

**10.2.2.5.1 Chairperson**

- Conducts the Presbyterial Committee meeting and the **CWM** Presbyterial conference in accordance to the prescripts for the convening, constituting and management of meetings in Regulation 1 – Rules of Order.

**10.2.2.5.2 Vice-Chairperson**

- The Vice-chairperson assists the President in the execution of her tasks.
- The Vice-chairperson takes the place of the President in her absence.



#### **10.2.2.5.3 Secretary**

- Prepares the Agenda of all meetings in cooperation with the **CWM** the Presbyterial Committee.
- Diligently takes minutes of all meetings and gatherings and executes decisions resorting under this office.
- Manages all correspondence on behalf of the **CWM** Presbyterial Committee.
- Prepares and presents the activity report to the **CWM** Presbyterial Committee, **CWM** Presbyterial conference and the Presbyterial Congregational Ministry report to the Presbytery.
- Transfers all documentation and records belonging to this office to the new Secretary of the **CWM** Presbyterial Committee.
- The secretary must take care of the secretarial equipment (Laptops; External hard drive and Printer) according to the asset policy of the **CWM** Regional Synod.
- Archive all documentation and records belonging to the **CWM** Presbyterial Committee.

#### **10.2.2.5.4 Treasurer**

- Receives all monies of the **CWM** on Presbyterial level per receipt and deposits it in the **CWM** bank account.
- This account will be transferred to the Presbyterial boundaries where the treasurer resides.
- Draws up a budget in consultation with the **CWM** Presbyterial Committee.
- Diligently keeps record / accounting of all transactions and cheques for all approved payments.
- Presents an audited financial report of the **CWM** Presbyterial to the **CWM** Presbyterial conference and to the Presbyterial Congregational Ministry to report to the Presbyterial meeting.
- Transfer all documentation and records belonging to this office together with an up to date audited report to the new Treasurer.
- Archive all documentation and records belonging to the **CWM** Presbyterial Committee.



### **10.2.3 Term of Office**

The term of office for the Presbyterial committee is two years.

### **CWM SUB-REGIONS**

The provisions of these regulations and Sub-Regulations that are applicable to Regions shall apply, with the necessary amendments, to Sub-Regions in so far as no express provision is made hereunder. Sub

#### **1. Composition**

A Sub-Regional consists of more than one Presbytery which, as far as possible, form a geographical unit.

#### **2. Sub-Regional meetings**

2.1 Sub-Regional Executive meets at least once per year to discuss the general activities at Sub-Regional level.

2.2 Each CWM branch and Presbyterial Executive Committee in the Sub-Regional has one representative at the meeting. One member of the Presbyterial Congregational Ministries shall have a seat at the meeting.

#### **3. Sub-Regional Executive Composition**

3.1 The Sub-Regional Executive Committee shall consist of the chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer.

3.2 One representative from each Presbyterial Union Executive within the Sub-Region has a seat on the Sub-Regional Executive.

3.3 One member from the Presbyterial Congregational Ministries has a seat on the Sub-Regional executive.

#### **4 Sub-Regional Congress.**

##### **4.1 Frequency**

A Sub-Regional congress takes place in the year before a Regional congress.

##### **4.2 Representation**

4.2.1 Two representatives from each branch in the Sub-Region.

4.2.2 Two representatives from each Congregational Executive within the Sub-



Region.

4.2.3 Two representatives from each Presbyterial Executive within the Sub-Region.

4.2.4 One representative from each Presbyterial Congregational Ministries within the Sub-Region.

#### **10.3.3.5 Duties and Responsibilities of the Regional Synod committee:**

##### **10.3.3.5.1 Chairperson**

- Conducts the Synodical Committee meeting and the **CWM** Synod Congress in accordance to the prescripts for the convening, constituting and management of meetings in Regulation 1 – Rules of Order.

##### **10.3.3.5.2 Vice-Chairperson**

- The Vice-chairperson assists the President in the execution of her tasks.
- The Vice-chairperson takes the place of the President in her absence.

##### **10.2.2.5.5 Secretary**

- Prepares the Agenda of all meetings in cooperation with the **CWM** the Regional Synodical Committee.
- Diligently takes minutes of all meetings and gatherings and executes decisions resorting under this office.
- Manages all correspondence on behalf of the **CWM** Regional Synod Committee.
- Prepares and presents the activity report to the **CWM** Regional Synod Committee, **CWM** Regional Synod Congress and the Regional Synod Congregational Ministry report to the Synod.
- Transfers all documentation and records belonging to this office to the new Secretary of the **CWM** Regional Synod Committee.
- The secretary must take care of the secretarial equipment (Laptops; External hard drive and Printer) according to the asset policy of the **CWM** Regional Synod.
- Archive all documentation and records belonging to the **CWM** Regional Synod Committee.

##### **10.2.2.5.6 Treasurer**

- Receives all monies of the **CWM** on Regional Synod level per receipt and deposits it in the **CWM** bank account.



- This account will be transferred to the Regional boundaries where the treasurer resides.
- Draws up a budget in consultation with the **CWM** Regional Synod Committee.
- Diligently keeps record / accounting of all transactions and cheques for all approved payments.
- Presents an audited financial report of the **CWM** Regional Synodical to the **CWM** Regional Synod Congress and to the Regional Congregational Ministry to report to the Regional Synod.
- Transfer all documentation and records belonging to this office together with an up to date audited report to the new Treasurer.
- Archive all documentation and records belonging to the **CWM** Regional Synod Committee.

10.2.2.5.7 The secretary must take care of the secretarial equipment (Laptops; External hard drive and Printer) according to the asset policy of the **CWM** General Synod.

11.1.1. The levy will be determined by the different Congregations; Presbyteries, Regions according to their own circumstances.

**GS 2016 Decision 149**

**SMJM Recommendation 30: For Approval**

1. GS approves the changes in the **CWM** constitution.
2. GS approves the insertion of these changes in the **CWM** constitution

Amendment:

The amendment to bullet 1 of 10.2.2.5.6

Receives all monies of the **CMM** and regional synod level

Proposed by Rev and Seconded: Rev BB Senokoane



**2. MATTER FROM INDIVIDUALS OR PRESBYTERY (Will be addressed by Temp SMJM)**

**Motion GS 2016 Decision 150**

**Use of technology**

That the new technology should be used to GS advantage with regards to the registration, constituting and voting processes at synod. This will save us ample time in the future.

Proposed by Dr. Jacques Beukes

Seconded: Rev. Dawid Mouton

**THEME 5 THE CHURCH ADDRESSING RACISM/HATE SPEECH AND INCITEMENT**

- Mr Sean Moodley of ARNSA and Ahmed Kathrada Foundation addresses the meeting on racism and social cohesion. *Apartheid put us in a box and we started to box others.*
- Dr Garth Japhet from Heartlines addresses the meeting on the work of Heartlines
- Dr Dawid Kuyler gives a short presentation on Churches addressing Racism.
- Prof. Rodney Tshaka, the acting Director of the school of Human Sciences at UNISA and minister of URCSA Damonville addresses the meeting on Xenophobia/aphrophia (Addendum)

The meeting thoroughly discusses the issues. Prof. Modise conveys thanks to the panellists.

**LUNCH**

**GS 2016 Decision 151**

**Motion**

The GS internalise the panel discussion on church addressing racism/hate speech and incitement by applying the topics in the life of the church. The following should be done:

1. Junior and Senior Catechism material should reflect that
2. Content of Theological training should reflect that
3. Worship and Sunday services should reflect that
4. Congregational Ministries as well as proclamation and Worship Ministries are asked to ensure that this gets implemented.

Proposed by Rev. B P Makoko

Seconded: N Snyders





## **GS 2016 Decision 152**

### **Motion: Desmond Tutu on his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday**

The URCSA having its 7<sup>th</sup> sitting extends its best wishes to Emeritus-Archbishop Desmond Tutu on his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday today. Tutu, ordained at the age of 30 and the first black archbishop of Cape Town in 1986, used his position to advocate for international sanctions against apartheid regime, and latter lobby for rights globally. The past year the Arch, who has been our country's moral conscious for many years was in and out of hospital. We keep the Arch and Mama Leah in our prayers and wish him a happy birthday.

Proposed by Rev. Deon Scharneck

Seconded: Rev. B Mbenenge

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES DAY 2**

GS approves the minutes of Day 2 with gratitude.

Proposed by Rev. Khambule

Seconded: Rev. B CT Mochekoane

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES DAY 3**

GS approves the minutes of Day 3 with gratitude.

Proposed by Rev. B Mbenenge

Seconded: Rev. BCT Mochekoane

## **REPORT OF THE SAFETY AND SECURITY CHRISTIAN ADVISORY BOARD (SSCAB)**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **SSCAB 2016 Recommendations**

1. The GS appreciates that the Security Services appoints chaplains to serve in the various Departments. **Approved**
2. GS appreciates the good work that chaplains of URCSA are doing in the various Departments. **Approved**



3. GS decides that the chaplaincy services should fall under the jurisdiction of the **CMSW** and that the ministry will appoint representatives to represent URCSA on the **SSCAB**.  
**Approved**
4. GS requests that **CMSW** assist with the linking of chaplains with congregations.  
**Approved**
5. GS affirms that chaplains are ministers representing URCSA in the various Security Departments represented in the **SSCAB**. **Approved**
6. GS affirms that Chaplains are not tent-making ministers. Agreements with the Congregations to which they are linked as Chaplains can be arranged for additional work requested by the Congregations. This should be done with the assistance of the Presbyteries.**Referred to temp SMJM**
7. GS decides that chaplains will be linked to a Congregation in the Regional Synodical resort but preferable the Presbytery resort where they work as chaplain.**Referred to temp SMJM**
8. GS decides that **CMSW** will report on an annual basis to the GSC or GS on the chaplaincy.**Approved**
9. GS requests chaplains should provide an annual report of their work to the Congregation to which they are linked and Presbytery in which they reside.**Approved**

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL SYNOD FREE STATE to the Seventh General Synod of URCSA**

**1 LEADERSHIP OF SYNOD Noted**

**Recommendation**

For notification

6.1.1. Celebration the Belhar Confession: Unity, reconciliation and justice. **Noted**

6.2.1 **Unity, Reconciliation and Justice -Internal Unity Noted**

**Free State and Lesotho Recommendation 1**

1. The General Synod should take note of language barriers in URCSA and training of ministers should include training in official languages of the church.

Unity with sister churches **Noted**



## **2 COMPOSITION OF REGIONAL SYNOD**

### **Challenges facing the Synod**

#### **Free State and Lesotho Recommendation 2**

1. The Church Order stipulates that the Chairperson of the Church Council is a minister or caretaker minister. The rationale behind this stipulation should be the same for the church council, Presbytery and the Synod. The General Synod should mandate the **SMJM** of the General Synod to interpret the Church Order stipulations on the chairpersons of the meetings of the church to ensure that they are consistent with stipulation on church council chairpersonship. **Noted**
2. General Synod should instruct Regional Synods to ensure that elders and deacons do not serve more than their prescribed terms. **Noted**
3. In order to control tent-making and to ensure contribution to pension fund, the General Synod should explore the possibility of establishing a central fund for salaries of ministers. **Noted**

## **3 PRESBYTERIES**

### **Free State and Lesotho Recommendation 3**

1. The General Synod accepts this arrangement of the **RSC** to temporarily combine Presbyteries pending restructuring by the Synod of the Free State and Lesotho Synod. **Noted**
2. The Regional Synodical Commission should be given constitutional powers to temporarily restructure Presbyteries during recess of Synod if such a need arises and such a restructuring should be binding. **Noted**

## **4 CORE MINISTRIES Noted**

### **4.1 CORE MINISTRY FOR PROCLAMATION AND WORSHIP Noted**

- 1. MEMBERS OF MFTT Noted**
- 2. RELATIONSHIP WITH DRC CURATORIUM Noted**
- 3. CURRENT STUDENTS AT UFS Noted**

Current full time students

Current part-time students

### **4. FINANCE Noted**

### **4.2 CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY ISSUES**



**CWM Noted**

No report

**CMM Noted**

No report

**CYM Noted**

No report

**CHOIR Noted**

No report

**CWL Noted**

No report

**Recommendations to GS 2016**

**4.3 SERVICE AND WITNESS ISSUES Noted**

**5 SUPPORT MINISTRIES Noted**

**5.1 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION Noted**

**4.2 JUDICIAL MATTERS Noted**

**4.3 COMMUNICATION, PUBLICATIONS AND ARCHIVE Noted**

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL SYNOD KWAZULU – NATAL TO THE GENERAL SYNOD MEETING**

**1 LEADERSHIP OF SYNOD**

KZN Recommendation 1: Leadership of Synod: **Note**

**2 COMPOSITION OF REGIONAL SYNOD**

KZN Recommendation 2: Composition of Synod: **Noted**

**2.2. Vacant Congregations**

KZN Recommendation 3: Vacant Congregations: **Noted**

**2.3 To train Church Councils**

KZN Recommendation 4: Training of Church Councils: **Noted**

**3 PRESBYTERY CONTACT DETAILS (ADD AS ADDITIONAL LIST) Noted**

**4 CORE MINISTRIES Noted**

**4.1 PROCLAMATION AND WORSHIP MINISTRY ISSUES Noted**



## **2. Report of the KZN – NTS Theological Students**

1. Introduction **Noted**

2. Objectives **Noted**

3.1-3.3 **Noted**

## **4.2 CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY ISSUES**

**4.2.1 CWM - Noted**

**STATISTICS OF CWM IN THE REGION - Noted**

**ACTIVITIES OF OUR CWM - Noted**

**4.2.2 CYM REPORT - Noted**

1. COMPOSITION OF THE REGION IN CYM -**Noted**

2. THE KZN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS -**Noted**

3. VISION AND MISSION - **Noted**

4. CONDUCTING ELECTIONS - **Noted**

5. MEETINGS HELD - **Noted**

6. ACTIVITIES -**Noted**

8. FINANCES -**Noted**

In finance, we would like to report that we have the following sources of our funds:

## **4.2.3 REPORT OF THE CMM**

1. INTRODUCTION: CMM OPERATIONS -**Noted**

2. STATE OF CMM IN KZN REGION - **Noted**

3. GENERAL SYNOD CONGRESS - **Noted**

4. REGIONAL SYNOD CONFERENCE / CONGRESS - **Noted**

5. REGIONAL SYNOD AND PRESBYTERY EXECUTIVE MEETINGS - **Noted**

6. ELECTIONS - **Noted**

7. **CMM FUNDS -Noted**

6. CORRESPONDENCE - **Noted**

8. CONCLUSION - **Noted**



### **4.3 SERVICE AND WITNESS ISSUES - Noted**

#### **4.3.1 Usizo Report:**

### **USIZO DIACONAL SERVICES OF URCSA KWAZULU NATAL NONE PROFIT ORGANIZATION NO: 002 – 549**

1. Introduction. **Noted**
2. Usizo committee members. **Noted**
3. Organization's main objectives. **Noted**
4. Usizo programmes in various congregations. **Noted**

#### **4.1. PROVINCIAL PROGRAMMES.**

**4.1.1. Koningsdal Child and Youth Care Centre Noted**

**4.1.2. Zisize Care Centre for disabled people. Noted**

**4.2. CONGREGATIONAL PROGRAMMES. Noted**

**5. USIZO OFFICES - Noted**

#### **6. SERVICES RENDERED**

**6.1. Jozini field worker. Noted**

**4.2. Msinga field worker. Noted**

**5. Financial support to Usizo work. Noted**

**5.1. German partners. (Evangelisch Reformiert Kirche- Diakonisches Werk) Noted**

**5.2. CMD of DRC. Noted**

**5.3. URCSA. Noted**

**5.2. BELGIUM PARTNERS. Noted**

**5.3. CANADIAN PARTNERS. Noted**

**5.4. URCSA PARTNERS FROM THE CAPE. Noted**

**6. CHALLENGES. Noted**

**7. Conclusion. Noted**

#### **5 SUPPORT MINISTRIES - Noted**

**5.1 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION - Noted**

**5.3 COMMUNICATION, PUBLICATIONS AND ARCHIVE - Noted**



## **REPORT OF THE REGIONAL SYNOD NAMIBIA TO THE SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD OF URCSA**

### **LEADERSHIP OF SYNOD - Noted**

#### **1 COMPOSITION OF REGIONAL SYNOD - Noted**

##### **2.1. Audit on the work force of ministers in Namibia - Noted**

#### **2 PRESBYTERIES PRESBYTERY CONTACT DETAILS - Noted**

#### **3 CORE MINISTRIES - Noted**

##### **3.1 CORE MINISTRY FOR PROCLAMATION AND WORSHIP - Noted**

##### **6.2.7.3 BURSARIES/ LOANS - Noted**

##### **6.2.7.4 ORDINATION OF MINISTERS OF THE WORD - Noted**

##### **6.2.7.5 STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN MINISTERIAL FORMATION AT VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS: Noted**

##### **6.2.7.6. OTHER MATTERS WITH REFERENCE TO THE MFTT REPORT**

##### **TEMPLATE: Noted**

#### **3.2 CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY ISSUES**

##### **CWM - Noted**

##### **CMM - Noted**

##### **CYM - Noted**

##### **Brigade Noted**

##### **CWL Noted**

#### **3.3 SERVICE AND WITNESS ISSUES - Noted**

#### **4 SUPPORT MINISTRIES - Noted**

##### **5.1 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION - Noted**

##### **4.3 COMMUNICATION, PUBLICATIONS AND ARCHIVE - Noted**

## **REPORT OF THE NORTHERN REGIONAL SYNOD TO THE SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD OF URCSA**

#### **1. Orientation - Noted**

#### **2. Leadership and Composition of the Northern Synod - Noted**

##### **2.1 Leadership - Noted**

##### **2.2 Composition - Noted**



Progress report on the work of the Moderamen - **Noted**

3. General Synod Strategic Plan focus areas applicable - **Noted**

4. Moderamen Handling of Decisions of General Synod Namibia - **Noted**

### **Findings and Recommendations**

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION - **Noted**

OBSERVANCE OF CHURCH ORDER STIPULATIONS - **Noted**

FREQUENCY AND DURATION OF MEETINGS - **Noted**

MINISTRIES AND SPECIAL MINISTRIES - **Noted**

FINANCIAL MATTERS - **Noted**

5. SYNOD ADMINISTRATION - **Noted**

6. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE - **Noted**

PRESBYTERIES - **Noted**

7. CORE MINISTRIES - **Noted**

CORE MINISTRY FOR PROCLAMATION AND WORSHIP - **Noted**

8. CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY ISSUES - **Noted**

9. SERVICE AND WITNESS ISSUES - **Noted**

### **SUPPORT MINISTRIES**

10. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION - **Noted**

11. JUDICIAL MATTERS - **Noted**

12. COMMUNICATION, PUBLICATIONS AND ARCHIVE – **Noted**

## **REPORT OF THE REGIONAL SYNOD PHORORO TO THE SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD OF URCSA**

The Moderamen of Phororo presents the report

1. LEADERSHIP OF SYNOD - **Noted**

1.1 – 1.2 **Noted**

3. COMPOSITION OF REGIONAL SYNOD - **Noted**

3.1 Regional Synod Advise to Presbyteries w.r.t Vacant Congregations

3.2 Women Ministers in Phororo Region





## **GS 2016 Decision 153**

### **Phororo Recommendation 1: Approved**

1. The General Synod decide to take note of vacant congregations and mandates the **CMPW** and **CMSW** to jointly establish a Task Team to conduct research on the causes and/or effect of vacant congregations in URCSA with recommendations to the next GSC.

## **4. PRESBYTERIES**

## **GS 2016 Decision 154**

### **Phororo Recommendation 2: Approved**

1. The GS takes note of an ongoing process of possible inclusion of the Presbyteries of Amandelboom and Steinkopf from the Cape Synod into the Phororo Synod.
2. The GS further takes note that there is dire need to restructure all URCSA Regional Synods and mandates the GS Executive Committee and Regional Synods Moderamen to jointly initiate the process with progress feedback too subsequent GSC meetings during recess and report to the next GS for decision.

#### **4. GENERAL SYNOD TASK TEAMS REPRESENTATIVES FROM PHORORO SYNOD**

##### **4.1 Unity Talk Task Team**

##### **4.2 Task Team on Homosexuality**

##### **4.3 Task Team on Human Dignity**

#### **5. DECISIONS REFRRRED TO REGIONAL SYNODS BY GENERAL SYNOD AND GENERAL SYNOD COMMISSION**

##### **4.1 Church Unity (GS Decisions 43, 135)**



## **GS 2016 Decision 155**

### **Phororo Recommendation 3: Approved**

1. The GS endorse the decision of Phororo Synod to place a moratorium on the bilateral unity talks with the DRC Northern Cape until the DRC Northern Cape recognize URCSA as part of the Dutch Reformed Church Family.

## **5.2 Homosexuality (GS 2012 Decision 20)**

### **Phororo Recommendation 4: Noted**

1. The GS decide to take note of the process followed by Phororo Synod on Homosexuality Task Group 2008 report and allow submission of a second report by Phororo Synod.

### **Phororo Recommendation 5: Noted**

1. The GS decide to take note of the process followed by Phororo Synod on GS Strategic Plan and allow submission of a second report by Phororo Synod.

## **5.4 Church Order Stipulations (GS Decision)**

### **Phororo Recommendation 6: Noted**

1. The GS decide to take note that Phororo Synod approved the referred Church Order Common Set of stipulations and that same is already incorporated in the Phororo Church Order.

## **6. 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Regional Synod Phororo**

### **Phororo Recommendation 7: Noted**

1. The GS decide to take note with appreciation of 21st Anniversary Celebration of Regional Synod Phororo.

## **7. CORE MINISTRIES Noted**

### **7.1 CORE MINISTRY FOR PROCLAMATION AND WORSHIP**

#### **7.1.1 Ministerial Formation**

#### **7.1.2 Theological Students**

#### **7.1.3 Ongoing formation of ministers**



### **Phororo Recommendation 8: Noted**

1. The GS take note with appreciation of Ministerial Formation activities in Phororo.

#### **7.2 CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY ISSUES - Noted**

**7.2.1** Christian Women Ministries (CWM) **Noted**

**7.2.2** Christian Men's Ministry (CMM) **Noted**

**7.2.3** Christian Youth Ministry (CYM) **Noted**

**7.2.4** Brigades - **Noted**

**7.2.5** Catechism - **Noted**

**7.2.6** Sunday School - **Noted**

**7.2.7** Church Choir **Noted**

#### **7.3 SERVICE AND WITNESS ISSUES**

**7.3.1** Plight of the Poor, handicapped and Destitute - **Noted**

**7.3.2** HIV & Aids Programmes- **Noted**

**7.3.3** Anti Substance Abuse Program **Noted**

### **8. SUPPORT MINISTRIES**

**8.1** Support Ministry for Finance and Administration **Noted**

**8.1.1** Registration of the nuwe lewe sentrum into the name of Sishen Iron Ore Company (SIOC). **Noted**

**8.1.2** Regional Synod Phororo church office - **kathunoted**

**8.1.3** Investment of funds - **Noted**

### **Phororo Recommendation 9: Approved**

1. The GS decide to take note with appreciation the finalisation of the transaction of the Regional Synod Phororo with the Sishen Iron Ore Company (**SIOC**).
2. GS appreciates Phororo Synods transparency about this transaction by declaring to the GS an amount received from this transaction with **SIOC**.



3. GS also commends Phororo Synod for been exemplary by considering Congregations, active Ministers in their resort and General Synod.
4. GS take note with appreciation of the newly built Phororo Synod Headquarters in Kathu, Northern Cape.

## **8.2 SUPPORT MINISTRY FOR JUDICIAL MATTERS (SMJM)**

**8.2.1 GS 2012 Decision 212: “Tussentydse Orde approved”** (RS Agenda 2014 p262 – 272 refers: Addendum J)

**Phororo Recommendation 10: Noted**

1. The GS decide to take note of the process followed by Phororo Synod on Interim Order (Tussen tydse Orde) and allow submission of a second report by Phororo Synod.

**8.2.2 Work session with Presbyteries Noted**

**8.2.3 Reviewed Church Order 2014 Manuscript Noted**

**Phororo Recommendation 11: Noted**

1. The GS take note of the Phororo Reviewed Church Order 2014 Manuscript process and decide to refer amendment of Regulation of Order to a Temporary Commission for Judicial Matters.

**8.2.4 Application for Retention of Status Noted**

**8.2.5 Application for Status as Minister of the Word in URCSA – Re-instatement Noted**

**8.2.6 Forfeiture of Status as Minister of the Word Noted**

**8.2.7 URC Lehika Court Case: DRCA LEHIKA VS URCSA LEHIKA Noted**

## **GS 2016 Decision 156**

**Phororo Recommendation 12: Approved**

1. The GS take note with appreciation the perseverance of URC Lehika to pursue the matter in defence until finality of the court case against **DRCA** Lehika,



2. The GS take note that the full bench judgement assists in interpretation of the SCA 1998 judgement against URCSA,
3. The GS receive the attached full bench judgement (Annexure B) for use and reference by URCSA Congregations.

**8.3 COMMUNICATION, PUBLICATIONS AND ARCHIVE Noted**

**9. CONCLUSION Noted**

**SECOND REPORT OF THE REGIONAL SYNOD PHORORO TO THE SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD IN SITTING AT BENONI: 03-09 OCTOBER 2016**

**1. HOMOSEXUALITY (GS DECISION 13)**

Recommendation:

**Noted**

- General Synod take note that homosexuality is a sensitive topic that affects the church in general.
- GS further note that Phororo Synod is not ready to take a stance on this matter.
- GS take note that there are two (2) positional views, namely, conservative and progressive.
- GS decide not to be hasty about **LGBTI** matter rather, to seek further guidance and wisdom.

**2. GS STRATEGIC PLAN**

Recommendation:

**Noted**

- GS take note of the Strategic Plan process in the Regional Synod of Phororo.
- GS appreciate the role of the GS Scribe, Dr. D Kuyler, during Phororo Strategic plenary session held on 17-19 August 2016 in Kathu, Northern Cape Province.

**3. GS DECISION 212 (INTERIM CHURCH ORDER)**

Recommendation:

**Noted**



- GS to take note that Phororo Synod approved the Interim church order as a working document for the process at GS level.

#### **4. JUNIOR CATHECISM MATERIAL (GS 2012 DECISION 84)**

Recommendation to GS:

**Approved**

- GS approve in principal the use of the Junior Catechism Curriculum since it covers the important Biblical teachings and theological perspectives of URCSA as a denomination.
- Further, GS decide to keep in mind the diversity within URCSA with regards to English, as a medium of instruction, that it poses challenges for effective spiritual growth and development of children within the church.
- GS **CMCM** to incorporate important Biblical imperatives, in the material such as Bible knowledge with regards to the number of books, the division of the Old and New Testament.
- GS approves the use of printed as well as electronic curriculum as it will give congregations the freedom to choose which method the congregation uses in order to cut cost.

#### **5. INAUGURATION OF REGIONAL SYNOD PHORORO HEAD QUARTERS**

Recommendation to GS:

**Noted**

The GS take note with appreciation the official inauguration of Regional Synod Phororo Head Quarters on Reformation Sunday, 31 October 2016, at Kathu, Northern Cape Province.



## **REPORT OF THE REGIONAL SYNOD: SOUTHERN SYNOD TO THE SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD OF URCSA**

### **LEADERSHIP OF SYNOD**

**1.1.1** Composition of Regional Synod **Noted**

**1.1.3** Presbyteries **Noted**

**1.1.4** Moderamen Meetings **Noted**

**1.1.5** Synodical Meetings **Noted**

1.1.5.1 Strategic Decisions from 2<sup>nd</sup> SC Meeting (Oct/Nov 2015) **Noted**

1.1.5.2 Strategic Decisions from 3<sup>rd</sup> SC Meeting (Feb 2016) **Noted**

### **1.1.6 ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIPS**

**1.1.6.1** Local Ecumenical Relations **Noted**

**1.1.6.2** DRC/DRCA/RCA **Noted**

**1.1.6.3** Others **Noted**

**1.1.6.4** Oversees partnerships (Regional and Congregational level) (Please provide a list)  
**Noted**

## **2 CORE MINISTRIES**

**2.1** CORE MINISTRY FOR PROCLAMATION AND WORSHIP **Noted**

**2.1.2** Strategic Plan **Noted**

6.1.4. Trained ministers to vacant congregations **Noted**

6.2.4. Trained ministers for vacant congregations **Noted**

**2.1.3** Composition of the Ministry's leadership **Noted**

**2.1.3** Ministers Retreat for the Southern Synod

2.1.3.1 – 2.1.3.6 **Noted**

**2.1.4.6** Appendices **Noted**

**2.2.1** The Leadership (CM) **Noted**

**2.2.2** Meetings **Noted**

**2.2.3** Reports from Ministries within the CM **Noted**

**2.2.3.1** Christian Women Ministry (CWM) **Noted**

## **1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**2. MEMBERSHIP: Noted**

**3. PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES OF THE CWM Noted**



**4. RETREATS Noted**

**SPECIAL PROJECT: MULTIPURPOSE CONFERENCE CENTRE Noted**

**4. FINANCES Noted**

**5. CHALLENGES Noted**

**2.2.3.2 Christian Men Ministry Noted**

**2.2.3.3 The Christian Youth Ministry (CYM) Noted**

**2.2.3.4 Christian Women's League (CWL) Noted**

**2.2.3.5 Sunday School and Catechism Noted**

**2.2.3.6 M.B.B. Noted**

**2.2.3.7 Music Commission Noted**

**2.2.3.8 CONCLUSION Noted**

**2.3 SERVICE AND WITNESS ISSUES Noted**

**2.3.1 SW LEADERSHIP Noted**

**2.3.2 MEETINGS Noted**

**2.3.3 PROJECTS IDENTIFIED:**

**2.3.3.1 Wellness for ministers Noted**

**2.3.3.2 World Aid Day-Promoting and campaigning to combat the pandemic Noted**

**2.3.4 DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE SYNODICAL COMMISSION MEETING: Noted**

**2 SUPPORT MINISTRIES- Noted**

**3.1 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**3.1.1 Personnel of the SMFA- Noted**

**3.1.2 Report - Noted**

**3.1.2.1 Appointment of an Administrator- Noted**

**3.1.2.2 Turn-around Strategy- Noted**

**3.1.2.3 Tasks-focused Teams Strategy - Noted**

**3.1.2.4 Finance, Auditing and Property- Noted**

**3.1.2.5 Administration and Human Resources - Noted**

**3.1.2.6 Pensions Task Team - Noted**

**3.1.2.7 Bookshop and Marketing- Noted**





**3.1.2.8 SMFA Dissolved - Noted**

**3.1.2.9 Turnaround Strategy by the SMFATT - Noted**

**3.2 JUDICIAL MATTERS- Noted**

**3.2.2 Preamble - Noted**

**3.2.3 Movements of Ministers Noted**

**4.3 COMMUNICATION, PUBLICATIONS AND ARCHIVE Noted**

## **REPORT OF THE REGIONAL SYNOD CAPE TO THE SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD OF URCSA**

### **1 LEADERSHIP OF SYNOD**

**Cape Regional Synod 2016: Recommendation 1: Presbyteries of Steinkopf and Amandelboom. Noted**

1. GS allows the Presbyteries of Steinkopf and Amandelboom to stay with Cape Regional Synod.

**2 COMPOSITION OF REGIONAL SYNOD Noted**

**3 PRESBYTERIES Noted**

**4 CORE MINISTRIES Noted**

**4.1 CORE MINISTRY FOR PROCLAMATION AND WORSHIP Noted**

**REPORT OF PROCLAMATION AND WORSHIP Noted**

**MINISTRY FOR DOCTRINE AND CURRENT AFFAIRS Noted**

### **2. MATTERS REFERRED FROM SYNOD Noted**

1. Report on homosexuality **Noted**

2. Research group to discuss alternative economic models **Noted**

3. Working document on the practice of anointing. **Noted**

4. **SKLAS** and Byers Naude Centre Conferences **Noted**

5. CO-OPERATION WITH THE SYNODICAL TASK-TEAM FOR DOCTRINAL AND CURRENT AFFAIRS (STDCA) **Noted**

**3. THE SEVEN\* TOUGHEST CHALLENGES TO EDUCATION IN THE WESTERN CAPE - Noted**



1. Curriculum issues - **Noted**
2. Automatic promotion - **Noted**
3. Reducing the ratio of learners per teacher - **Noted**
4. Discipline- **Noted**
5. Shortcomings in parents and guardians- **Noted**
6. Role of some Trade Unions- **Noted**
7. First Language Education- **Noted**

**B.** Ontmoeting van kerkleiers met Me Debbie Schäfer, Minister van Onderwys, Wes-Kaap,  
Dinsdag 16 September 2014 - **Noted**

#### **4.2 CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY ISSUES**

#### **REPORT OF THE SYNODICAL COMMISSION FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

1. THE BRIGADE - **Noted**
2. CYM - **Noted**
3. BETHEL CAMPSITE - **Noted**
4. YOUTH PRAYERDAYS AND CHILDREN SERVICES - **Noted**

#### **REPORT OF THE CHRISTIAN MENS MINISTRY (CMM)**

Composition of the **CMM** committee members elected at the Congress held at Aliwal North on the 15-18 May 2014.

Chairman	:	Br. G S Mvenge
Vice Chairman:		Br. F Baartman
Secretary	:	Br. M Ndziba
Treasurer	:	Br. Ntenetyana

All four **CMM** Sub Regions held their conferences and elected new committee members  
**Noted**

#### **Emmanuel Sub-Region (06/06/2015)**

Chairman	:	Br. Bonisile Diniso
Vice Chairman:		Br. Alex Alexander
Secretary	:	Br. Teboko Maliphe



Treasurer : Br. Nceba Dawethe  
Additional member: Br. F. Baartman **Noted**

**Ikwezi Sub – Region (2013)**

Chairman : Br. S Dandala  
Vice Chairman: Br. B Mateta  
Secretary : Br. M Mjobo  
Vice Secretary: Br. L Meth  
Treasurer : Br. N Juqu **Noted**

**Galilee Sub – Region (2013)**

Chairman : Br. M Bukuku  
Vice Chairman: Br. P Gwaza  
Secretary : Br. G Rwicila  
Vice Secretary: Br. Mlenzana  
Treasurer : Br. Mbecula **Noted**

**Masakhane Sub – Region (2013)**

Chairman : Br. K. Ncandana  
Vice Chairman: Br. J. Annies  
Secretary : Br. D. Resha  
Vice Secretary: Br. M L Leyile  
Treasurer : Br. L Jokani **Noted**

**Journey to achieve above Noted**

**Relationships with sub-regions and Presbyteries are good and there is sound communication between all, except the one mentioned above. Noted**

**Some Challenges: Noted**

**Activities still to come: Noted**

A workshop to be held in Cape Town on the 28 May 2016 **Noted**

Another workshop will be held in Galilee sub-region in October 2016. **Noted**



We shall be attending CMM General Synod Congress to be held in Pretoria on 07-10 July 2016. - **Noted**

### **Report of GKS/NGGO**

1. Introduction - **Noted**
2. Composition - **Noted**
3. Focus and mandate of **GKS/NGGO** - **Noted**
4. **GKS and Fresh Expressions of Church**
  - 4.1 Developing of training material - **Noted**
  - 4.2 Agreement with Fresh Expressions - **Noted**
  - 4.3 Definition of Fresh Expression of Church - **Noted**
  - 4.4 Mixed economy of church - **Noted**
  - 4.5 Values of Fresh Expressions of Church - **Noted**
  - 4.5 Development of Fresh Expressions Africa South - **Noted**
5. **3<sup>rd</sup> International “Fresh Expressions of Church” Conference, 16 – 18 February 2016 in Cape Town** **Noted**
7. **Coaching course** **Noted**

### **Recommendations in the light of the report:**

#### **Cape Regional Synod 2016: Recommendation 3: Fresh Expressions of Church. Noted**

1. The Synod takes note that a growing part of our communities is not effectively being reached and engaged by our existing and established congregations. This includes for example people in new suburb developments, but also current and former members of our church who are not actively involved in congregations anymore.
2. In the light of this changed context, the Synod asks Congregations and Presbyteries to take the formation of new faith communities very seriously. The Synod therefore encourages Congregations and Presbyteries to give attention to matters such as:
  - a. Research/listening in their own areas about the demographics and the opportunities to establish new faith communities;
  - b. Evangelism and ministering to un-churched and de-churched people;
  - c. The formation of networks for the development of new faith communities



- d. The development of new places of worship and ministry
3. The Synod encourages Congregations and Presbyteries to develop new faith communities in partnership with Congregations and Presbyteries of the DRC family.
  4. In order to address the need of able and responsible pioneer leaders for the development of new faith communities, the Synod request the Ministry for Proclamation and Worship (**MFTT**) of the Synod to give attention to the identification, training and deployment of such pioneer leaders.
  5. The Synod encourages congregations to identify and motivate members to enroll for the 2017 course for pioneer leaders for the development of new faith communities at Hugenate Kollege.
  6. The Synod takes with gratitude note of the establishment and the development of Fresh Expressions within the Synodical area.
  7. The Synod encourages and motivates ministers, church council members and congregants to attend the **MSM** courses of **FE** to train people for the establishment of new faith communities.
  8. The Synod supports GKS in its effort to promote ecumenical networks and partnerships to develop new faith communities.
  9. The Synod appoints 3 members as Secundi members for the **GKS** Task Team.
  10. The Synod requests the Synod (and General Synod) to give permission:
    - a. That in addition to “afstigting”, new congregations could also be formed through the development of new faith communities.
    - b. Some of the new congregations which are formed through the development of new faith communities may not look and function exactly as existing present-day congregations of the URCSA (Fresh expressions of Church).
  11. The Synod requests the Ministry for Judicial Affairs (Regional Synod and General Synod) to make, with the assistance of other relevant Synodical task teams, church order adjustments and provide guidelines for the establishment of new congregations through a process of developing new faith communities as described in 10.



### **4.3 SERVICE AND WITNESS ISSUES**

#### **REPORT OF THE WITNESS MINISTRY (WITNESS MINISTRY)**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

##### **1. MANAGEMENT OF THE WITNESS MINISTRY Noted**

**1.1 Task Team: Family Ecumenical Relationships in Africa** (Manager is Kobus Odendaal) **Noted**

**1.2 Task Team: Witness through Congregations and Relations with other Church Ministries**

1.2.1 – 1.2.3 **Noted**

**1.3 Task Team: Industrial Ministry (IM)** (Manager is Carin Brink) **Noted**

**1.4 Task Team: Public Witness** (Centre for Public Witness) (Manager is Braam Hanekom)

#### **REPORT OF THE SYNODICAL COMMISSION FOR DIACONAL SERVICES**

##### **1. INTRODUCTION Noted**

##### **2. Period of report Noted**

##### **3. SCDS**

**3.1 Members of Commission Noted**

**3.2 Members serving on BADISA's board representing SCDS: Noted**

**3.3 Nuwe Hoop Centre for the Hearing Impaired Noted**

**Cape Regional Synod 2016: Recommendation 4: Nuwe Hoop Centre for the Hearing Impaired. Noted**

**3.4 SC decision (August 2015) to appoint a minister for the hearing impaired: Noted**

**RECOMMENDATION: Noted**

The GS notes with sadness the passing of prop. Anthony Salie and conveys her heartfelt condolences to the Salie-family. The SC endorses the steps taken by SCDS to appoint a minister to serve the Hearing Impaired.

**3.5 Hospital Pastorate/Hospivision - Noted**

**3.6 Eastern Cape Committee - Noted**

**3.5 Bursaries - Noted**



**4. BADISA**

**4.1 Badisa – operational report- Noted**

**5. CONFERENCES**

**5.1 ECD Conference 8 September 2016 Noted**

**5.2 Annual meeting Noted**

**6. MONTH OF COMPASSION Noted**

**7. FINANCES Noted**

**REPORT OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF SA**

**OUR MISSION Noted**

**1. MANAGEMENT Noted**

**2. OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCE Noted**

**3. OUR PROJECTS Noted**

**4.1 AFRIKAANS AND BIBLE TRANSLATION Noted**

**4.2 ENGLISH BIBLE FOR THE DEAF Noted**

**4.3 ISIZULU BIBLE TRANSLATION PROJECT Noted**

**4.4 TRANSLATION OF THE SAN LANGUAGES Noted**

**4.5 BIBLE AUDIO PROGRAM (BLP) Noted**

**5. OUR ACTIONS 2015 Noted**

**5.1 PRINT PUBLICATION Noted**

**5.2 DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT Noted**

**5.3 BIBLE PROGRAMMES Noted**

**5.4 BSA AND COMMUNITY SERVICE Noted**

**5.5 PROMOTION OF THE BSA Noted**

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**6.1 - 6.3 Noted.**

**5 SUPPORT MINISTRIES**

**5.1 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**Noted**



**REPORT OF THE SMFA TO THE SYNODICAL COMMISSION MEETING AT  
BERGKROON - WELLINGTON ON 14-16 JUNE 2016**

**1. STAFF MATTERS**

1.1 Mr. C. Anthony **Noted**

**2. PROPERTIES**

2.1 Minnie Hofmeyr Kollege **Noted**

2.2 Bet-El, Kuilsriver Proposals for Mobile Tower Development **Noted**

2.2.1 – 2.2.4 **Noted**

2.3 Decoligny

2.3.1 Report from Decoligny – (See Annexure D onpg. 96-98) **Noted**

2.3.2 STAG Development - **Noted**

2.3.3 Silowa - **Noted**

**3. FINANCES**

**3.1 Bystandsfonds**

*Noted*

**3.2 Motor Loan**

*Noted*

**3.3 Salary Subsidy**

3.3.1 – 3.3.3 **Noted**

**3.4 REPORT OF SYNODICAL OFFERINGS – (See Annexure F on pg. 101-113)**  
**Noted**

**3.5 REPORT ON THE UMBRELLA PENSION FUND OF THE NGKSA –**  
**(See Annexure G on pg. 114-115)**

**Noted**

**3.6 REPORT FROM STEINTHAL – (See Annexure H on pg. 116-123)**

**Noted**

**Members of the SMFA. Noted**





## **URCSA CAPE EMPOWERMENT TRUST REPORT**

- 1. REGISTRATION OF TRUSTEES - Noted**
- 2. MEETINGS - Noted**
  - 2.1 General meetings - Noted**
  - 2.2 Planning Committee meeting - Noted**
  - 2.3 Other Meetings - Noted**
- 3. ACTIVITIES OF THE TRUST**
  - 3.1 Information Sessions Noted**
  - 3.2 Monitoring and Evaluation Noted**

**END OF PROJECT VISITS - 2014 BENEFICIARIES Noted**

**MID-TERM VISITS - 2015 BENEFICIARIES Noted**
- 3.3 Registration as a Public Benefit Organisation/ Exemption from tax (ADDENDUM B) - Noted**
- 3.4 Funding Process and Grant Schedule - Noted**

### **GRANT SCHEDULE Noted**

- 3.5 Allocations for 2016 First Round Noted**

### **MAY 2016 BENEFICIARIES**

- 3.6 Development Plan of the Trust - Noted**
  - 3.2.6 Grant Monitoring and Feedback forms- Noted**
- 4. COMMUNICATION - Noted**
  - 4.1 Inquiries and/or queries - Noted**
- 5. FINANCE**
  - 5.1 Audited Financial Report - Noted**
  - 5.2 Independent Trustee with a financial background - Noted**
- 6. THE WAY FORWARD - Noted**
- 7. CONCLUSION - Noted**

### **5.2 JUDICIAL MATTERS**

## **REPORT OF THE SYNODICAL MINISTRY FOR JUDICIAL MATTERS**



**1. MEMBERS OF THE SUPPORT MINISTRY FOR JUDICIAL MATTERS (SMJM)**

**Noted**

**2. RETENTION OF STATUS AFTER RETIREMENT- Noted**

**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) - Noted**

**4. APPLICATIONS FOR RE-INSTATEMENT- Noted**

**(a) Mr. Llewellyn R J Smith - Noted**

**(b) Mr. Mzwandile Kalipa - Noted**

**(a) Mr. Mbuyiselo Swelindawo - Noted**

**5. REGISTER OF MINISTERS**

**5.1 -5.3 Noted**

**6. INTERIM ORDER Noted**

**7. NEW LICENSING OATH FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS - Noted**

**8. REFERRAL OF COMPLAINTS / DISPUTES TO THE SMJM - Noted**

**9. REV. DANIEL KUYIS: DEVELOPMENT OF THE DECOLIGNY PROPERTY**

**Noted**

**10. TINARHA CONGREGATION - Noted**

**5.3 COMMUNICATION, PUBLICATIONS AND ARCHIVE - Noted**

**1. Lusbook shop - Noted**

**2.1 Debtors - Noted**

**2.2 Lost parcels and Insurance options - Noted**

**2.3 The stock / New Products - Noted**

**2.4 Marketing - Noted**

**3 Publication and Communication Policy - Noted**

**4 Publication workshop - Noted**

**5. Writers Workshop - Noted**

**6. Archives Noted**

**7. CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing) - Noted**



## **REPORT OF THE TRANSLATION COMMISSION**

- 1. COMPOSITION: MEMBERS Noted**
- 2. CORRESPONDENCE**
  - 2.1 All the correspondence referred to this commission has been translated **Noted**
- 3. MEETINGS - Noted**
- 4. PLANNED TRANSLATION WEEK: Noted**
- 1. Ministerial Task Team (MFTT) - Noted**

## **MINISTRY FOR DOCTRINE AND CURRENT AFFAIRS - Noted**

### **2. MATTERS REFERRED FROM SYNOD**

- 1. Report on homosexuality Noted**
- 2. Research group to discuss alternative economic models Noted**
- 3. Working document on the practice of anointing. Noted**
- 4. SKLAS and Byers Naude Centre Conferences Noted**
- 5. Co-operation with the Synodical Task-team for Doctrinal and Current Affairs (STDCA) – Noted**

## **REPORT OF HOMOSEXUALITY TASK TEAM (HTT) TO URCSA GENERAL SYNOD 2016**

### **1. Introduction Noted**

#### GS 2008 Decision 93

- 1. GS takes note of the report on homosexuality as tabled before it;**
- 2. GS appreciates the endeavours done by the task team.**
- 3. GS further refers the report and its recommendations to the Regional Synods, Presbyteries and local Congregations for discussion;**
- 4. GS instructs the Executive to appoint another task team for another scientific study which will add other perspectives on homosexuality; and**
- 5. GS re-affirms points a-f of decision 90 of Pietermaritzburg 2005 that reads**
  - a) Synod confirms that the Bible is the living Word of God and the primary source and norm for the moral debate about homosexuality.**



- b) Synod acknowledges the diversity of positions regarding homosexuality and pleads that differences be dealt with in a spirit of love, patience; tolerance and respect.
- c) Synod confirms that homosexual people are members of the church by nature of faith in Jesus Christ.
- d) Synod rejects homophobia and any form of discrimination against homosexual persons.
- e) Synod appeals to URCSA members to reach out with love and empathy to our homosexual brothers and sisters and embrace them as members of the body of Christ in our midst.
- f) Synod acknowledges the appropriate civil rights of homosexual persons.

**2. Mandate: Noted**

**3. Feedback from Regional Synods, Presbyteries and Congregations: Noted**

**4. Context: Legal, Civil and ecumenical Noted**

**4.1 The cultural and legal context of civil same-sex marriage**

4.1.1 Namibia **Noted**

4.1.2 Lesotho **Noted**

4.1.3 South Africa **Noted**

**4.2 Ecumenical partnership churches positions Noted**

**4.2.1 Southern African partners**

- a) – d) **Noted**

**4.2.2 American partners Noted**

- a) – c) **Noted**

**4.2.3 European partners Noted**

- a) – d)

**5. Traditional position on homosexuality - Noted**

The Traditional Christian View on Homosexuality - **Noted**

1. Introduction - **Noted**

2. The Current Cultural Context - **Noted**

What is at Stake? - **Noted**

3. Welcoming People of Gay/Lesbian orientation - **Noted**



- 3.4 Four Views on the understanding of Homosexuality - **Noted**
- 4. Prevalence and definition of homosexuality - **Noted**
- 6. The meaning of marriage - **Noted**
- 7. Arguments about Scripture - **Noted**
- 8. Hermeneutics - **Noted**
- 9. Male and female in the Genesis narratives - **Noted**
- 10. The Teaching and Practice of Jesus - **Noted**
- 11. The Teaching of Paul - **Noted**
- 12. Singleness and celibacy - **Noted**
- 13. Arguments why some believers support homosexual practice - **Noted**
  - 1. The 'love-tolerance' argument - **Noted**
  - 2. The 'non-essential issue' argument - **Noted**
  - 3. The 'new-knowledge' argument - **Noted**
- 14.1 Same-sex theology and Medical science - **Noted**
- 14.2 Current socio-scientific data on the assertion that homosexual desire
  - 1. A homosexual brain? - **Noted**
- 2. Is there a homosexual gene?**
  - Childhood factors - **Noted**
- 3. Is homosexuality culturally pliable?**
  - Some evaluatory remarks - **Noted**
- 15. An Alternative Vision**
  - 15.1 God loves everyone - **Noted**
  - 15.2 Truthful debates - **Noted**
  - 15.3 God's institution of marriage - **Noted**
  - 15.4 Church as safe space - **Noted**
  - 15.5 Chastity - **Noted**
  - 15.6 Counseling and pastoral support - **Noted**
  - 15.7 Welcoming everyone - **Noted**
  - 15.8 Transforming prevailing sexual culture - **Noted**
- 16 Oliver O'Donovan: Pastoral Accommodation? - Noted**



## **Synod decides:**

### 1. (Gay marriages):

- \* That our considerations entail that the same ethical directives that apply for heterosexual living in all its facets should also apply for homosexual living. Synod shall not require of them what it does not require of its heterosexual members.
- \* This means that homosexual persons express their intimate sexual relations within the context of the relationships accepted above, which for us means the context of Christian marriage blessed by the church.
- \* In line with the provision made by law and the Constitution of South Africa, those who have conscientious objections to these unions shall not be obliged to officiate in them.

### 2. (Children of gays):

Since homosexual couples cannot bring children into the world they should have the opportunity to adopt children and to participate in the Christian practice of hospitality to children and provide a safe home for them. The church offers the same covenantal support as it does heterosexual couples.

### 3. (Gay Ministers of the Word):

As confessing members of the church of Christ homosexual Christians shall, on the basis of their faith in Jesus Christ have access to all the offices of the church, and upon fulfillment of all the academic requirements for the Ministry, to the office of Minister of the Word.

In the ongoing process Synod pleads for an ethic of love and graciousness, embrace and togetherness in the midst of differences that might still exist. Those who disagree with it shall not in any way be forced to accept it, while we hope that all will remain open to discussion and to the persuasion of the Holy Spirit of God.

## **6. Traditional position on homosexuality      Noted**

### **17 Recommendation: Noted**

Homosexuality Task team recommendations

#### 1. The GS takes note of position 1



2. The GS takes note of position 2
3. The GS accepts position 3
  - a. General Synod approves a process position in which we continue dialogue within URCSA with all relevant stakeholders (Congregations, Presbyteries, Regional Synods, Theological Training Centres, homosexual members etc.) with the two different positions as basis for the dialogue with feedback to the next General Synodical Commissions and a final report to the next General Synod.
  - b. General Synod mandates the Task team on Homosexuality to facilitate this dialogue in consultation with the Regional Synods.
  - c. General Synod commits itself to fund the Task team on Homosexuality and or to seek funding from partner churches for these consultations in collaboration with the GS Moderamen.

The GS re-affirms its decisions of 2005, 2008 and 2012 as our current policy.

**PART ONE: BIBLICAL REFLECTIONS Noted**

**PART TWO: ETHICAL REFLECTIONS FROM A (SOUTH) AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE Noted**

**PART THREE: HOMOSEXUALITY: PASTORAL REFLECTIONS**

**REPORT OF HOMOSEXUALITY TASK TEAM (HTT) TO URCSA GENERAL SYNOD 2016**

**Introduction: Noted**

GS 2008 Decision 93 **Noted**

**2. Mandate p 191: Noted**

3. Feedback from Regional Synods, Presbyteries and Congregations p191-193: **Noted**

**4. Context: Legal, Civil and Ecumenical p193-201noted**

**5. Progressive/liberal perspective on homosexuality p 201-209noted**

**Position 1 p 191-209 Noted**

**Position 2** Traditional position on homosexuality late **report: Noted**

**Position 3 Process** position: Engaging opposing positions through dialogue p 209



1. The GS takes note of position 1
2. The GS takes note of position 2
3. The GS accepts position 3
  - a. General Synod approves a process position in which we continue dialogue within URCSA with all relevant Stakeholders (Congregations, Presbyteries, Regional Synods, Theological Training Centres, homosexual members etc.) with the two different positions as basis for the dialogue with feedback to the next General Synodical Commissions and a final report to the next General Synod.
  - b. General Synod mandates the Task team on Homosexuality to facilitate this dialogue in consultation with the Regional Synods.
  - c. General Synod commits itself to fund the Task team on Homosexuality and or to seek funding from partner churches for these consultations in collaboration with the GS Moderamen.
4. The GS re-affirms its decisions of 2005, 2008 and 2012 as our current policy.

More than 20 delegates participated in deliberations on the three positions as tabled by the task team. The issue generated a lot of discussions. The moderator recognized speakers of opposing views alternately.

The moderator ruled that additional motions, seeing that it is not amendments to the recommendation of the task team, should be referred to a Temporary Homosexuality Task Team, consisting of the permanent Homosexuality Task Team as well as and the proposers and the secondii of the motions in order to consolidate the different proposals in a main motion.

### **Synod discuss the different proposals**

Moderator rule that the people who send in motions to meet during the night and consolidate their proposals.

### **Devotions by the Cape Synod**

**Meeting adjourn at 11:00 pm**

