

FIRST REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY MINISTRY FOR JUDICIAL MATTERS

- 1 **Opening: Noted.**
- 2 **Constituting: Noted**
- 3 **Vacant Presbyteries represented by elders**

Recommendation:

GS approves the following elders as delegates of their presbyteries;

- **Free State and Lesotho:**
Bethulie: Eld. N A Makhosane (**voting**), Eld. R Power (**observing**)
- **Phororo:**
Kuruman: Eld. H Swartland (**absent**), Eld. Mokgweetsi (**voting**)
- **Northern Synod:** Galina: N R Makuwa (**absent**)

4. **New Credential letters:**

Recommendation:

GS approves the following replacements as voting delegates:

Cape Synod

- Aliwal North: Rev. Mkhusele Boysce Masele replaced by Rev. Xolani Mhobo (**present**). Secundus: Eld. Michael May replaced by Mary-Ann Theron (**only for agenda**). Rev. Mhobo and Deacon Esme Boss'r are voting.
- Caledon: no names in agenda; Primarius: Elder Gladys Cryer (**voting, present**); Elder Ellie Davids (**observer, present**)
- Carnarvon: no names in agenda; Primarius Rev Deon Scharneck (**voting, present**). Secundus Rev Kenny van Rensburg (**for agenda**). No church council members
- Ebenezer: Rev Vivaldo Jacques Valentine (**voting, present**); secundus Rev. Peter September (**for agenda**); Primarius Eld. Millicent Valda Pockpas-Jolay (**voting, present**); secundus Eld. Anthony William Lernerts (**for agenda**)
- Malmesbury: Primarius Rev. Lysander Leonardo Prins (**voting, present**); secundus Ds. Eugene Etienne Beukes (**for agenda**); primarius Deacon Edwina Noordeman (**absent**); secundus Deacon Salie Solomons (**for agenda**)
- Porterville: Rev. Kobus Phillipus Franz replaced by Rev. Dr. Eugene Fortein (**voting, present**), no church council member



Free State and Lesotho

- Winburg: Rev. M D Selekisho (**voting, present**); Eld. I Moholo replaced by Eld. T I Mohapi (**voting, present**)

Southern Synod:

- Ennerdale (previously known as Eikenhof): Primarius Rev. Victor Latchman (**voting, present**), no church council member
- Witwatersrand: Rev. Dr. Tsiu replaced by Rev. Z E Mokgoebo (**voting, present**), secundus Rev. D A Thejane replaced Rev. N S Setshedi (for agenda); Eld. Shale replaced by Eld. S Tshabalala (**voting, present**), secundus Louw replaced by Eld. M Mbhalati (**for agenda**).
- Standerton: Primarius Rev. L D Makoena replaced by Rev. S M Lekoana (**voting, present**).

Namibia:

- Orumana: Eld. Santon Mahenje is replaced by Elton-John Hepundjua (**voting, present**)
- Takwasa: Eld. Nginga Paulus Mbangi is replaced by Izabel Nene Mendes-Nongava (**voting, present**)

KwaZulu-Natal

- Thekwini: Eld. (not Rev.) S S Masuku (**voting**), Dlamini (**absent**)

4 Delegates from Botshabelo (Free State and Lesotho):

Recommendations:

- (1) GS approves that, because of the suspension of all the activities of the Presbytery of Botshabelo, the delegates as indicated in the Agenda are regarded as observers only.
- (2) The Free State and Lesotho Synod is urged to deal with the issue urgently and all role players in this matter to cooperate with the Regional Synod.

Closing: Noted.



GS 2016 Decision 32

The GS accepts the temporary Commission for **SMJM**.

Proposed by Rev Mohlehe

Seconded: Dr T Lephakga

Election Committee

Rev Barnabas Ngqozela and his team do the counting. Rev Linda Cornelissen is requested for a prayer before the elections.

2.3 URCSA Strategic plan

The Moderator presents the Strategic Plan

Dr Moime says a prayer before lunch.

LUNCH

Report of the Election Committee

169 persons voted. The previous head count was 155. They added 15 as per **SMJM** and one chair was empty. Assessor rules that we do a headcount again.

The house is cleared. Head count 166 plus 4 = 170

Strategic Plan continue

Election committee report

170 voted

Prof. L Modise	78
Rev. M G Betha	47
Prof. M Plaatjies van Huffel	24
Rev. P Grove	7
Prof. C Landman	5
Rev. J W Beukes	4
Rev. H A Mbatha	2
Rev. R E Moraka	1
Rev. W Julius	1

Recommendation: Vote between Prof. L Modise and Rev. M G Betha

Strategic Plan

Debate continues and response is given by Moderator



TEA

Strategic Plan continues

Debate continues and response given by Moderator

GS 2016 Decision 33

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 3: Revised Strategic Plan

1. The GS takes note of the efforts of the Executive to drive the Strategic plan. **Approved**
2. The GS approves the Revised URCSA Strategic Plan. **Approved.** Amendment
3. The GS approved that the forwarding of the Strategic Plan to possible donors in order to secure funding for the implementation of the Strategic Plan. **Approved**
4. The **SMJM** be requested to look at the Church Order amendments which should be tabled at General Synod 2016 in order to make it possible for all moderators to be part of an extended Moderamen. **Noted**

The following Amendments were added:

GS 2016 Decision 34

GS decides that the financial figures be populated at the Medium strategic framework on table 6.1 be increased by 5% annually to fight inflation.

Proposed by Dr MJ Masuku

Seconded: LT Motaung

Motion:

GS 2016 Decision 35: The GS instructs the Executive Committee to set up an interactive communication network between the part of the strategic plan to enhance growth and understanding to develop time frames and a monitoring plan to keep the church informed of all progress.

Proposed by Rev. J G Swarts

Seconded by Eld. S Hamman

GS 2016 Decision 36

The Strategic Plan should focus more on programmes for women and Youth in URCSA.

Proposed by Eld M Neewat-Joubert
Seconded: Eld MV Pockpas-Jolay



Acknowledgement in the meeting: The Moderator acknowledge the delegates from the Lesotho Evangelical Church: Rev. Nelson Khethang Posholi and Evangelist James Machaea Mokaeane

Theme 1: Diversity as a gift: Attending to multi culturalism and multi ethnicity: Prof. David Xolile Simon. (Addendum 3)

Acknowledgement in the meeting:

Prof. Allan Boesak and his wife Elna Boesak

Theme 1: Diversity as a gift: Attending to multi culturalism and multi ethnicity: Prof. David Xolile Simon. (Addendum 3)

Discussion at the tables

Positive feedback from the session and response by Prof. Simon

Election Committee for Moderator:

Prof. L Modise 98 votes

Rev. M G Betha 66 votes

Word of congratulations to Prof. L Modise

Rev. Ngema prays before supper.

SUPPER

Temporary Commission SMJM

Sharpeville

Approve the replacement: Elder Morabe by Eld Segele.

REPORT OF THE CORE MINISTRY FOR CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES TABLED AT THE 7TH GENERAL SYNOD OF THE UNITING REFORMED CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Rev BP Makoko presents the report

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Composition of GS CMCM Commission | Noted |
| 1. 1.1 Regional Representatives | |
| 2. Mandate | For Noting |
| 3. Matters Referred | For Noting |
| 4. Meetings: | For Noting |
| 4.1. Physical Meetings | |
| 4.2. Teleconferences | |



- 5. Correspondence **For Noting**
- 6. Implementation of Decisions **For Noting**
 - 6.1. GS 2012 Decision 13: Strategic Planning
 - 6.2. GS 2012 Decision 14: IM Model
 - 6.2.1. Engagement with Ministries
 - 6.2.2. Constitutions
 - 6.2.3. Operationalization of the IM Model
 - 6.2.3.1 Challenges
 - 6.2.3.2 **CMCM Recommendation 1: For approval**

GS 2016 Decision 37

- 1. General Synod decide to re-affirm GS 2012 decision 80:
 “There must be connection between the Regional Congregational Ministries and the General Synod Congregational Ministry in order to address such challenges that are facing the ministries in the regions and affect the General Synod’s operations.”
Approved
- 2. The General Synod advises Regional Synods to ensure continuity during recess by co-opting, in the Regional **CMCM**, regional representatives elected by GS in the event they’re not re-elected by the latter Synods. **Approved**
- 3. General Synod urges Cape Synod to align their structures in accordance with the **IM** Model to ensure uniformity. **Noted**

6.3. GS 2012 Decision 18: Vacant Congregations

7. Decisions that have bearing on all Ministries

7.1 Christian Women Ministries For Noting

Dr. Teu to present their report

7.1.1 Working relations

CWM actively participated in all activities of **CMCM**. See **CWM** report to the GS.

Annexure 1

7.2 Christian Youth Ministries



GS 2016 Decision 38

CMCM Recommendation 2: Approved

CMCM recommends that:

1. The GS decide to take the legal action against Mr. IH Modise.
2. The GS reinstitutes the criminal case that the **CYM** instituted against Mr. IH Modise. Police case no: at Barkley-West Police Station
3. The GS entrust this responsibility to the Regional Synod Phororo to work in collaboration with **CYM** structures to ensure that the **CYM** money is paid in the GS account.

7.2.2 CYM Bloemfontein Conference

GS 2016 Decision 39

CMCM Recommendation 3: For approval

CMCM recommends that:

1. The GS regret the manner in which **CYM** handles its finances. **Approved**
2. The GS decides to institute disciplinary actions against Mr. Johnny Moyo and Mr. Mdlayedwa for failing to account for the church money and further instruct the relevant Presbyteries to follow this matter up with the congregations where the two brothers are members. Not approved. **Amended**

Amendment

The GS entrust this responsibility to the Phororo Synod to work in collaboration with the Presbytery of Kimberley and the **CYM** Structures to ensure that the **CYM** money is paid in the **CYM** account

Proposed by L J Kekana

Seconded: Eld. N C Lolwane

Election Committee reports on Assessor

166 votes were casted

Rev. J Julius 1

Rev. Lekoana

Rev. B B Senokoane



Rev. D P Carelse	2
Rev. W Beukes	3
Dr. W Moime	3
Rev. P Grove	11
Prof. C Landman	13
Prof. M Plaatjies van Huffel	11
Rev. Dr. R E Moraka	50
Rev. M G Betha	64

Recommendation: Vote between Dr. R E Moraka and Rev. M G Betha

7.3 Christian Women Ministries For Noting

Annexure 1

Dr. Teu to present their report

REPORT OF THE CHRISTIAN WOMEN’S MINISTRIES (CWM) TABLED AT THE 7TH GENERAL SYNOD OF THE UNITING REFORMED CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. Members of the committee

2. MEETINGS

CWM Recommendation 1: For Approval:

The CWM constitution presented has been reviewed in accordance to the 2013 congress resolutions.

CWM recommendation 2: For noting:

CWM executive suggested that the matter (material of the current CWM hat) be taken back to Regional Synods for further discussions in their Congresses, their inputs and suggestions will be discussed in the next GS CWM AGM 2017, for now the Congregations should improvise for the robbing of new members.

CWM Recommendation 3: For noting:

The GS CWM congress will be hosted by the Southern synod as on 6-9 July 2017 at the Aviator / OR Tambo International Hotel with the theme “By Grace we shall witness to the nations, Acts 1:8”.



3. MEMBERSHIP

CWM Recommendations 4: To be noted

While GS CWM is encouraging Regional Synod to audit the true records of total membership, it has been observed that the numbers are being reduced as a way of reducing the amount for registration towards the Regional Synods' funding and also has an impact on the total membership of GS CWM. Congregations' leadership is encouraged to monitor the forms that are submitted annually to the church council.

4. FINANCIAL STATUS

4.1 Financial status for GS CWM

WM Recommendations 5: To be noted

The update for Jan to March 2016 is not audited and will be audited separately so that in future we abide with the church financial year.

4.2 Status of the Regional Levies

CWM Recommendations 6: To be noted

CWM Regional Synods are expected to pay the levies of all its congregations

5. CWM ACTIVITIES

5.1 NATIONAL AND ECUMENICAL PARTICIPATIO

5.2.1 ALL AFRICA COUNCIL OF REFORMED CHURCHES' WOMEN CONFERENCE

CWM Recommendations 7: To be noted and approval

1. That in the future, URCSA in addition of sending the leadership of CWM, also delegate a women minister to All Africa Council of Reformed Churches' Women Conference.

Approved

2. That the next conference will be held in Gauteng in 2018. **Noted**

5.2.3 WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (WWDP)

CWM Recommendations 8: Noted

CWM members are encouraged to participate in WWPD activities in their regions.



5.2.3 SAC

6. THE GS and GSC DECISIONS

6.1 Operationalizing IM model in Ministries by GS CMCM

CWM Recommendations 9: Noted

1. The Integrated Model will be an agenda item in the 2017 congress
2. Requesting for uniform implementation of the **CMCM** in all levels; and clarification of the role of **CMCM** representative as against those Actuary in **CWM** meetings

6.2 GSC 2013 Decision 75, All ministries to support building project:

GS 2016 Decision 40

CWM Recommendations 10: Approved

That the annual form will be tabled during 2017 **CWM** congress for discussion and approval

6.3 GSC 2013 DECISION 70 SMFA RECOMMENDATION3: Funds of the various Ministries.

CWM Recommendations 11: Noted

The issue that **CWM** Funds be administered by **SMFA** to be tabled in the 2017 **CWM** congress for discussion and decision

6.4 GS DECISION 211: CWL & CWM Structure: Decision 211: CWL & CWM Structures:

CWM Recommendations 12: Noted

The issue of **CWM** and **CWL** to be tabled in the 2017 **CWM** congress for discussion

7. Other challenges noted by CWM

GS 2016 Decision 41

CWM Recommendations 13: Approved

1. The GS creates a platform to openly discuss issues of concern towards spiritual growth of the URCSA – in a seminar of summit form.



8. CONCLUSION. Noted

Acknowledgement in the meeting: Dr Teu and Mrs Belinda Witbooi

7.2.3 CYM Report

The CYM explains its processes. See the attached CYM report to the GS. **(Report was not submitted)**

7.3. Christian Men Ministries (Annexure: 2)

7.4. CHURCH BRIGADES. Annexure: 3

Noted of report

7.5. Christian Women's League

CMCM Recommendation 4: For approval

1. The GS decide to allow GSCMCM to submit report about CWL as part of a second report.

Referred to Order Commission for recommendation

CAP CAMP 2016 For Noting

8.1 CAP CAMP 2014

The Camp was arranged as follows:

8.1.1 Pre Camp meeting.

8.1.2 Preparations for the Camp. Advertisement for participation in the Camp: See attached advertisement marked Annexure: 4 Noted

8.1.3 The List of the Participants in the Camp 2014: See attached list of participants marked Annexure: 5 Noted

8.1.4 See attached Report of the Camp marked: Annexure: 6 Noted

8.2 CAP CAMP 2016.

8.2.1 TASK TEAM: Noted

8.2.2 PRE CAMP MEETING: Noted

8.2.3 DECISIONS TAKEN: Noted

8.2.4 Application for funding: See attached application marked Annexure: 7 Noted

8.2.5 Advertisement for Participation in the Camp: See attached advertisement marked Annexure: 8 Noted

8.2.6. List of Participants: See attached list of participants marked Annexure: 9 Noted



GS 2016 Decision 42

CMCM Recommendation 5 Approved

1. The GS approves the actions of the GSCMCM with CAP CAMP 2014 and CAP CAMP 2016. **Approved**
2. The GS take note with appreciation the successful PRE CAMP 2014 in Germany and the planned 2016 PRE CAMP in South Africa. **Noted**
3. The GS allow GSCMCM to submit CAP CAMP 2016 report as part of GSCMCM second report. **(Wait for Order Commission report on submittance)**

Sunday school Material (Junior Catechism) For Noting

- 9.1. The Junior Catechism Material
- 9.2. Consultation with the Regional Synods
Material in the Northern Synod
- 9.2.2. Material Assessment
- 9.2.2.1. Assessment findings

GS 2016 Decision 43

CMCM Recommendation 6: For approval

The General Synod decides as follows:

- 1) To approve the efforts of CMCM and GSC. **Approved**
- 2) To approve the Sunday school material as presented and adopt it as material for URCSA. **Approved**
- 3) To thank Melody ya Tshwane Congregation for the job well done. **Approved**
- 4) To instruct SMCPA to publish the material. **Approved**
- 5) To instruct SMFA to support the further distribution of the material. **Approved**

Election Commission report on Assessor

3 people not present and 4 spoiled ballots

Dr R E Moraka 72

Rev M G Betha 91



Rev Betha is the newly elected Assessor.

Announcements

Permission for Rev Kekana to visit hospital tomorrow

CLOSING DEVOTION BY NORTHERN SYNOD

Prof C Landman leads with a team from the Devotions Booklet.

The meeting adjourns at 21h05



UNITING REFORMED CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD 2016

BENONI

3-9 October 2016

3. MINUTES DAY THREE

5 OCTOBER 2016

1. OPENING

Prop. Bettie Wanza leads the devotion with Rev Jan Oberholser assisting with the sign language. She uses Luke 10:1-12 as text and invites the delegates to enter in to discussion.

**2. REPORT OF THE CORE MINISTRY FOR CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES
TABLED AT THE 7TH GENERAL SYNOD OF THE UNITING REFORMED
CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA HELD IN BENONI ON THE 3-9 OCTOBER
2016. (Continued)**

2.

Second report of **CMCM** will be referred to Permanent **CMCM**

Brother P K Tladi presents the report of **CMM**

Agenda 191 and 226

Report Minutes handed out

Constitutional matters in the report is refer to **SMJM**

Election Committee

**Election committee announces that they will proceed with the election of a Scribe for
GS.**



GREETINGS FROM ECUMENICAL GUESTS

- Rev. Nelis Janse van Rensburg, the Moderator, bring greetings on behalf of the **Dutch Reformed Church. (Addendum)**
- Rev. Nelson Khethang Posholi, Executive Secretary of the **Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa**, brings greetings. **(Addendum)**
- Rev. Marc Loos brings greetings from the **United Protestant Church in Belgium (Addendum)**
- The Moderator Dr Dietmar Arends and Reverend Stefanie Rieke-Kochsiek brings greetings from the **Lippische Landeskirche (Addendum)**
- Rev. Helge Johr, Vice President of the Evangelical Reformed Church, and Rev Verena Hoff-Nordbeckthe South Africa Representative brings greetings from the **Ev.-Reformierte Kirche (Addendum)**
- Rev. Evert Overeem brings greetings from **Protestant Church in the Netherlands**. He is accompanied by Prof Leo Koffeman. **(Addendum)**

ELECTION Committee report back on election of Scribe

Names

To vote between Rev. W J Julius, Prof. C Landman, Dr. W Moime and Rev. P Grove

GREETINGS FROM ECUMENICAL GUESTS (Continued)

- Rev. Deon Jantjies, actuator, brings greetings from **Calvyn Protestant Church** and is accompanied by Rev. Darrell Mackriel their Scribe. **(Addendum)**
 - Acknowledgement of greetings by Prof. Modise

GS 2016 Decision 44

To refer the **CMM** constitutional amendments to the temporary **SMJM** for consideration and table it to the synod sitting in session 3-9 October 2016

Proposed: RW Sesooa

Seconded: Rev. M G Mohoj



Acknowledgement in the meeting

Rev. Anlene Taljaard representing Faculty of Theology Free State University

3. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OF URCSA TO THE GENERAL SYNOD TO BE HELD 3-9 OCTOBER 2016 in BENONI (Continued)

3.7.2 REFORMED CHURCHES IN ZIMBABWE, BOTSWANA, MOZAMBIQUE, ZAMBIA, MALAWI, SWAZILAND, AND KENYA

GS 2016 Decision 45

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 23: Relationships with African Reformed Churches

1. The GS welcomes the development of better relationships with other reformed churches in Southern Africa. **Approved**
2. The GS make efforts to have discussions on the Belhar Confession with the African Reformed Churches. **Approved**

3.7.3 CALVIN PROTESTANT CHURCH

GS 2016 Decision 46

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 24: Relationship with Calvin Protestant Church

1. The GS approves the meeting between URCSA and CPC. **Approved**
2. The GS requests the scribes of the two churches to work on a Memorandum of Agreement for the churches; **Approved**
3. The GS takes note that Rev Godfrey Betha was invited to preach at CPC 65 year celebrations 18th October 2015. Theme: Koop die tyd uit vir die Koninkryk deur eg en relevant te wees. **Noted**
4. The GS takes note that the Scribe attended their Synod during June 2016. **Noted**
5. The GS invites a delegate from CPC to attend GS 2016. **Approved**



3.7.4 UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
GS 2016 Decision 47

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 25: Conference on Confessions UPCSA

1. The GS appreciates the fact that **UPCSA** invited URCSA to a conference on Confessions and to take part in the conference; **Approved**
2. The GS confirms that we need such conferences also in URCSA so enhance the value of our Confessions and that by inviting members from the **WCRC** in South Africa can benefit our discussions. **Approved**
3. The GS appreciates the invitations to their synods to convey greetings
4. The GS approves bi-lateral meetings with the **UPCSA**. **Approved**

3.7.5 KAIROS 1985: 30-YEAR CELEBRATION

GS 2016 Decision 48

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 26: Kairos 1985

1. The GS approves the attendance by the Executive of Kairos 1985. **Approved**
2. The GS takes note with appreciates that the moderator presented a paper on Belhar and the Kairos Document: Now is the time to speak truth to power. **Approved**
3. The GS endorses the statement issued after the meeting. **Approved**

3.8 CHURCHES IN EUROPE

3.8.1 Protestant Church in Netherland (PCN)

GS 2016 Decision 49

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 27: PCN

1. The GS appreciates the relationship with the **PCN** and the support from **PCN** to URCSA. **Approved**
2. The GS tasks the new Executive to continue this relationship and to formalize it in a partnership agreement. **Approved**



3.8.2 United Protestant Church in Belgium (UPCB)

GS 2016 Decision 50

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 28: Relations with UPCB

1. The GS takes note with appreciation the ongoing relationship with **UPCB. Approved**
2. The GS approves decision of the Executive to accept the offer from the **UPCB** for financial assistance to build a Head Office for URCSA. **Approved**
3. The GS takes note with appreciation that attention had been given to request no 1 (Rev. Marc Loos) and 2 (Climate Change) by the Moderator. **Approved**
4. The GS approves the partnership agreement between the districts O.W. Flanders of **UPCB URCSA Southern Synod. Approved**
5. The GS approves the Agreement of exchange of persons between URCSA and **UPCB. Approved**
6. The GS takes note that the UPCB has appointed Mr. Johan Troukens to be the liaison person between URCSA and the **UPCB. Approved**

GS 2016 Decision 51

The GS approaches all our ecumenical partners to record and compile the history of our solidarity with each other, the lessons we have learned and the challenges for the future

Proposed: Rev. P Grove

Seconded: RW Sesooa

Election report

Rev. P Grove 30

Dr. W Moime 25

Rev. W J Julius 62

Prof. C Landman 52

Vote between Prof. C Landman and Rev. W J Julius



TEA

GREETINGS FROM ECUMENICAL GUESTS (Continued)

- Prof. Matsobane Manala, the Moderator, brings greetings from **Maranatha Reformed Church of Christ**. (Addendum)

Election Committee report back on the election of Scribe

Rev. W J Julius 98

Prof. C Landman 72

Rev. W J Julius was elected as the new Scribe for GS.

Election for Actuarius to proceed

3.8.3 Evangelical Reformed Church in Germany (ERC)

Joint research project on the role German-southern African church relations during the 1930s, World War Two and the apartheid era

GS 2016 Decision 52

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 29: Joint research project on the role German-southern African church relations during the 1930s, World War Two and the apartheid era

1. The GS takes note with appreciation that scholars of URCSA partake in this prestigious academic book. **Approved**
2. The GS accepts the research report as published and request ministers and lecturers to engage with the research results. **Approved**

Invitation to Moderator to attend conference 13 September 2014

Ev. Ref. Gemeinde Osnabrück and partnership with Sebokeng



GS 2016 Decision 53

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 30: Ev. Ref. Gemeinde Osnabrück and partnership with Sebokeng

1. The GS takes note that the issue could be solved with the help of Dr. Modise and Rev. Senokoane. **Approved**
2. The GS appreciates the help offered by Ev. Ref. Gemeinde Osnabrück to URCSA Sebokeng. **Approved**
3. The GS requests all Regional Synods to ensure that partnerships between congregations and partnership churches be declared and be reported to the Executive by the end of 2016. **Approved**

German Protestant Kirchentag

Belhar project on behalf of the Reformed Alliance in Germany together with the Evangelical Reformed Church and the Church of Lippe

GS 2016 Decision 54

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 31: Belhar project and Reformed Alliance in Germany together with the Evangelical Reformed Church and the Church of Lippe

1. The GS appreciates the efforts from our partner churches to engage with the Confession of Belhar. **Approved**
2. The GS approves the project between URCSA on Belhar and Reformed Alliance in Germany together with the Evangelical Reformed Church and the Church of Lippe. **Approved**

Attendance of conference of Rhenish Family 27-28 October 2015

GS 2016 Decision 55

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 32: Renish Church

1. The GS takes note of the partnership between the UEM and the Regional Synod Cape. **Noted**



2. The GS requests the Regional Synod Cape to table annually a report of the partnership at the **GSC** or the General Synod. **Approved**
3. The GS requests all the regional synods to table annually reports concerning partnerships with overseas partners of the URCSA at the **GSC** or the General Synod. **Approved**
4. The GS takes with gratitude notice of the possibility of research funded by the **UEM** regarding the Rhenish Mission Society work in South Africa. **Approved**
5. The GS urges eligible members of URCSA to apply for the Masters during 2016. **Approved**
6. The GS applies as a full member to the **UEM**. **Approved**

Amendment

3.7 CHURCHES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

3.7.1 DRC family.

3.7.1.1 DRC

The Moderator presents the report. It also needs to be read with the report with the other **DRC** church family

Discussion

Election Committee report on election of acturius

Rev. D P Carelse	72
Prof. C Landman	45
Rev. P Grove	20
Prof. M Plaatjies Van Huffel	14
Dr. D Kuyler	4
Dr. W Moime	4
Dr. R E Moraka	2
Rev. H A Mbatha	1
Rev. Makubele	1
Rev. Lekoana	1
Rev. T E Ngema	1

Vote between Prof. C Landman and Rev. D P Carelse



Answer by Moderator

Election Committee report back regarding actuarius election

Rev. D P Carelse 118

Prof. Landman 48

Rev. D P Carelse is elected as new Actuarius

LUNCH (Executive will eat with Ecumenical Partners)

The moderator welcomes Prof. A Boesak and presents him to the meeting

Prof Alan Aubrey Boesak addresses the meeting under the theme: Walking with God. URCSA and Belhar 30 years later (Addendum)

Session for Questions: House have the opportunity to ask questions to Prof. Allan Boesak. He answers the questions gracefully.

Prof. Mary-Anne Plaatjies van Huffel expresses the appreciation of the GS to Prof. A Boesak and presents a Festschrift as a token of appreciation.

GS 2016 Decision 56

The General Synod: Gratitude and profound thankfulness to Dr. Allan Boesak. Dr. A Boesak vandag vergader ons en u in die aangesig van n besondere mylpaal. Ons druk 30 jaar van Belhar Belydenis warm teen ons bors en weet dat u Dr. Allan Boesak n groot rol hierin gespeel het- u Dr. Allan Boesak staan inderdaad uit as n mens wie slegs die beste myle tot by hierdie oomblik van enorme vreugde en danksegging versamel het. Dr. Boesak aan u werke word u geken- u impak is geweldig. Jou karakter is oneindig diep. Dr. Allan Boesak, een van SA se bestes is jy gewis! Dr. Boesak ons is ewig dankbaar vir u onbaatsugtige bydrae tot ons kerk en land, aangevuur deur u dors na geregtigheid, gelykheid en Vryheid. U het apartheid, wreedheid en verwoesting met bloot geloof en hoop geraam in die waarheid van liefde en opregte menswees, vreesloos aangedurf en menigte verdruktes geïnspireer.

Thank you Dr. Boesak for your active involvement in the struggle for a free, non-sexist, non-racial democratic for all of God's children.

Proposed: Sr. Doris Neewat

Seconded: Florence Makobonyane

Scribe reads messages from Jaap du Rand, DRCA and Jerry Pillay (**Addendum**)



Handover of presents to ecumenical guests

Continue discussions DRC Church Family

Election committee report that the election of Regional Synod Members will start. We will start with Northern Synod

Continue discussion

GS 2016 Decision 57

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 21: Relationship with DRC

1. The GS takes with appreciation note of the indefatigably efforts by the regional synods of the **DRC** to take up the Belhar Confession in the confessional basis of the **DRC**.

Approved

2. The GS regretfully takes note of the unsuccessfully efforts of the **DRC** General Synod regarding securing a 2/3 majority vote in every Regional Synod in order to include the Belhar confession as a fully-fledged confession. **Approved**

3. The GS affirms that we will still avail ourselves to accompany the **DRC** regarding the acceptance of the Belhar Confession. **Approved**

4. The GS affirms that the acceptance of the Belhar Confession is being seen by URCSA as the acid test of the **DRC**'s response to the challenge of becoming one, united and non-racial church with the other Dutch Reformed churches. **Approved**

5. The GS states categorically that the Belhar Confession should be included as a fully fledge confession in the confessional basis of the envisaged unified church Optionality of the Belhar Confession is not an option for URCSA. **Approved**

Amendment Approved

Zack Mokgoebo

Point 7-9 stand over to **SMJM**

6. The GS approves the Provisional Church Order as a way forward.

7. The GS requests the regional synods of the **DRC** who are willing to journey on basis of the provisional church order to also indicate that they subscribe to the memorandum of agreement and the roadmap.



8. The GS assures the Ministries, Congregations, Presbyteries and Regional Synods of the **DRC** who on basis of the Provisional Church Order who want to unify with URCSA that the URCSA will embrace them with compassion and accompanying them in their journey
9. The GS prayerfully requests the General Synod of the **DRC** to amend Regulation 24 as well as Article 44.1 and 44.2 of the Church Order of the General Synod of the **DRC** in totality in order to make church reunification possible. **Approved**
10. The GS urges the **DRC** to confront recalcitrant members and Congregations and Regional Synods of the **DRC** with the inescapable demand of the gospel that they should strive and indefatigably work towards the goal to become members of one non-racial reunited church. **Approved**
11. The GS declares emphatically that restorative justice should shift hence on from the periphery to the axis of bilateral and multilateral talks of the **DRC** Family. Justice does not pass over wrongs. Wrongs in church and society should be faced and addressed in a comprehensive manner. In doing so the **DRC** Family will be able to overcome past divisions and find a new and richer unity. Without attending to the issue of restorative justice church reunification will not be possible. **Approved**
12. The GS approves that the **MOA** is still the basis for our relationship with the **DRC**. **Approved**
13. The GS approves that the joint projects of our churches: **Season of Human Dignity** and **Churches addressing Racism** continue to assist in making unity a reality. **Approved**

3.7.1.2 THE FOUR CHURCHES OF DRC FAMILY DRC

GS 2016 Decision 58

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 22: *Journeying with four churches of DRC*

1. The GS commits itself to dialogue with the other three churches of the DRC family
Approved
2. The GS invites the **DRCA** and **RCA** for bi-lateral meetings. **Approved**



GS 2016 Decision 59

The Synod of URCSA noting the delaying tactics of the **DRC** to stall the unity process.

1. Invites the members of the **DRC** as individuals to join URCSA congregations at local level.
2. Invites presbyteries of the **DRC** to unite within URCSA presbyteries at Presbytery level.
3. Invites Regional Synods of **DRC** to unite within URCSA Regional Synods.
4. This unity is based on Belhar confession's imperatives.

Proposed: Rev. H Mbatha

Seconded: P. Zulu

Election Commission report on Northern Synod

Prof. C Landman 80

Rev. R E Moraka 52

Dr. W Moime 18

Rev. J P Kriel 2

Rev. H Moima

Prof. C Landman represents Northern

Election Commission report that we will vote for a representative for Free State and Lesotho Synod

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CONTINUE

GS 2016 Decision 60

3.8.4 Lippische Landeskirche in Germany

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 33: Lippische Landeskirche in Germany

1. The GS appreciates the longstanding partnership with the Lippische Landeskirche.

Approved

2. The GS appreciates the financial support given to URCSA by the Lippische Landeskirche **Approved**

3. The GS approves the Executive decisions that Rev Henk Olwage of Namibian Synod



(Light of the children foundation) received financial support for the work he is doing.

Approved

4. The GS appreciates the opportunities for theological reflection with them at the Kirchentag. **Approved**
5. The GS instructs Regional Synods to be properly informed about the nature and content of congregational partnerships **Approved**

3.8.5 Reformed Church in Hungary: General Synod 10-13 November 2014

GS 2016 Decision 61

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 34: Reformed Church in Hungary

1. The GS appreciates this new ecumenical partnership with the Reformed Hungarian Church. **Approved**
2. The GS tasks the new Executive to continue this partnership. **Approved**

3.9. CHURCHES IN AMERICA

3.9.1. Reformed Church in America (RCA)

3.9.2. Presbyterian Church in United States of America (PUSA)

GS 2016 Decision 62

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 35: PCUSA

1. The GS appreciates the invitation to URCSA delegation for ministering opportunities in the USA. **Approved**

GS 2016 Decision 63

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 36: PCUSA visitors in 2014

1. The GS appreciates the visits by the PCUSA to South Africa. **Approved**
2. The GS appreciates the support given by Cape leadership. **Approved**

Request for a Resource person concerning Belhar from URCSA to attend the General Assembly: 14 – 21 June 2014: Detroit



GS 2016 Decision 64

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 37: PCUSA General Assembly 2014

1. The GS takes note that the **PCUSA** General Assembly voted in favour of Belhar as a Confession and that it was referred to the Presbyteries for vote **Approved**
2. The GS decides to disseminate their material of Belhar within URCSA for cognizance and to use as Resource materials. **Approved**

Meeting with Doug Tilton liaison officer of PCUSA

Full Acceptance of Belhar Confession

GS 2016 Decision 65

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 38: PCUSA Full acceptance of Belhar Confession

1. The GS applauds the **PCUSA** General Assembly for not giving up on adopting the Belhar Confession as a full confession after the first round via the Presbyteries were not successful. **Approved**
2. The GS appreciates the efforts that were made to include URCSA members in the process to promote the Belhar Confession. **Approved**
3. The GS celebrates with **PCUSA** for adopting the Belhar Confession and prays that the Belhar Confession will serve them well in being church. **Approved**

3.9.3 The Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA)

GS 2016 Decision 66

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 39: CRCNA and Belhar

1. The GS takes note with appreciation that the **CRCNA** is still engaged with the Belhar Confession. **Approved**

3.10 Other Ecumenical issues

AHA-Movement – Authentic Hopeful Action



GS 2016 Decision 67

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 40: AHA Movement

1. The GS approves the Executive's endorsement of the **AHA Movement**. **Approved**

SUPPER

Prop Bettie Wanza makes a presentation about Living with disability and Rev. Jan Oberholzer does the translation.

The Scribe thanks them.

Election committee report on Free State and Lesotho

Rev L P Fokase 46

Rev I Khambule 37

Rev M G Mohoje 24

Vote between Rev L P Fokase and Rev I Khambule

4. CORE MINISTRIES

GS 2016 Decision 68

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 41: Functioning of SMCPA

1. The GS discuss the functioning of **SMCPA**. **Approved**

GS 2016 Decision 69

GS decides that the Permanent commission to be tasked with electing new commissions that:

- The reports of the presented at the previous GSC's be handed over to the new **SMCPA** and
- The decisions of GS 2012 revisited by the new **SMCPA** to avoid GS repeating those decisions.

Proposed by Rev. Z Mokgoebo and Seconded: Rev. BP Makoko

GS 2016 Decision 70

GS decides:

- to expresses disappointment in the fact that no report was not submitted by the **SMCPA** to this GS 2016



- As a church we should prayerfully discern and explore the application of cost-effective means to fulfill our calling, also with regards to the work of the **SMCPA**

Proposed: Rev. D Mouton

Seconded: Dr. Fortein

Election committee report on Free State and Lesotho

Rev. L P Fokase 90

Rev. I Khambule 58

Rev. L P Fokase is elected as representative of Free State and Lesotho

CLOSING BY NAMIBIA

Rev. Adriaan Du Plessis leads the devotion. The meeting adjourns at 21:35

