

UNITING REFORMED CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD 2016

BENONI

3-9 October 2016

4. MINUTES DAY FOUR

6 OCTOBER 2016

4. OPENING

The Free State leads the devotion according to the Liturgical booklet.

5. MINUTES OF DAY ONE

The following rectifications are approved

Adoption of minutes

GS 2016 Decision 71

The GS approves the minutes of the first day as a true reflection of what was said with the corrections that were approved.

Proposed: Eld. C Lolwane

Seconded: Rev. L Kekana

6. REPORT OF THE CORE MINISTRY FOR CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES

(Continue)

CYM report

Mr Mabuza presents the report. (Addendum)

- a) Executive committee members. **Noted**
- b) Meetings. **Noted**
- c) Membership. **Noted**
- d) GS and GSC decisions. **Noted**
- e) CYM activities. **Noted**



- f) CYM projects. **Noted**
- g) Challenges. **Noted**
- h) Conclusion. **Noted**

GS 2016 Decision 72

GS decides:
 That on student society implementation, the matter is referred to the new GS **CMCM** and **CYM** to develop strategies and initiatives on church needs to minister to our students on campuses.
 Proposed: Rev. Z Mokgoebo and Seconded: Rev. P F Kriel

CMM report

REPORT BY THE URCSA GS CORE MINISTRY FOR SERVICE AND WITNESS (CMSW in union with UMSW) TO THE URCSA GS

- 1. **GENERAL**
- 2. **MEMBERS AND OFFICE BEARERS OF CMSW AND UMSW**
 - 2.1. Members elected and co-opted in 2012 URCSA GS to serve in the **CMSW**
 - 2.2. Executive Committee members of the **CMSW**
 - 2.3. Chairperson of **CMSW** deceased
 - 2.3.1. Successive chairperson

GS 2016 Decision 73

2.3.2. **CMSW Recommendations 1: Approved**

- Points 1.-2.3. to be noted
- The GS meeting decides to observe a moment of silence in appreciative memory of the diligent service by Rev Paulus van Schalkwyk in the **CMSW** and **UMSW**. The observance is referred to the temporary commission for In Memoriam.

- 2.4. Utilization of retirees in ministries of the church



GS 2016 Decision 74

2.4.1. **CMSW Recommendations 2: Refer to Temporary SMJM**

The GS considers the guidance by the Support Ministry of Judicial Matters on the utilization of retirees in the church's ministry.

3. SERVICE & WITNESS (S&W) – BEING AND ACTION

3.1. BACKGROUND HISTORY AND THEOLOGY (Development of CMSW and UMSW)

3.2. MEETINGS AND OPERATIONS OF S&WIN RELATION WITH THE UMSW

3.2.1. **Noted**

3.2.2. The UMSW general report. **Noted**

3.2.2.1. Regulation UMSW. **Noted**

3.2.2.2. Regulation CMSW. **Noted**

3.2.2.3. The members of the UMSW Management Group. **Noted**

3.2.2.4. Attending to the UMSW report and its recommendations 8.1-8.3

CMSW Addendum 1

Point 1-7.5 **Noted**

GS 2016 Decision 75

UMSW Recommendation 2

8.1 GENERAL SYNOD

- a) Reiterates that the United Ministry for Service and Witness makes a significant contribution and can continue to do so in the establishment of a joint service and witness ministry by the four participating churches. At the same time, it can be one of the pilot projects for a united church; **Approved**
- b) requests the Executive with the GSC to, in the current conversation with the other three churches in the DRC family on an interim order, to ensure that the mission and mandate of the UMSW, as contained in the existing Memorandum of Understanding, be clearly defined in order to ensure that the UMSW receives the church orderly space and ability to make this contribution; **Approved**



- c) Request the Support Ministry for Finance to, in the 2016/2020 budget process, to capacitate the **UMSW** to fulfill its responsibilities. **Approved**

3.2.2.4.1. CMSW Recommendations 3: Recommendation on the adoption of the **UMSW** report **Approved**

3.3. REPORT ON PARTICULAR MATTERS ATTENDED TO BY THE CMSW (In relation with UMSW)

3.3.1. CHRISTIAN DEPENDENCY MINISTRY (CDM) (Addendum 2)

Points noted

3.3.2 CMSW Recommendations 4: Noted

The GS notes the positive developments regarding the **CDM** with gratitude and call on the Synods and Congregations to further support this important ministry with practical love and care.

GS 2016 Decision 76

1. In the light of information provided by **CMSW** regarding the retirement and re-employment of Rev. J S Van Rooy, the GS with plans for a successor for Rev. J S Van Rooy.
2. That the GS also request **CMSW** to investigate the relationship between **CDM** and Toevlug Rehabilitation Centre to establish a more effective working relationship.

Proposed: M P James

Seconded: C D Jacobs

3.3.2. DIACONAL PROJECTS WITH PARTNERS

3.3.2.1. Existing Service (Diaconal) projects: Addendum 3

Point Noted

GS 2016 Decision 77

3.2.1.1. CMSW Recommendations 5: Approved

The GS notes the outstanding work done in a number of congregations through various partnerships with gratitude.



The GS supports the **CMSW** to maintain and further develop the involvement of partnering institutions and churches with local URCSA Congregations through the URCSA Regional Synods.

3.3.2.2. **Interaction with and reporting to role-players**

3.3.2.2.1. Facilitating and developing Service and Witness Projects

3.3.2.2.2. Developing SW vision and projects in relation with donor partners

3.3.2.2.2.1. Historical perspective

3.3.2.2.2.2. **SADAP** reflection October 2014

CMSW Recommendations 6: Noted

Points 3.2.2.1. to 3.2.2.2.2 are to be noted.

3.2.2.2.3. **CMSW's** views on staff and infrastructure and its proposals for the future:

3.2.2.2.3.1. S&W Liaison officer

GS 2016 Decision 78

3.2.2.2.3.1.1. **CMSW Recommendations 7:**

The GS approves the GSC's endorsement of the appointment of a fulltime service and witness liaison officer

Amendment: **Approved**

The GS approves the GSC's endorsement of the appointment of a fulltime service and witness liaison officer subject to the availability of funds

Proposed: Rev P Grove and Seconded: J K Ntlatyua

3.2.2.2.3.1.2. **CMSW Recommendations 8: Noted**

The GS notes the action of the **CMSW** and the GSC

3.2.2.2.3.2. **Noted.**

3.2.2.2.3.2. **Utilizing DRC Family resources**



GS 2016 Decision 79

CMSW Recommendations 9: Approved

The GS endorses the viewpoint and requests that the regional resources should be considered to assist the URCSA GS Ministry needs, as may be and become applicable.

3.3.3. THE CHRISTIAN LITERATURE FUND

Addendum 4: Point 1-6. **Noted**

GS 2016 Decision 80

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The General Synod takes note, with gratitude, of the work done by Christian Literature Fund and urges them to continue with it. **Approved**

6.2 The General Synod urges the regional URC Synods to encourage its congregations to make use of the range of products of Christian Literature Fund. **Approved**

3.3.3.1. Noted.

CMSW Recommendations 10: Approved

The GS tasks the CMSW to, in conjunction with the URCSA Executive, appoint the needed URCSA representatives to the CLF structures of management and publication, as and when applicable.

3.3.4. URCSA GS STRATEGIC SESSIONS 2013, 2014, 2015 AND THE FOCUS OF S&W

CMSW Recommendations 11: Approved

The GS notes the CMSW's positive reception of the 2013 to 2015's strategic session's outcomes and the intention to develop these further.

3.3.5. HYMNAL FOR SINGING TOGETHER

CMSW Recommendations 12: Approved

The GS notes the development of a Hymnal for singing together through CLF with gratitude.



3.3.6. WEEK OF PRAYER AND PENTECOST

CMSW Recommendations 13: Approved

The GS notes the information with gratitude and appreciation to all those co-workers and institutions who prepare the material that the church family annually rely on.

4. MATTERS OF PUBLIC WITNESS

4.1. Prayer and intercession

4.1.1. Recent state of and turmoil in our world at large

4.1.1.1. Prayer for the nation and the world

4.2.1.1.1. CMSW Recommendations 14:

The GS approves this call to prayer and urges Regional Synods to call on congregations to intercede for our world and its peoples in these hours of darkness.

GS 2016 Decision 81

1. To call on congregations close to campuses to specifically institute pastoral and support structures to student communities and lectures to talk through the matters of students protests.
2. The GS to arrange a meeting with the Minister of Higher Education and University Principals to discuss the spaces that can be created for honest debate and dialogue and to explore this in collaboration with all ecumenical structures.
3. The GS and all Regional Synod condemn in a strongest possible terms the violent character of the police conduct and call on SAPC as well as the university management to restrain the security personnel in the handling of the student protest.
4. That a call be made to students to engage all agencies who have the interest of their protest and struggles at heart and to also act with restrain when it comes to the issue of respecting properly at institutions of higher learning.

Proposed: Brian Handel and Seconded: Xolani Mhobo

4.1.1.2. Pastoral letter and a call on uncorrupt, selfless public service



GS 2016 Decision 82

4.2.1.2.1. CMSW Recommendations 15: Approved

The GS requests the URCSA Executive to consider a pastoral letter with spiritual guidance to Regional Synods and Congregations on matters of global and local public concern.

The GS calls on its Regional Synods Presbyteries and Congregations to engage the challenges we face in public life through the education of our members for active and suitable Christian involvement in the management and duties of National and Local Government by being clear examples of uncorrupt and selfless service in Public Office

4.2. Involvement with particular sectors in need

4.3. Care for the Creation

GS 2016 Decision 83

4.4.1 CMSW Recommendations 16: Approved

The URCSA calls upon the SA government to stop the fracking explorations as well as the intended Nuclear power development, because of its huge potential to harm the integrity of the environment.

4.4. Our relationships with the Chaplaincies. **Noted**

(Report on Chaplaincies will be later tabled as in Addenda)

4.5. Guiding Documents for SW in the Church Order **Noted**

4.6. Regulations guiding pastor's involvement in Public Service and witness in society.

Noted

5. **Late report**

6. **Greetings to the GS. Noted**

TEA

Motion on students, Fees must fall.

Ruling: Ask that proposers make one proposal and bring to meeting

Request for revision

D Mouton **Not approved**



4.4.1 CMSW Recommendations 16: Referred

The URCSA calls upon the SA government to stop the fracking explorations as well as the intended Nuclear power development, because of its huge potential to harm the integrity of the environment. **Not approved**

GS 2016 Decision 84

Decision:

1. To task SMSW to disseminate information about Fresh expressions and the Mission Shaped Ministry training to regional synods. GS encourages congregations to use SMS in equipping members and leaders in order to support URCSA's aim to be a mission church.

Proposed: J P Kriel and Seconded: P F Kriel

Election Commission requests the meeting to vote for a member of KZN

THIRD REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OF URCSA TO THE GENERAL SYNOD

8. MEETINGS OF EXECUTIVE. Noted

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

2.1 Appeal against Moderamen Pronouncements

Executive Third Report 2016 Recommendation 2: Appeal Against Moderamen

Pronouncements: approval.

1. The GS decide to refer the matter to the temporary Ministry for Judicial Matters to advice Synod in session, without going into the merits of the case, with regard to URCSA Appeal process as prescribed in URCSA Church Order.

2.2 Letter from four Presbyteries of Southern Synod: Request for Intervention

The Executive Committee received a letters dated 18 April 2016 and 09 September 2016 from four Presbyteries of North West requesting intervention for establishment of New



Synod (Addendum B). The latter was referred to **SMJM** for advice and unfortunately same was not received by the Executive Committee.

GS 2016 Decision 85

Executive Third Report 2016 Recommendation 3: Letter from four Presbyteries of Southern Synod: Request for Intervention: Approved

1. The GS decides to refer the matter to the temporary Ministry for Judicial Matters to advise Synod in session with regard to Establishment of a new Regional Synod process as prescribed in URCSA Church Order.

GREETINGS FROM ECUMENICAL GUESTS

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Rev. Godfrey Betha represented URCSA at the meeting. (**Addendum 9**)

GS 2016 Decision 86

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.
2. The GS appreciates the efforts that were made to include URCSA members in the process to promote the Belhar Confession.
3. The GS celebrates with **PCUSA** for adopting the Belhar Confession and prays that the Belhar Confession will serve them well in being church.

Exec Addendum 9

REPORT OF URCSA REPRESENTATIVE AS AN ECUMENICAL ADVISORY DELEGATE AT THE 222ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF USA (PCUSA) IN SITTING 18-25 JUNE 2016 AT PORTLAND, OREGON, USA.

Rev. Betha show video on PCUSA Belhar and acceptance to meeting



5. **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL**

- 5.1 The General Synod of URCSA gives gratitude to the highest Lord and with much appreciation for the perseverance of the **PC (USA)** to adopt the Belhar Confession. **Approved**
- 5.2 The General Synod of URCSA take note with appreciation that the Belhar Confession was adopted at the **PC (USA)** 222nd General Assembly on 22nd June 2016 by an overwhelming 540-33 vote in favour of acceptance. **Noted**
- 5.3 The General Synod of URCSA decides to write a letter of appreciation to the **PC (USA)** for their relentless endurance and final adoption of the Belhar Confession. **Approved**
- 5.4 The General Synod of URCSA decides to archive all the Belhar Confession material available for purpose of use at the envisaged Belhar centre. **Approved**
- 5.5 The General Synod of URCSA decides to allow Belhar Confession adoption video(s), by the **PC (USA)** and Reformed Church in America (**RCA**) to be shown during Synod session. **Approved**
- 5.6 The General Synod of URCSA decide to express a word of gratitude for the unyielding advocacy of the Special Committee to the **PC (USA)** as well as the ministers of the Word, theologians and members of the URCSA during the past years. **Approved**

Rev. Betha introduce Rev. Robina Marie Winbush the delegate from the **PC (USA)**

- Rev. Robina Marie Winbush, Associate Stated Clerk and Director Ecumenical Relations of the **Presbyterian Church USA** bring greetings. **(Addendum)**

She hands over a token to the Moderator.

The meeting sings, Kom dank nou almal God.

The Moderator conveys her thanks to Rev. Winbusch



Election Commission report on delegate from KZN

174 voted

Rev. T E Ngema	53
Rev. Majola	39
Rev. Zuma	14
Rev. Kriel	11
Rev. Khanyile	6
Eld. Visagie	2
Eld. Myeni	2
Eld. Zulu	1
Rev. Chamane	1

Vote again between Rev. T E Ngema and Rev. S J Majola

SECOND REPORT OF EXECUTIVE

10. ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

3.1 World Council of Churches: WCC

Executive 2nd Report 2016 Recommendation 3: From a Radioactive Haze to a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World. To be approved

1. The GS appreciates the Moderator's presentation;
2. The GS endorses the Astana Declaration;
3. The GS calls on the Faith Community and Civil Community in Southern Africa to oppose the governments' nuclear programme. **Approved**

Amendment on point 3. **Approved**

GS 2016 Decision 87

Decision:

1. The GS instructs the Executive Committee to form a Sub-Committee dealing with the issue of nuclear development and its consequences for humanity and nature. They must:



- 1.1 Gather information and present it to the relevant church structures.
- 1.2 Engage the relevant government body to voice and protest all unbiblical developments.
- 1.3 If necessary organize and call for protest against nuclear development plan.
- 1.4 Engage organization and partner churches to help us in our protest against nuclear programme.

Proposed: Rev. G Swartz and Seconded: Elder S Hamman

4.4.1 CMSW Recommendations 16: Approved

The URCSA calls upon the SA government to stop ~~the fracking explorations as well as the~~ intended Nuclear power development, because of its huge potential to harm the integrity of the environment.

Amendment: Zack Mokgoboe

Refer the issue also back to CMSW for a fully fledged report

Election Committee report on election of delegate for KZN

Rev. Ngema 112

Rev. Majola 48

Acknowledge Rev. Mphezeni of UPCSA

Rev. W J Julius pray for food

LUNCH

3.1 World Council of Churches: WCC

GS 2016 Decision 88

Executive 2nd Report 2016 Recommendation 3: From a Radioactive Haze to a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World. To be approved

1. The GS appreciates the Moderator's presentation;
2. The GS endorses the Astana Declaration; ~~Amendmended~~ **Amended**



3. The GS calls on the Faith Community and Civil Community in Southern Africa to oppose the governments' nuclear programme. **Approved**

Amendment: Approved

GS 2016 Decision 89

GS decides to approve recommendation 3 with the following:

Refers pt2, Astana Declaration and Addenda 2 (p15 ff) and inputs by Moderator (Addendum 1) all to GSSWM

Proposed: Rev. Z Mokgoebo

Seconded: Rev. P F Kriel

GS 2016 Decision 90

Acceptance of Executive reports 1.2 and 3

GS approves the Reports 1, 2 and 3 of the Executive to the GS 2016

Proposed: Rev. A A Du Plessis

Seconded: Sr. F Beukes

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD CORE MINISTRY FOR PROCLAMATION AND WORSHIP TO THE GENERAL SYNOD

Recommendation: for noting

1. Personnel of the Core Ministry. **Noted**
2. Meetings. **Noted**

A: REPORT OF DOCTRINE AND CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

1. Homosexuality task team. **Noted**
2. **Current and doctrinal issues for consideration.**



GS 2016 Decision 91

Recommendation: Approved

Synod continues the mandate to research and formulate positions on these matters:

These issues include:

- The church's response to refugees and migrants – Prof. Kritzinger
- Ecology and nuclear power – Prof. Koopman
- Chaplaincy to political parties – Prof. Tshaka
- Unemployment and economic justice – Rev. P Grove
- Corruption in state and business – Rev. Senokoane
- Crime and attacks on policemen

Doctrinal issues:

- Children's communion – Dr. Nthakhe
- Charismatic influence in the churches – Rev. Makulubele
- Liturgical and church attire: Rev. Husselman

B: REPORT OF GS LITURGY AND WORSHIP TASK TEAM (LWTT)

Composition of the Task Team

1. Worship and Liturgical Book

GS 2016 Decision 92

Recommendation: Approved

The GS endorses the draft worship book with the amendments and responsive liturgies included and mandate the P&W Ministry to proceed to reproduce the draft for circulation to the Regional Synods for testing and submission to the GS 2020.



2. Hymn Book of the DRC Family

GS 2016 Decision 93

Recommendation:

The instruction to produce an inclusive hymnbook for use in the DRC family incorporating all our languages is continued.

3. Worship book for Synod

The meeting liaised with the General Moderature to clarify if the ministry must prepare a booklet for worship at the Synod 2016.

Such a booklet was produced with the assistance of some members of the ministry.

GS 2016 Decision 94

Recommendation:

The GS thank the members of the commission for their excellent work in producing a worship guide for the Synod meeting.

C. REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL FORMATION TASK TEAM

Rev Grove presents the report in the absence of Rev Husselman.

- 1. COMPOSITION AND MANDATE OF GS MFTT. Noted**
- 1.1 Composition. Noted**
- 1.2 Mandate. Noted**

Article 4 RESPONSIBILITIES

RECOMMENDATION 1: Noted



2. DECISIONS/ASSIGNMENTS OF GENERAL SYNOD 2012 TO GS MFTT:

General Synod approves

2.3.6 That GS MFTT has embarked on a process of writing study manuals to address this challenge. The following topics are identified as possible course material:

Theme	Person responsible
a) The Minister of the Word and Sacrament as a person , focusing on life-skills and personal maturity, based on specific case studies;	To be assigned
b) The Minister of the Word and Sacraments a manager , focusing on the management of the church (Administrative, Finance & Budget, Leading of a meeting);	Rev. J C Goeiman
c) The pastor as a family man/woman , focusing on marriage, family life, choosing a life partner, and the handling of family and ministry;	Rev. MS Maponya
d) The nature of the Reformed Confessions , inclusive of their historical background and current use.	Prof. R S Tshaka

For noting: The matter of Veritas material was not explored further by GS MFTT, since the implementation was delegated to Local and Regional bodies.

2.5 GS 2012 Decision 59 Continuing Ministerial Development (CMD) Noted

2.6 GS 2012 Decision 60 Specialized studies in final year of formation programme

1 General Synod approves these amendments to the curriculum. **Noted**

2 General Synod mandates regional MFTT's to comply with the curriculum and authorizes the GS MFTT to monitor compliance. **Noted**

General Synod approves

2.6.1 That GS MFTT embarks on a process to synchronise the final year curricula of the different Ministerial Formation Centres: **Approved**



- 2.6.2 That GS **MFTT** reviews the final year qualifications done by students in the different regions (MDiv, MA(Theology), MTh, Post Graduate Diploma in Theology, etc.) to establish whether these are equivalent qualifications. **Approved**
- 2.6.3 That the qualification(s) accepted by a regional **MFTT** for the final year must be approved by GS **MFTT** as acceptable for licensing in the URCSA **Approved**
- 2.6.4 That each **MFTT** is requested to submit the curricula required of their students in the last two years of study (Honours and Masters Level) to the GS **MFTT** scribe, Rev L Husselmann, who will compile a second report for GS 2016 on this. **Noted**
- 2.6.5 **MFTTs** must clearly inform students of all the requirements for licensing as prescribed by GS, and point out the pitfalls of unrecognized theological training paths **Approved**
- 2.6.6 The acceptability of a specialised MTh degree in the final year for licensing purposes causes confusion and the GS **MFTT** proposes the following amendments to the ministerial formation curriculum (MF Manual, p.17) to clarify this:

NOTE: proposed additions are underlined; proposed deletions in ~~strike through mode~~

1.2.1 The first four academic years will consist of:

* A four-year BDiv (or equivalent broad-based qualification at NQF level ~~89~~);

or

* A three-year BTh (or equivalent), followed by a broad-based BTh Honours (or equivalent)

1.2.2 The fifth year will consist of:

* A one-year MDiv (or an equivalent); or

*A specialised research MTh, on condition that: a) the student obtained an average of at least 65% in the Honours degree; b) s/he finds a theological department that will accept him/her into a specialised Masters programme on the basis of a broad-based Honours degree; c) s/he has complied with all the other aspects of practical and spiritual formation in the curriculum; d) the Regional **MFTT** has approved her/his application to follow this route before enrolling for the qualification (see footnote); e) their final assessment for licensing will be as rigorous and comprehensive as for the other candidates – in terms of the 2005 ministry profile. **Approved**



Add footnote: When considering a student's application for a specialised Masters programme in her/his final year of study, the MFTT will assess it on the basis of the relevance of the student's proposed research for the life and future of the URCSA, not merely the personal interest or ability of the student.**Approved**

2.7 GS 2012 Decision 61 Licensing of students with hearing disability

GS 2016 Decision 95

Point 1-5 **Noted**

Referred: Curriculum of Deaf in Afrikaans to be translated into English and submitted by **CMPW** at GSC 2017

2.8 GS 2012 Decision 62 Sign language. Noted

2.9 GS 2012 Decision 64 Ministerial formation manual

2.10 GS 2012 Decision 65: Admission of students from other regions to non-residential NTS programme

2.11 GS 2012 Decision 66 Discipline of part-time NTS students in other regions

2.12 GS 2012 Decision 67 New licensing Oath

GS 2016 Decision 96

2.12.1 It wasn't possible to hold a fully-fledged theological conference on this, but a workshop of the GS **MFTT** with stakeholders was held during 26-27 May 2016 at Mamelodi. The new Ministry Covenant/Pledge is attached as **Addendum 2. Noted**

2.12.2 The workshop also reviewed the formulary used at the installation of a minister of the Word and proposes a new wording **Addendum 3. Noted**

2.12.3 GS approves that the Ministry Covenant/Pledge **Addendum 2** replaces the Licensing Oath. **Approved**

2.12.4 GS chooses between the name Covenant and Pledge; (**Refer back to CMPW for report at GSC 2017**)



2.12.4 GS approves the new wording of the formulary for the installation of a minister of the Word **Addendum 3** and refers it to the GS Liturgy and Worship Task Team for inclusion in the URCSA Worship Book. **Approved**

GS 2016 Decision 97

GS decide to add the following phrases to the licensing oath

1. Do you promise to live a life of holiness and justice and if you should stumble ethically to submit to the authority and discipline of the church.
2. This is to be inserted after the words: “in a way worthy of calling “
3. As ministers we have to be accounted in the ethical /moral side of our calling. We have a responsibility to lead the congregation ethically and morally.

2.13 GS 2012 Decision 71: Age limit for ministerial students:

GS 2016 Decision 98

Synod notes:

2.13.1 The complexity of this issue, since the regional **MFTTs** have different views on this **Noted**

2.13.2 Full-time and part-time programmes do not take the same amount of time, so no definite age limit for commencing ministerial studies can be laid down. **Noted**

Synod approves:

2.13.3 That MFTTs should not allow applicants into the ministerial formation programme unless there is a distinct possibility that they can be licensed before reaching the age of 60. **Approved**

2.13.4 That no ministry student will be licensed if s/he is older than 61. **Approved**

2.13.5 That this policy will commence with new applicants who start their ministry studies in 2017, and does not apply retrospectively. **Approved**

2.13.6 That this rule will be included in the Ministerial Formation Manual. **Approved**



2.14 Recommendation on GS 2012 mandates

GS 2016 Decision 99

Recommendation: Approved

GS approves the successful execution of the resolutions of GS 2012 by the GS MFTT and expresses her appreciation for their dedication and efforts.

3. GSC MEETING IN DURBAN 21-24 NOVEMBER 2013

- 3.1 GSC2013 Interim Scrutinizing Committee. **Noted**
- 3.2 GSC 2013 Ministerial Formation Manual. **Noted**
- 3.3 GSC 2013: CMD Courses. **Noted**
- 3.4 GSC2013 Sign Language and African Languages. **Noted**
- 3.5 GSC 2013 Age limit for Amended Curriculum Students. **Noted**

Synod approves: **Not approved**

- 3.5.1 No special considerations apply to the age limit of amended curriculum students;
- 3.5.2 The age limit policy as approved in 2.13 above also applies to amended curriculum students.

GS 2016 Decision 100

GS decide to refer the issue of age limit (GSC 2013 Decision 41) back to GSMFTT for report at GSC 2017

Amendment: Approved

Moratorium on extended/extended programme

Proposed: by Rev. G Swarts



4. GSC MEETING IN MAMELODI 22-25 OCTOBER 2014

The following decisions on ministerial formation were passed at the GSC 2014 in Mamelodi:

4.1 GSC 2014: Decision 63: Annual GS Theological Student Conference

GS 2016 Decision 101

Synod notes:

4.1.1 That the student conference did not materialize in 2015 or 2016;

4.1.2 That it is of crucial importance to bring students of the different regions together and foster greater union and communion within URCSA. Such annual contact can create the opportunity for students to become friends, worship together, engage ideas with one another, and be exposed to each other's communities.

4.1.3 That the funding of such an event remains one of the biggest challenges;

Synod approves

4.1.4 That the possibility of a week-long summer school (instead of a student conference) for ministry students of all the formation centres should be explored;

4.1.2 That a committee consisting of Rev PJ Grove, Prof. J N J Kritzinger and Rev. B B Senokoane be mandated to raise funds and to organise such a summer school.

4.1.3 That they consider January 2017 as the date for the first Summer School and Modderfontein, near Bloemfontein a possible venue.

4.2 GSC 2014 Decision 64: Conference on licensing oath. Noted

4.3 GSC 2014 Decision 66: Translation of MF manual. Noted

4.4 GSC 2014 Decision 65: Licensing ceremonies. Noted

5. GSC MEETING IN BLOEMFONTEIN 18-21 NOVEMBER 2015

The following decisions on ministerial formation were passed at GSC 2015 in Bloemfontein:

GSC 2015 Decision 70: CMPW MFTT Amended Curriculum - Noted



GS 2016 Decision 102

Synod approves

That GS **MFTT** decided

- 5.1.1 To appoint Dr. D A Kuyler and Rev. A Taljaard to do thorough research on the amended curriculum and write a report with recommendations before the end of August 2016;
- 5.1.2 That the report should include interviews with past and current students on how they experienced the amended curriculum at **NTS**;
- 5.1.3 That a GS **MFTT** telephone conference will be conducted to discuss their report, which will then be submitted as a second (late) report to GS 2016.

5.2 GSC 2015 Decision 71: Composition of a regional MFTT

GS 2016 Decision 103

Synod notes:

5.2.1 That there is a discrepancy between Article 8.2 of the GS Rule for Ministerial Formation (which leaves the composition of a regional **MFTT** up to the Regional Synod) and Stipulation 59.2.2.7 of the Common Set of Stipulations (which requires the Moderamen to serve on the **MFTT**);

5.2.2 That the MF Rule and the Common Set of Stipulations do not envisage a situation where two Regional Synods have a joint **MFTT**, as is the case with the Free State & Lesotho Synod (sharing with the Synod of Phororo) and the Southern Synod (sharing with the Northern Synod);

5.2.3 That a joint **MFTT** consisting of 8 Moderamen members from two Synods (often needing to travel long distances) in addition to 8 or more synodical delegates is too cumbersome and costly;

Synod approves:

5.2.4 That in the case of a joint **MFTT** the Moderamen of each Regional Synod is represented on the **MFTT** by two members, one of whom will be the Actuariarius;

5.2.5 That Article 8.2 of the MF Rule be amended to read:



8.2 The composition of a Regional MF Task Team is determined by each Regional Synod, with consideration for Common Stipulation 59.2.2.7. When two synods have a joint MFTT, they draft a joint Rule for its functioning, and each Moderamen is represented on the joint MFTT by its Actuarius and one other member. The administrator and a representative(s) of the Board of lecturers (see Article 10) attend in advisory capacity.

5.2.6 That the following footnote be added to Stipulation 59.2.2.7 of the Common Set of Stipulations:

When two Synods have a joint MFTT, each moderamen is represented on the joint MFTT by its actuarius and another member

5.3 GSC 2015 Decision 72 Amended curriculum, Br M Nxumalo

GS 2016 Decision 104

Synod notes

5.3.1 That Br M Nxumalo was admitted to the amended curriculum by the NSMFTT at the insistence of the KZN MFTT, since he was over the age limit that was observed by the NS MFTT at the time. Due to the large number of vacant congregations in KZN, the KZN MFTT argued that his age should not be made an obstacle;

5.3.2 That he is presently 66 years of age and the outstanding aspects that he needs to do before being licensed are: a) One module of the BTh Hons at Unisa; b) MTh at UP; c) Greek and Hebrew in-house courses at NTS.

Synod approves

5.3.3 That Br. M Nxumalo may be licensed after reaching the age of 65, as an exceptional case;

5.3.4 That after licensing he may work as an assistant minister (hulp-prediker) in a congregation on a contract basis.

5.4 GSC 2015 Decision 74: Noted

5.5 GSC 2015 Decision 75. Noted

5.6 GSC 2015 Decision 76: MFTT: CAPE SYNOD



GS 2016 Decision 105

Synod approves:

5.6.1 A Regional **MFTT** carries the full responsibility for all the ministry students from its Synodical Region, even when they study in the formation centre of another **MFTT**;

5.6.2 When a student moves physically from one formation centre to another, the “sending” **MFTT** must transfer the responsibility for her/his formation to the “receiving” **MFTT**;

5.6.3 The sending **MFTT** effects such a transfer by sending a letter of recommendation to the receiving **MFTT**, along with copies of the student’s whole file, including the application form, testimonials from the Congregation and Presbytery, and previous academic records.

5.7 GSC 2015 Decision 78: Mr Fred Frolicks Noted

6. REPORT ON LATEST GS MFTT MEETING, 26-27 MAY 2016

6.1 Board of lecturers Noted

GS 2016 Decision 106

Synod approves:

6.1.2 That each Regional **MFTT** should submit the name of one representative of its Board of Lecturers to the GS **MFTT** as a liaison person to facilitate interaction and contact among URCSA lecturers.

6.2 Synchronisation of curricula: Mr George Kleinhans

6.2.1 – 6.2.3 Noted

GS 2016 Decision 107

6.2.4 Synod approves

That the GS **MFTT** requested the Cape **MFTT** by letter to consider licensing Mr. George Kleinhans (like Rev. Randall Wessels and Rev. Dawid Eyssen before him) on the basis of



the MA (Theol) at UP, since he was not aware of the new policy before starting the programme at UP.

6.3 Colloquium doctum

6.3.1 - 6.3.2 Noted

GS 2016 Decision 108

Synod approves

6.3.3 That GS **MFTT** develops a common approach to conducting a colloquium doctum for regional **MFTTs**;

6.3.4 That Rev. Dr. D Kuyler is requested to circulate the colloquium doctum template used by the **MFTT** of Free State, Lesotho and Phororo to the other **MFTTs**.

6.4 Broad training process of church members

6.4.1 -6.4.3 Noted

GS 2016 Decision 109

Synod approves

6.4.4 The request of GS **MFTT** to Rev BB Senokoane to circulate the available material of the Southern Synod's "elders' committee" to the other **MFTTs**.

6.4.5 That Regional **MFTTs** should to champion the implementation of training programmes for church members in their respective regions.

6.5 Financial support for ministerial formation programmes

6.5.1- 6.5.3 Noted

GS 2016 Decision 110

Synod approves:

6.5.4 The principle that each Regional Synod must take financial responsibility for the Ministerial formation programme in its region;

6.5.5 The following amendments to Article 9 and Article 12 of the General Synod's Rule for Ministerial Formation:

NOTE: Proposed additions are underlined; words in ~~strike through font~~ are proposed deletions.



9. Article 9 MINISTERIAL FORMATION CENTRES

When a Regional Ministerial Formation Task Team wishes to establish a centre for Ministerial Formation or to make significant changes to an existing centre, it submits an application to the Ministerial Formation Task Team of General Synod.

9.1 Application

The application shall contain details on the following:

9.1.1 The functioning of the Seminary or Theological School in which theological students will worship, serve and learn together under the guidance of appointed URCSA Ministers and under the supervision of the church councils of Local URCSA Congregations; the details of the teaching staff and management team of the seminary.

9.1.2 The details of the teaching staff and management team of the seminary;

9.1.3 The agreement entered into with one or more institutions of Higher Education to ensure that URCSA students receive quality academic formation in theology. The agreement(s) shall:

9.1.3.1 Stipulate the specific curriculum to be followed by URCSA students, the lecturers who will teach them, and the significance of the URCSA's four Confessions,

9.1.3.2 Take into consideration the historical educational disadvantages of many URCSA students;

9.1.4 The network of URCSA Congregations and Ministers who will act as mentors for theological students during their years of study, and the process for preparing these mentors and Congregations;

9.1.5 A formal resolution passed by the Regional Synod that:

it takes full financial responsibility for the formation centre;

it mandates its **SMFA** to collaborate with its **MFTT** to budget and fund-raise for the full cost of the formation centre, in order to ensure its financial viability (see Article

12) ~~The financial viability of the formation centre~~

Article 12 FINANCE

~~A Regional MF Task Team has the following responsibilities in relation to the finances of its formation centre:~~

~~12.1 Fund raising~~

~~12.2 Budgeting and strategic financial planning~~



12.3 Management of funds

A regional synod takes full financial responsibility for its formation centre. The regional SMFA, in collaboration with the regional MFTT, manages the finances and ensures the financial viability of a formation centre by:

12.1 Budgeting for it from levies received from congregations and ministries

12.2 Doing strategic planning to organise additional fund-raising programmes*

12.3 Monitoring income and expenses

12.4 Reporting on the finances of the formation centre, by submitting an independently audited set of books to the Regional Synod/Synodical Commission each year

12.5 Allocation of scholarships/loans, in consultation with the academic sub-commission of the General Synod Ministerial Formation Task Team (see 7.2.4).

*A Regional Synod may grant a seminary, operating under the supervision and control of its MFTT, the permission to adopt a constitution and register as an NPO in order to raise funds for ministerial formation on behalf of the synod.

~~A Regional MF Task Team controls the funds it raises or receives for ministerial formation. It reports annually to its Synod (or Synodical Commission), submitting an audited set of books and a budget as part of its report. It also submits that report to the GS MFTT annually.~~

6.6 Financial support for students' tuition and subsistence

6.6.1 – 6.6.2 Noted

GS 2016 Decision 111

Synod approves:

6.6.3 That all students are encouraged to apply for NSFAS loans;

6.6.4 That a church council is encouraged to give a ministry student a honorarium for the 100 hours of practical ministry that s/he renders each year in their congregation;

6.6.5 That MFTTs and SMFAs of Regional Synods MFTTs are encouraged to fund-raise for bursaries for their ministry students.



6.7 Annual reporting template on activities of MFTTs

6.7.1 Noted

GS 2016 Decision 112

Synod approves

6.7.2 The acceptance of the following framework as the template to be used in all **RMFTT** and **GS MFTT** reports. The 18 headings are:

1. Composition of **GS MFTT** and **Regional MFTTs**;
2. Board of lecturers;
3. Annual student list;
4. Bursaries/loans for students;
5. Amended curriculum students;
6. In-house or seminary courses;
7. Mentorship of students;
8. Synchronisation of curricula;
9. General Synod student conference;
10. Students in other regions;
11. Student recruitment;
12. Student assessment procedures;
13. Colloquium Doctum;
14. Licensing;
15. Financial report;
16. **CMD** matters;
17. Broad training process of church members
18. Other

6.7 Report on activities of regional MFTT's

6.8.1 Noted

7. CONCLUSION – Noted



GS 2016 Decision 113

1. The GS **CMPW (MFTT)** presents an updated report on the decision of GSC Decision 65 regarding point 2 of the **GSC** decision regarding brother Pieterse
2. In the light of the GS is challenge to address issues of Justice delayed is justice failed to be seen to be done

Proposed: Rev. Z Mokgoboe and Seconded: I F Leputle

GS 2016 Decision 114

Due to our prophetic calling we should respond to the demands of the Gospel.

The Belhar Confession inspires us to act in accordance to the Word of God and adhere to the Biblical imperative to stand where God stand and to walk with God.

Therefore GS Decides:

To issue a public statement to support our call to adhere to the Biblical imperative of solidarity. In the statement we declare that we:

- Believe Tertiary Education is not a privilege, but a right enshrined in the Constitution of South Africa;
- Condemn all forms of violence;
- Also condemn the violence of poverty towards the poor students of South Africa;
- Continue to fundraise for students as funds are available;
- Affirm the issue of equity when addressing the struggle of students pertaining to student fees;
- Support that parents who are in the position to contribute proportionally to the paying of fees, do so;
- Support fully that free education be made available to all financially needy students as well as the lost-middle

Immediate action proposed:

- The Executive of URCSA meet the student leadership of #feesmustfall before the end of 2016;
- To act on our Confession that calls us to physically stand with the oppressed and the marginalized



Decision:

- To call on congregations close to campuses to specifically institute pastoral and support structures to student communities and lectures to talk through the matters of students protests.
- The GS to arrange a meeting with the minister of Higher Education and University principals to discuss the spaces that can be created for honest debate and dialogue and to explore this in collaboration with all ecumenical structures.
- The GS and all Regional Synod condemn in a strongest possible terms the violent character of the police conduct and call on SAPC as well as the University Management to restrain the security personnel in the handling of the student protest.
- That a call be made to students to engage all agencies who have the interest of their protest and struggles at heart and to also act with restraint when it comes to the issue of respecting properly at institutions of higher learning.

Proposed: Rev. Brian Handel and Seconded: Rev. Xolani Mhobo

GREETINGS FROM UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA – REVEREND REV LUNGILE MPETSHENI (ADDENDUM)

SACC General Secretary Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana (**addendum**)

Prof L Modise accepted the greeting on behalf of General Synod.

TEA

Presentation by Prof Landman regarding Gender Justice (**addendum**)

Rev Feli Mokoena from Bible Society

Hand over books and pens for Moderamen

Take note of Bible Society on page 184 in Addenda



REPORT OF SMJM Page Recommendation on page 112 Report of the Executive and 399 Agenda and 456

Rev. D P Carelse presents the report.

GS 2016 Decision 115

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 21: Relationship with DRC

14. 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
15. 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.
16. The GS affirms that we will still avail ourselves to accompany the DRC regarding the acceptance of the Belhar Confession.
17. 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.
18. 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
19. The GS recognizes the laudable way in which Church and Society 1990 rejects racism as a grievous sin which no person or church may defend or practice.
- 20. The GS approves the Provisional Church Order as a way forward.**
21. 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.
22. The GS assures the Ministries, Congregations, Presbyteries and Regional Synods of the **DRC** who on basis of the Provincial Church Order who want to unify with URCSA that the URCSA will embrace them with compassion and accompanying them in their journey



23. The GS 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.
24. 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.
25. 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
26. The GS approves that the **MOA** is still the basis for our relationship with the DRC
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.

7.2 DEVELOPMENTS ON INTERIM CHURCH ORDER OR PROVISIONAL CHURCH ORDER

GS 2016 Decision 116

SMJM Recommendation 22:

1. GS expresses itself on the Provisional Church Order. **Noted**
2. GS approves that regulation 12 remains the key regulation for unification process in URCSA (See Regulation 12 as Addendum F). **Approved**
3. 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. **Approved**
4. 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. **Approved**
5. 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). **Approved**
 6. 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. **Approved**

The Moderator prays

SUPPER

REPORT OF THE SUPPORT MINISTRY OF FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION TO THE GENERAL SYNOD MEETING

1. MEETINGS Noted

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

GS 2016 Decision 117

SMFA 2016: Recommendation 1: Certified Master Auditors. Approved

The General Synod expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Certified Master Auditors for their service to the church and requests the scribe to write a letter to this effect. **Approved**

General Synod reappoints Certified Master Auditors as auditors of General Synod for the next recess. **Approved**

Current Financial Summary 31 July 2016. Noted

3. ISSUES REFERRED TO THE SMFA

3.1 Expenditure Budget of General Secretary position.

3.2 INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SCRIBE AND THE FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR



GSC 2014 Decision 52-2.6.4

In the interim the GS Scribe will be requested to avail more time to cover the needed portion of the GS responsibilities and a remuneration package in this regard is to be arranged for him.

3.2.1 Background

3.2.1.1 Position of the Scribe:

3.2.1.2 Position of the Financial Administrator:

3.2.2 Implications

SMFA 2016: Recommendation 2. Remuneration of Scribe and Administrator

Approved

The General Synod notes the process and approves the action of the SMFA.

3.3 CHURCHES ADDRESSING RACISM

SMFA 2016 Recommendation 3: Churches addressing Racism. Approved

The General Synod decides to make a contribution of R 20 000 towards the Churches Addressing Racism Project, to be paid over annually after the project officially launched.

4. FUNDRAISING

GS 2016 Decision 118

SMFA 2016: Recommendation 4: Love Offering. Approved

The General Synod decides that in addition to the 10% levy from Regional Synods on their income, an annual love offering of at least R 1000 per congregation is requested for the General Synod work. The payment of the love offering will be monitored by the Presbyteries. When a congregation has paid, a certificate will be issued. Regular reports will be furnished to all stakeholders by the office.

b) LEVIES. Noted

INDIVIDUAL GIVING FUNDRAISING



GS 2016 Decision 119

SMFA 2016: Recommendation 5: Individual giving Fundraising. Approved

The GS mandates the SMFA to continue investigating the setting up of an individual giving platform for URCSA and furnish the GSC with a report.

4. COMPLIANCE

5.1 COMPLIANCE TO AGREED DECISIONS

GS 2016 Decision 120

SMFA 2016: Recommendation 6: Compliance to agreed decisions. Noted

General Synod attends to the report of the SMJM regarding compliance to agreed decisions in URCSA.

5.2 COMPLIANCE TO CHURCH ORDERLY AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

GS 2016 Decision 121

SMFA 2016: Recommendation 7: Compliance to church orderly and regulatory requirements

The GS request the SMFA to appoint a task team to advise and strengthen Regional Synods, presbyteries and congregations to comply with legal and church order requirements.

6. PENSION FUNDS

6.1 URCSA/DRCA PENSION FUND

6.1.1 Trustee Report: Please see the late report as received from the Principal Officer of the Fund.



SECOND REPORT OF THE SUPPORT MINISTRY Noted

6.1.2 Letter from URCSA/DRCA Pension Fund. Noted

6.2 BELHAR PENSION FUND

6.2.1 Employer representatives on the Board of Trustees of the Belhar Pension Fund

RECOMMENDATION: **Noted**

6.2.2 Trustee Report Belhar Pension Fund. Noted

7. EMOLUMENTS AND ALLOWANCES

7.1 General Synod Emolument scales. Noted

EMOLUMENTS FOR MINISTERS 2016/17 Noted

Come back in SECOND REPORT OF THE SUPPORT MINISTRY

GS 2016 Decision 122

7.2 SMFA 2016: Recommendation 8: General Synod Emolument scales

The GS refers the matter to the Support Ministry for Judicial Matters for its advice.

Approved

6.3 Travelling Allowances. Noted

6.3.1 Travelling for Synod work. Noted

6.3.2 Travel Allowance for work in Congregations. Noted

8. PROJECT TO INTEGRATE THE FINANCES OF THE SPECIAL MINISTRIES WITH THE GENERAL SYNOD. Noted

9. INCORPORATION OF THE ACCOUNT AND FUNCTIONS OF SERVICE AND WITNESS Noted

10. RETRENCHMENT MRS C NOORMAN (URCSA NEWS) Noted

SECOND REPORT OF SMFA

1. Late report of the VGKSA/ NG Kerk in Afrika Pension Fund. Noted

2. Salary Scales



GS 2016 Decision 123

Recommendation: Approved

General Synod mandates the **SMFA** to implement a scale with increase over 3 years in order to reach parity with the scale of the Cape Synod. The Cape Synod is requested to increase the emoluments of ministers with only 5% over the three years period.

3. Levies. **Noted**

4. URCSA News Financial Report. **Noted**

5. Cap Camp. **Noted**

6. CYM Financial report. **Noted**

7. Protection of Logos. **Noted**

The following financial reports and budgets will still be presented: Temporary Commission of Finance

GS 2016 Decision 124

1. To consider cooperation with the financial Services Board in relation to enquiries relating to for example surpluses to investment, pensions, bonds and estates etc.

2. Embark on investigating and exploring how this service of Masahlane Financial Services could be made available to congregations, members who may help in these situations.

3. This proposal be referred to new **GSSMFA** for implementation

Proposed: Rev. Z E Mokgoebo and Seconded by Br. T Lephakga

GS 2016 Decision 125

To approve with gratitude the whole report of the Support Ministry of Financial Administration (**SMFA**) presented in its sitting from third to the ninth October 2016

Proposed: Rev. Xaba and Seconded: Rev. L Fokase

Closing

Regional Synod of Phororo close Synod with devotions at 9:30



UNITING REFORMED CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD 2016

BENONI

3-9 October 2016

5. MINUTES DAY FIVE

7 OCTOBER 2016

OPENING

Southern Synod leads the devotion according to the Liturgical booklet.

SECOND REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE (CONTINUE)

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

Rev MG Betha attended a meeting of the General Secretaries of churches that have their origin in the DRC. (Addendum 3)

GS 2016 Decision 126

Executive 2nd Report 2016 Recommendation 4: Relationships with African Reformed Churches

1. The Executive / GS appreciate and approve participation of GS Scribe in the Reformed Family Forum. **Approved**
2. The Scribe is mandated to communicate the URCSA strategic plan focus areas. **Approved**
3. The Scribe, with support of the Executive, to continue engaging other Reformed African denominations on the consideration of Belhar Confession. **Approved**

