

**UNITING REFORMED CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA STATEMENT ON THE FLOODS
DISASTER IN KWAZULU-NATAL, NORTH-WEST AND EASTERN CAPE.**

The Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa is a member of the ecumenical movement internationally, in terms of its church order article one, which states that with the other denominations that confess Jesus as the Lord, we are set aside as a nation as the people of God who belong to God who must proclaim the saving deeds of God. We are further ordered by article five (Article 4.3; 5.3 & 5.5) of our Church Order: "The believers accept mutual responsibility for one another in their spiritual and physical needs. The congregation lives as a family of God where they mutually share joy and sorrow. There shall be mutual and communal caring for one another, both spiritually and physically. The congregation shall serve all the suffering and needy with whom its members come into contact." As a reformed Church, we are obliged by the words of Apostle Paul in Corinthians 12:26-27 that we are one body; once one part suffers, we all suffer from that part. It is on that note that we, as URCSA, commit ourselves in this statement to journey with our brothers and sisters spiritually and physically in Kwazulu-Natal (KZN), North-West and Eastern Cape Provinces, where the recent floods have left people homeless.

On behalf of URCSA, we would like to convey our sincere condolences to the families of more than 400 people who have lost their lives following the disastrous floods that saw the destruction of infrastructure that so many people displaced and negatively affected in KZN, North-West and Eastern Cape.

We, therefore, call upon our members to actively confess our Confession of Belhar by standing where God stands through words and deeds by:

- Prayer for the families affected by the floods in KZN, North-West and Eastern Cape Provinces that God of the poor, the father of Jesus of Nazareth, intervenes.
- Prayer for Disaster Management and Rescue Teams to search and recover those still missing.
- Congregations through their respective Regional Synod dedicate Sundays to praying for God's intervention.
- Regional Synods coordinate the contributions from individuals, ministries, congregations and presbyteries through regular consultation with the General Synod office and KZN Regional synod office. Therefore, all financial contributions will be directed to the KZN URCSA Regional Synod office.
- Donate food and clothes (particularly blankets) and bring all the necessary support.

The General Synod commit itself to contribute financially to assist the people of God in KZN, North- West and Eastern Cape Provinces as the way of evangelism through action that Jesus is the Lord and God, in a special way, stands on the side of the people in KZN, North-West and Eastern Cape Provinces.

On the prophetic note, we call upon the government to address the redress of the past in terms of the land redistribution to allow affected people to be allocated sites in more habitable spaces. We believe that this disaster is the result of injustices done in the past; therefore, we call for a permanent solution for these affected people who were thrown to stay in the waterlog space because of the ratio of 13 per cent allocation of land to black people of South Africa.

We call upon our members who are sitting in the positions of influence to confess that justice should roll like the streams of water in addressing the land and climate change issues by the government of South Africa to avoid such disasters in the future.

We also commit ourselves as URCSA to support the call of SACC on Collective ministry on this disaster in the country. We made this call in obedience to Jesus, the head of the Church. Jesus is Lord!!!

This statement is from URCSA General Synod Executive members on behalf of URCSA General Synod.

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