



THE UNITING  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
IN SOUTHERN  
AFRICA

## Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

Secretary: Mrs Sheila Hunt  
PO Box 70201  
Bryanston 2021  
South Africa  
Telephone: (011) 706 5521  
Fax: (011) 463 2984  
E-mail: [sheilahunt@tiscali.co.za](mailto:sheilahunt@tiscali.co.za)

## LETTER TO ALL MINISTERS

8 October 2012

Dear Friends

### INTRODUCING THE MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE

Greetings to you in Jesus' name.

At the General Assembly in 2010, a brand new Committee structure was adopted for the UPCSА. This new structure, which saw the number of standing committees reduce from 60 to 15, was implemented at the 2012 Assembly – in July.

A new "Mission and Discipleship" Committee was formed and the brief of this committee includes the work of the former Church Development Planning, Mission and Evangelism, Maintenance of the Ministry and Congregational Integration Committees. In addition, the committee is charged with generating resources for Youth and Children's Ministry in the area of Mission and Evangelism.

### PLAN OF ACTION

At the Committee's first meeting on 12 and 13 September, the Committee set the following objectives:

- to **Inspire** the UPCSА to think in terms of growth and mission.
- to **Mobilise** members of the UPCSА for mission - lay people and clergy.
- to **Resource** endeavours aimed at Mission & Evangelism.
- to **Invest** Assessment money in the growth of the UPCSА.
- to **Reach** unchurched communities and the 'mission field' for Christ.

### INTERFACE WITH PRESBYTERIES AND CONGREGATIONS

#### a. Mission and Discipleship Conference

The Committee, believing that INSPIRATION is an essential FIRST step to catalysing Church Growth within the UPCSА has begun planning a conference that will be open to all members of the UPCSА. The Conference will seek to INSPIRE all of us to do Church Growth and think missionally and will take place in May or June 2013.

We will send out details of this early in January 2013.

b. Our Website ([www.upcsa-cdp.org.za](http://www.upcsa-cdp.org.za))

The Committee has a website which contains most of the information required for congregations and Presbyteries to find out about the programmes of the Committee.

The website also has links to resources that can be used for Bible Studies, sermons etc. We encourage you to have a look at this.

Information regarding the various Grants offered by the Committee is also available on the website.

b. Mission Consultations

The Committee has identified two Presbyteries to visit before the Executive Commission in July 2013. We will communicate with these Presbyteries directly to set up times for these consultations to take place.

c. Grants in aid of Stipend

Due to the transition in the UPCSA's financial year end, the committee is only able to allocate Grants in aid of Stipend for a six month period (1 January – 30 June 2013). Hence, we call on all Presbyteries to consider the congregations within their bounds who require a grant to enable them to have the services of a minister. Make a list of these including the amount (monthly) applied for and send to the Committee to reach us no later than **30 November 2012.**

We are asking one additional thing. Take a step back, try to be objective and determine whether the congregation which is receiving a grant is

- (a) new – that is, recently planted;
- (b) demographically under-resourced – that is, in an area where members are unemployed, or earning small incomes; or
- (c) in the process of reconstruction – that is, the Presbytery is doing a 'make-over' on this congregation, trying to change its condition.

This will help us tremendously.

Remember, the grant we can offer is only for **6 months**. Early next year, we will be in touch with you about the year 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. And another thing, we are not able to offer more than R1000 per month per congregation.

**TERMS OF SERVICE: MINISTERS**

The General Assembly set the following scales of **minimum** stipends for South African congregations from 1 January 2013:

0 - 5 years of service	R5 774 per month
6 - 15 years of service	R6 158 per month
16 - 25 years of service	R 6 765 per month
26 - 35 years of service	R7 849 per month
over 36 years of service	R8 678 per month

It was further agreed that the **travel allowance** for 2013 should be increased to **R4 400** per month for ministers working in South African congregations and that the **pulpit fee** should be **R450** per service in 2013 (with the equivalent in US Dollars for Zimbabwe and Zambian Kwacha for Zambia).

The minimum scales for ministers working in Zambian and Zimbabwean congregations will be announced in December.

**You are requested to remind congregations within your bounds that above amounts are minima and that you as a Presbytery are encouraged to set your own minima which should be the same as, or above those of the Assembly. Congregations may not pay Stipends below these minima and are encouraged to pay more, as they are able to do so.**

**CONCLUDING WORDS**

Pretty soon, we hope to have a comprehensive pamphlet in your hands about the work of our Committee. If you would like any information about our work, don't hesitate to contact me or the Committee's administrator, Mrs Sheila Hunt, at the contact details listed above.

Yours in Christ Jesus



**Dr George Marchinkowski  
Convener**

Members of the Committee:

Mrs. Jackie Barker, the Revs. Theo Groeneveld, Chris Judelsohn, Petson Kabala, Mamolotji Magagane, John McKane and Thomson Mkandawire, Mrs. Makobo Mosotho, the Revs. Motorofa Mutonganavu, Khali Nonjojo and Mukondi Ramulondi.

-----