

**DAY ONE 01<sup>st</sup> WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2008**

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- **Official Opening** Conducted : Rev CZ Mabece
- Scripture Reading: **Xhosa:** Rev V Canga
- **English:** Rev T Mbokoto
- **Sotho:** Rev DM Thekiso
- **Devine** Opening Message: Rev. Rt. EN Matomela
- **Vote of thanks:** Rev SW Mdani
- **Welcoming:** Pres. Mod Rev J Manana
- **GA Notices:** Rev MW Faleni /Local minister

**Greetings** and Official **Declaration** of both GA's: **Benediction**  
Rev. Rt. Eric N Matomela

**CONSTITUTION OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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**Opening of the General Assembly:** Rt. Rev EN Matomela

**Distribution of the Docket:** Finance Com Convener members

- Roll Call: Elder **B Botile:** (*reading from the docket*)
- Apologies: (*only written apologies with tangible reasons will be considered*)  
Welcoming of all delegates: Rt. Rev EN Matomela

Reading and adoption of the **Docket/Agenda:** Rev CZ Mabece.

- **Corrections and matters arising from the minutes of the G.A September 2007.** (Minutes were distributed to Presbytery Clerks)  
Read and explained: Rev M Faleni
  - **Reading and distribution of correspondence and overtures:** Elder B Botile
    - The **legal** status of **PCA:** Rev MW Faleni

**Lunch / Tea**

**GA Committees announced** by Rt. Rev EN Matomela  
Nomination of **PCA** Moderator-elect

**Presbyteries** to meet for the **Budget and hospitality fee:**  
**Tea**

**Brief Report** by **Finance** committee and **Bills and overtures**

**Welcoming of New members**

**Voting:** Moderator-elect  
Hymn 178 Benediction

Evening Devotion: **Rev AM Mangcingwana** and **Rev NJ Mbatha**

## DAY TWO 2<sup>nd</sup> THURSDAY OCTOBER 2008

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- Devotion Conducted By: Rev M Lugogo
- English: Rev S K Sihlahla
- Zulu: Rev P. JS Mchunu
- Sotho: Rev T Khani
- Divine Message: Rev P Mngcoyi
- Vote of thanks: Rev OM Mgujulwa

Notices by: Stated Clerk: Rev MW Faleni.

110 celebrations - shortened report by the Clerk: Rev MC Vakala

Benediction: Rev GM Matinise

Constitution of the PCA General Assembly by the Moderator.

Rt. Rev EN Matomela

### **Reports by the following committees continues:**

Finance Com: condolence Com. Education Com: Constitution Com: Project Com: Bills and overtures com: Scholarship Fund: Seminars Com: Dikeni Site: Board of Examiners com. Hymn Book com.

- Mt. Frere Executive Report: Secretariat.  
Led By Stated Clerk. Rev MW Faleni  
**Lunch**

Nomination of all GA office Bearers/ **and voting**

Presbytery status: by all Presbytery Clerks: questions and discussions:

**INDUCTION OF THE 2008 GA OFFICE BEARERS**

**110 Committee:** *discussion questions and amendments to Clerk's Report*

Hymn 179: Benediction

**The secularization of the church: discussion paper by our  
Theology Student: Bro. K Quilie: All ministers are highly urged to attend and  
participate on this academic discussion**

**DAY FOUR 03<sup>RD</sup> FRIDAY OCTOBER 2008**

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- **Devotion** Conducted By: Rev **L L Nkabi**
- **English:** **Rev V Canga**
- **Xhosa:** Rev S Sihawu
- **Sotho:** Eld. **M Mhambi**
- **Divine Message:** Rev **PV Peter**
- **Vote of thanks** Rev AM Sithole

**Notices by: Stated Clerk: New GA Stated Clerk**

**Benediction: Rev CV Zonke**

**Constitution of the GA by the PCA Moderator: Rt. Rev EN Matomela**

- **Reports continues**
- **The visit to Malawi/ Zimbabwe:**
- Rev **Kumwenda** status of the church in Malawi, Zambia other countries
- **The 110 budget from GA Associations and Presbyteries**
- **The contribution of GA associations to the 110 committee.**

***LUNCH***

***Both GA's to meet***

***Address by the Moderator Rt. Rev EN Matomela***  
***Response by the WCA President: Mrs. N. Mabandla.***  
***Cutting of 110 CAKE Rt. Rev EN Matomela***

**Words of Wisdom: Rev HT Njikelana or Rev CV Zonke**

***Evening Devotion***

**Rev N Matshotyana and Rev Z Siwisa**

**All members are highly urged to attend:**  
*Invitation to a motivational talk by WCA*

**DAY FIVE 04 SARTUDAY OCTOBER 2008**

**6:H00: Vacancy and Supply** Committee to meet:

**Only Presbytery Moderators Must attend this meeting; the outcomes of the committee are highly confidential.**

- **Devotion** Conducted: Rev CV Mabece
- Isidumiso: **Te deum laudamus**. also known as Abrosian Hymn: Accredited to Augustine and Hillary:
- Hymn **205**:
- Sermon: by **Rt. Rev Matomela**
- Vote of **thanks** by: Rev Dr. HM Cengimbo
  - Notices and **Resolutions** of the 2008 **GA** by the New GA stated Clerk  
*ORDINATION (if candidates are available and approved by the education committee)*  
**WCA Madam** President:
    - *Hymn 184 "Aph'iNkos'indithuma khona"*
- **Vacancy and Supply** Committee: Rev New GA stated Clerk.
- Vote of thanks: elder **MK** Jack.
- **Benediction** and Closing declaration: Rev Matomela, EN

**Till We Meet Again:**

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**WAS ABRAHAM ABUSIVE?**

**Hagar in the light of emotional, sexual, domestic and child abuse: Genesis 16.**

As the above topic shows, there are clear similarities between the treatment of Hagar and today's definition of abuse. The story of Hagar can be aligned with the modern interpretation of the word, abuse. Citing Phyllis Trible, Fretheim (1994:490) affirms that Hagar became many things to many people; all sorts of rejected women find their stories in Hagar. She is the faithful maid, exploited, the black woman used by the male and abused by the female of the ruling class, the surrogate mother, the runaway youth, the pregnant young woman alone, and the expelled wife. She is the divorced mother with child, the homeless woman, the indigent relying upon handouts from the power structures, the welfare mother and self-effacing female, whose own identity shrinks in service to others. The narrator does not indicate how Sarai ill-treated Hagar but he does confirm that; "Sarai ill-treated her and she ran away from her mistress" (Gen. 16:6). The Hebrew word for "ill-treat" could be associated with physical abuse. According to O'Connor (1997:47), the truth of this word "ill-treat" is that the Hebraic text speaks of "oppressing", "beating", "flogging" and "whipping". Based on O'Connor's interpretation and the definition of the abuse stated above, we can presume that Hagar was physically abused. Since Hagar's abuse happened within the family bounds, it could also constitute domestic abuse. Sarai gave permission to her husband Abram to engage in sexual intercourse with her maid, Hagar. Presumably, this was done without the consent of Hagar, who had a low status in the society. Hagar had no say in the matter. Peggy Day (1989:12) also stresses that Hagar was given to Abram without anyone paying attention to her opinion on the matter. Others made the decision to use her body and carried it out. Her body belonged to Abram and Sarai and they could do anything they wanted with it. According to Trible (1984:24), in despair in the wilderness, Hagar contemplated the imminent death of the child; it was more than she could manage. It was the only time in the entire scene she spoke, "let me not see the death of the child." These words suggest the suffering. *Mzukisi Faleni.*

# **Presbyterian Church of Africa**

## *General Assembly*

**Minutes of the 109<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting held at Qwa-qwa Circuit in the Orangia Presbytery from 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007.**

### *Abbreviated:*

*GA: General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Africa.*

*PCA: Presbyterian Church of Africa.*

*KZN: Kwazulu Natal Presbytery*

*Moderator (GA or Presbytery)Mod*

*DRC: Dutch Reformed Church*

In line with the church procedures and tradition Rev. C Z Mabece conducted the order of service. After singing the opening hymn 88, Rev. G.J. Manana of K.Z.N Presbytery offered an opening prayer. The scripture reading was an abstract from the book of Acts, 1, 21-26. The reading was done by the following brethren: Sotho Rev BJ Dlamini, Isixhosa Rev MC Vakala: English Rev K Nyamezela.

Rev. M.W. Faleni conducted the sermon of the day. His text was an abstract from verse 24, “*Wena Nkosi, mazi wentliziyo zabo bonke, yalatha kwaba babini oyena umnyulileyo.*” ( *It should be noted that Rt. Rev BN Mgujulwa who was the Moderator of PCA Deceased before this 2007 ordinary meeting of the GA*)

The emphasis of the message centered on inviting the Holy power in choosing the right and credible man to be elected to lead God’s flock after the death of Judas Iscariot. The man who is known by the people, who has been with Christ, and is well experienced about the mission of the disciples of Jesus, who satisfy the hearts and minds of the people and above all, the man who is God fearing and has faith in God. After a well-analyzed and captured sermon, Mrs. N Mabandla who was the WCA president prayed, she also appealed to God to intervene in our situation of operating without a leader, and requested God to provide us with a new leader. Rev. B.P Maine thanked the preacher of the day for the well-presented, enlightened and narrated message.

Rev Phera from the local ministers (DRC) fraternal was introduced as a guest of honour to welcome the congregation of PCA at Qwaqwa. Firstly, he alluded to the fact that the rain that fell during the opening session was an indication of hope for better things to come out of the fruitful deliberations, as it was the feeling of the congregation. He also mentioned that God blessed this gathering. He acknowledged that the meeting was the greatest and most difficult one at difficult times in the history of the church as all churches faced difficult challenges. His words of hope that the gate to us (G.A) was an abstract from I Thessalonians 5:19, “*Umoya oyingcwele musani ukumcima, Iziprofeto musani ukuzenza into engento nivumele umoya oyingcwele usebenze.* The church was warned that we are living in times of poverty and escalating crime and incurable diseases which needed our sincere prayers. He further cautioned the members of the General

Assembly to be careful of people with hidden agendas as we were approaching the election of the Moderator.

It was announced that in the absence of the Moderator, the Stated Clerk had the powers to officially declare the General Assembly and the W.C.A meetings open to carry out their businesses.

### **Second Session.**

This session was conducted by Rev MW Faleni (stated clerk) for and on behalf of the General Assembly. He was to chair the GA until the Mod-protempore is elected. Hymn 205 was sung. Reverend Kumwenda was requested to pray for the opening session of the meeting. The scripture was taken from II Samuel 9:3, “*Akusekho namnye na umntu wendlu kaSawule ndimenzele inceba kaThixo*”. The Stated Clerk reiterated that our agenda is a continuation from where the late Rt. Rev. B N Mgujulwa had left in terms of the 110 celebrations. The roll call of the members present was registered as follows.

### **2007 General Assembly Roll call:**

<b>NO.'S</b>	<b>CIRCUITS</b>	<b>MINISTERS</b>	<b>DELEGATES</b>
<b>1.</b>	HEWU	Rev. GM Mokabo	Elder M Ntlangwini
<b>2.</b>	CD KWATSHA MEM.	Rev. PV Peter	Elder KS Sompontsha
<b>3.</b>	ST. WILLIAM MEM.	Rev. GM Mokabo	Elder L Nomnganga
<b>4.</b>	THYUME	Rev. MW Mabandla	Elder Z Gunya
<b>5.</b>	ADELFORT	Rev. TH Sibeko	Elder W Mzananda
<b>6.</b>	RV MTANA MEM.	Rev. MM Booi	Elder J Mahomana
<b>7.</b>	MOTHERWELL	Rev. CZ Mabece	Elder Dyalvani
<b>8.</b>	AM BOTTOMAN MEM.	Rev. FW Tokwe	Elder M Tutu
<b>9.</b>	DIKE	Rev. BRZ Nkumanda	Elder CBS Mlombi
<b>10.</b>	NYANGA	Rev. MW Faleni	Elder DML Dyakala
<b>11.</b>	ZWIDE VEEPLAAS	Rev. AV Yanta	Elder ZW Grootboom
<b>12.</b>	EBENEZER	Rev. EM Joka	Elder S Ngcawuzele
<b>13.</b>	LANGA	Rev. MG Dukwana	Elder RM Mngcengwa
<b>14.</b>	DZ DYAFATA MEM.	Rev. OM Mgujulwa	Elder MK Jack
<b>15.</b>	ALLIWAL NORTH	Rev. MJ Radebe	Elder BRZ Ntwanambi
<b>16.</b>	QOBOQOBO	Rev. T Mbokoto	Elder T Msizi
<b>17.</b>	ALBERT MHLONY. MEM	Rev. BM Ngcayisa	Elder N Maradi
<b>18.</b>	HS THEMBANI MEM.	Rev. Dr. GM Nqabeni	Elder DM Solucotha/Skosana

19.	PEDDIE	Rev. LR Ngxal;eka	Elder MM Matshobongwana
20.	VR KWASTHA MEM.	Rev. MJ Madikane	Elder Witbooi
21.	TBS JOKAZI MEM.	Rev. SE Mdlungu	Elder M Toni
22.	GUGULETHU	Rev. BS Mafa	Elder MD Buti
23.	ES JOBODA MEM.	Rev. SS Mtiya	Elder JT Zwana
24.	KWAZAKHELE	Rev. L Nukani	Elder R. Gwavu
25.	KWAKHANYA	Rev. NVR Ngoza	Elder M Siko
26.	JOEL NXIWENI MEM.	Rev. SW Mdani	Elder TP Swela
27.	HEWU KOMANI	Rev. AM Mangcingwana	Elder DP Ngcekeza
28.	TINARHA	Rev. BR Ntwanambi	Elder M Mgushelwa
29.	RD THOLE MEM.	Rev. MG Mokabo	Elder D Nqandu
30.	EM TOTOYI MEM.	Rev. KD Kibido	Elder Wongo / S Kayi
31.	STUTTERHEIM/MGWALI <b>Ministers without Circuits</b> HT Njikelana; M Mabula and S Skweyiya	Rev. NJ Mbata _____ <b>Students;</b> G Gijana K Quilie Mgqotso	Elder MN Matomela _____
	<b>Eastern Tembuland Presby.</b>		
32	GCUWA	Rev MW Pangumso	Elder. D Quthu
33.	TORA	Rev RM Matlana	Elder. NM Nama
34.	GATYANA	Rev M Lugogo	Elder. N Nongemane
35.	NOMZAMO	Rev SM Sihawu	Elder. M Rawuzela
	<b>TRANS/SWAZILAND</b>		
36.	MABATHO	Rev LA Mokoena	Elder J Nkomo
37.	WESRAND	Rev SK Sihlahla	Elder S Musi
38.	MOROCCO/JOHANES	Rev M Mbunjana	Elder Nxesi
39.	PRETORIA	Rev JP Lentsoe	Elder. Motipe
40.	VAAL	Rev LL Nkabi	Elder S Mtwebana

	<b>Embo Presbytery</b>		
41.	MT FRERE	Rev LS Luvalo	Elder MC Jokazi
42.	QAWUKENI	Rev GM Mainise	Elder H Nkomo
43.	HH MANTANGA	Rev VV Canga	Elder T Magosa
44.	TYENI	Rev CV Zonke	Elder EZ Majokweni
45.	QUMBU	Rev KK Ndabeni	Elder Mki
46.	CCM	Rev Dr. HM Cengimbo	Elder Mjindi
47.	GM FODO	Rev BJ Dlamini	Elder S Moni
48.	MT AYLIFF	Rev SB Ndzama	Elder SM Njonjo
49.	LIBODE P.S.J	Rev CM Vakala	Elder G K Majuso
50.	NGQELENI	Rev HM Solani	Elder G Ntengentyana
51.	MT. FLETCHER	Rev T Ntelezi	Elder MA Mabula
52.	MATATIEL	Rev T Moyikwa	Elder M Matsila
	<b>KZN Presbytery</b>		
53.	OSIZWENI	Rev GJ Manana	Elder AT Ndaweni
54.	STANFORTVILLE	Rev LS Mzotho	Elder SFR Jele
55.	NTABAMHLOMPHE	Rev NMI Mbele	Elder TA Mazibuko
56.	GREYTOWN	Rev JS Mchunu	Elder BD Madontseni
57.	HARDING	Rev XJ Mbusi	Elder A Siyanda
58.	PIETERMAROTZBURG	Rev KW Blackie	Elder BP Zondi
59.	DURBAN	Rev NE Dywili	Elder MA Mhlongo
60.	DURBAN	Rev KE Ngubane	Elder E Msomi
61.	MADADENI	Rev PL Nondzaba	Elder TPS Khumalo
62.	Dr. SA KHUMALO	Rev MA Sithole	Elder TM Majola
63.	MM MNIKATHI	Rev Manana	Elder MS Mjwara
64.			

*The meeting continues.*

### **Distribution and adoption of the Agenda.**

150 copies of the agenda were distributed to ministers and delegates present at the meeting. They were sold at R50.00 each.

#### **The distribution by Presbyteries was as follows:**

➤ Cape Presbytery	64
➤ K.Z.N.	22
➤ Orangia	10
➤ Thembuland	4
➤ Eastern Thembuland	8
➤ TVL & Swaziland	10
➤ Embo	24
➤ Others (from African states)	
And O/Bs	<u>8</u>
	<u>150</u>

Concern was raised that some of the Presbytery Clerks collected the agendas for their respective presbyteries and did not bring the total amount expected from them. Presbytery Clerks were urged to collect the agenda money and send it to the finance committee, on the same session of the meeting. Clerks who failed to do as requested, their Presbyteries will be responsible for the deficit and will have to be settled in the same session of the meeting..

### **Roll Call**

The roll call was announced by the recording clerk (elder B Botile) starting from the G.A Office Bearers down to the Presbyteries and was accepted.

Rev. C Z Mabece moved for the recognition and acceptance of our brethren from the Eastern Thembuland Presbytery. It was noted that these brethren were left out of the unification process and had come to register their presence as part of the General Assembly unit. These brethren were led by Rev RM Mantlana who was introduced as their moderator. Rev. H.T. Sibeko was requested to welcome them and gave them a hand of fellowship as a token of conformity to the request. It was further agreed that a delegation be sent to the W.C.A. notifying them of the gesture and they were requested to oblige as the G.A. had done. The Stated Clerk indicated that informal acceptance was done at Mmabatho G.A. Executive in July 2007 what was left was for the GA to formalize the process.

### **Apologies**

The following apologies were received and accepted.

- i. Rev. J N Madikane
- ii. Rev. M S Lusu
- iii. Rev. G M Koloko
- iv. Rev. L J Nukani
- v. Rev. B R Z Nkumanda
- vi. Rev. TA Kefile
- vii. Elder V.E. Mlandu and

### **Bereavements**

It was officially announced that the P.C.A has lost one of its stalwarts in Rt. Rev. B.N. Mgujulwa who was buried on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2007. A moment of silence was then observed and Rev. H.T Njikelana offered a short prayer for and on behalf of the GA. This session was closed by prayer for a short recess to allow Presbyteries to meet with the finance committee and collect the dues of the GA.

### **Third Session resumes**

Elder Matshobongwana opened the Session with a short prayer.

The G.A. Stated Clerk briefly outlined the Constitutional procedures on the current church leadership situation. The passing on of Rt. Rev. B.N Mgujulwa left a vacuum in the moderatorship of the church and it was imperative that this vacuum be filled. Membership's attention was drawn to the provisions of Chapter XVII: 6, which stipulates that "***During the absence of the Moderator of any of our higher courts, or during his inability to act, the judicatory appoints one of its members to act as Moderator pro tempore***". Members were also reminded that since the late Rt. Rev. Mgujulwa was Moderator elect, a new process had to be carried forward in electing the new Moderator in terms of chapter XVII. (4), which stipulates that, "The Moderator of the Synod, and of the General Assembly, shall be chosen at each ordinary meeting of those judicatories and the Moderator, or in case of his absence, another member appointed for that purpose, shall open the next meeting with a sermon, and shall hold the chair until a new Moderator is chosen". The GA members were permitted to question the clerk and raise concerns on the matter.

There was unanimity in electing the Moderator Pro Tempore but on the Moderator elect, more clarity was desirable. On this note, the house was drawn to the provisions of chapter IV (6 & 9) appointment and nomination of the Moderator elect. The Stated Clerk outlined the criteria to be adopted. Members were reminded by the clerk to follow and respect the PCA constitution to avoid disputes thereafter. Questions were raised and clarity was given by the Stated Clerk to the understanding of the GA members. General Assembly members present in the meeting agreed to have understood the constitutional provision on the matter, they all agreed on the interpretation and application of the clause on the issue of election of moderator-pro-tempore, and moderator-elect, who later would be inducted by the moderator-pro-tempore.

The house agreed on the nomination of the Moderator pro tempore who would preside over the election of moderator elect and the following three members were nominated:

1. Rev. H.T. Njikelana
2. Rev. F W Tokwe and
3. Rev. K W Blackie

Rev. H.T. Njikelana emerged as the popular candidate with 103 votes, Rev. F W Tokwe with 20 and Rev. K W Blackie with 29 votes. The PCA clerk ( Rev MW Faleni) handed over the chair immediately to be occupied by Rev HT Njikelana who acted as a Moderator pro tempore. Rev.

E.N Matomela in his un-official capacity as an ex-Moderator inducted Rev. H.T. Njikelana as pro tempore to facilitate the election of the Moderator- elect and induction as required by the PCA constitution. Rev HT Njikelana was elected to conduct two divine functions; that of electing the Moderator –elect and induct him/her as stipulated in the PCA constitution. No other function outside the stipulated ones was to be performed by Rev HT Njikelana.

In welcoming the position, Rev. HT Njikelana also stressed the legitimacy of voting ministers and delegates and that the will of the almighty God should take precedence over the preferences of the congregation. He also mentioned that “to love the church, is to respect her” after sharing words of wisdom with members, he allowed the house to choose the accepted method of election. The house agreed on three names to be nominated for the position and voting to be done by secret ballot process. Members who were not legitimate voters were requested to vacate the house. The capacity of the house was not big enough to accommodate all members present. Printed papers (voting cards) were already prepared for the election of secret ballot. The following names were raised from the floor and seconded. The nominees, and the votes received were as follows:

i.	Rev. E.N Matomela	66
ii.	Rev. L.S. Luvalo	42
iii.	Rev. B Ngcayisa	<u>41</u>
	Total votes counted	<u>159</u>

Rev. E.N. Matomela received overwhelming votes. The stated clerk thanked the members who showed interest in leading the PCA. The meeting agreed that the necessary constitutional procedures were followed and honoured. The meeting congratulated Rev EN Matomela; After that joyful moment; it was suggested that a delegation should be sent to the W.C.A informing them of the process, outcome and induction time. On this note Rev. G. M Matinise offered a prayer. And there was a lunch break

### **The GA meeting resumes**

Rev Peter of Cape Presbytery was requested to pray.

### **Election committee of the year 2008: 110 Celebrations Committee.**

The objectives of the 110 celebrations were outlined and it was further highlighted that Presbyteries were given a mandate to nominate suitable people to be part of the broader committee. Some of the committees that were earmarked were:

- Editorial
- Publicity
- Marketing
- Fundraising
- Entertainment
- Catering and
- Music.

It was noted that the Cape Presbytery had elected its members as was requested previously. Other Presbyteries claimed that they were not clear about the criteria and the number of people

who were to be elected. The criteria and members needed were suggested by the assistant clerk, the meeting adopted the criteria.

The Moderator raised a serious concern, which was viewed not to be inline with the church principle and policy in that during the opening session of the G.A, most ministers did not wear their gowns. He cautioned them that this action was totally unacceptable and viewed as undermining the tradition of the church which was left for us by our forefathers. Ministers apologized to the church and promised not to commit the same malpractice again. Seniors viewed this behavior as putting pressure on the tradition of the PCA.

On this note Rev. Matomela comforted the PCAGA of the loss of Rt. Rev BN Mgujulwa, The meeting was closed with the benediction. Members were dispersed.

#### **Fourth Session – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

Rev. P V Peter conducted the opening devotion. Elder T.P Siwela offered a short prayer. Rev. Z Siwisa presented the message of the day. Her text was taken from the Luke 1: 32-35. Emphasis was derived from verse 35. *“Mary trusted God no matter what the community, tradition and her-husband would view her”* The gist of the message centered on people not to turn against their oaths or covenant they made with God. **“Funga ungajiki nokuba kubi kuwe”** After this well presented and soul touching sermon, Rev. Matshotyana was asked to make a vote of thanks. The Stated clerk introduced church delegates from our neighbouring countries viz: Rev. Timothy Nkumwenda from Zambia and Rev. Reginah Nanyangwe from Mozambique.

An official announcement was also made on the outcome of the Moderator elect elections in that Rev. E.N. Matomela was the people’s choice.

It was also announced that Eastern Thembuland was accepted wholeheartedly into the church mainstream with no conditions attached.

The entire congregation was also alerted to the car accident in which Rev. B.R.Z. Nkumanda and his family were involved. By God’s grace there were no fatalities. The congregation was requested to pray for Rev. Nkumanda and his family for a speedy recovery. Members of the Y.M.C.A together with the entire congregation raised some money as a token of sympathy towards the Nkumanda family. The money raised was given to Alice Circuit delegate Elder CBS Mlumbi.

The stated clerk read a letter received from Mr. C Mbanjwa and Associates at Law. The letter was written to Rev. Mpulu and his group wherein Mr. Mbanjwa distanced himself as the legal adviser to the unconstitutional group led by unconstitutional individuals. The letter further stated that the group that was led by Rev. Nocanda cannot claim to be a legitimate church, they also owed Mr. Mbanjwa’s legal team an amount of R614 483.00 by then. It was requested that copy of the letter be circulated to all ministers as reference to the instability within the church. The stated clerk told the congregation that the truth suppressed on earth will rise again. What Mr Mbanjwa revealed, has been communicated to the PCA members for many years.

### **Final closure of the late Rt. Rev. B.N Mgujulwa's chapter of the P.C.A.**

Rev. C.Z Mabece conducted the final condolences and tributes in respect of the late Rt. Rev. B N Mgujulwa. After observing a moment of silence, Evangel M Qgwaka was asked to offer a prayer. In paying tribute, mention was made to the fact that the late Rev. Mgujulwa served the P.C.A. with diligence and total dedication from 1975 until the time of his death. This characteristic posed a challenge to other ministers to follow on his footsteps in taking forward the P.C.A to its greater heights.

### **Induction of Rev. E.N. Matomela**

The induction of Rev. Matomela as Moderator elect was conducted by Rev. Njikelana. The procedure was conducted in line with provisions of chapter IV (11) of the church's constitution. Rev. MW Faleni read the shortened details and qualifications together with the record of unblemished church service of Rev. Matomela. In his concluding remarks, Rev. Njikelana indicated that he was cheerful that it was his last gesture to carry out induction of a minister to moderatorship because of his age.

An acclaim was made that "the right man has been chosen - God has answered our prayers" The remaining greatest challenge was to bring our brothers who went astray into the church. In his concluding remarks as a word of encouragement, Rev. Njikelana told Rev. Matomela that, "okwenzayo ukwenzela uzuko lukaThixo". "All what you do, do it for the glory of God".

In accepting the challenge, Rev. Matomela undertook to serve the church with total commitment and diligence but cautioned that for him to succeed, the support of other ministers as well as elders of the church was required. "We need to work as a collective." He also urged the church to get used to elections and accepted the chosen, as Godly will.

In his word of gratitude, Rev. M W Faleni advised Rev. Matomela, "Ask God in prayer to give you more strength and power to lead this General Assembly humbly."

### **Collection of clothes from G.A. members for benevolence purposes**

As was requested previously, members of the General Assembly together with W.C.A donated a heap of clothes and church uniform to our congregation in Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique. It was agreed that the office of the G.A. would follow up the matter regarding transportation of the goods.

Since the clothes were made available, it was agreed that there must be a convincing proof that the cargo has reached its intended destination. It was resolved that the Office Bearers of the G.A. would arrange a missionary trip to the affected places and would finalize with the ministers present at the meeting. Rev. H.T. Sibeko closed the session with benediction.

### **Fifth Session resumes**

Rt. Rev. E.N. Matomela as the new Moderator presided over the session. Rev. L.L. Nkabi offered an opening prayer.

The Moderator welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for the trust bestowed upon him by electing him once more to the challenging position. He made an appeal for working together in fighting the evil spirits that sought to destroy the church and to fight the forces of darkness that ploughed the seed of division. Members were also cautioned not to bring matters

that could be resolved by sessions and presbyteries to the General Assembly. He indicated that in case of uncertainties in resolving church problems, the office bearers of the church should be consulted at all times. He stressed that it was very important to elect capable and experienced members to lead the congregations and judicatories. As a person with high regard of the church leaders, he hoped that the programmes of the church would be realized.

## **Correspondence**

The Stated Clerk noted that letters received were referred to the relevant committees or departments to deal with them. It was further noted that it is not within the prerogative of the secretariat of the Stated Clerk to reject the correspondence received, that could be regarded as limiting the GA powers. The constitutionality of each letter should be discussed and debated and decided by the General Assembly. The office of the stated clerk received quite a number of correspondence and they were listed on the programme.

## **Reports from Committees**

### **1. Education Committee first report**

The membership of this committee consisted of Revs. S W Mdani, M Okomu, Matshotyana, P Mgcoyi, B.S. Nzama and G Dukwana.

Rev. MG Dukwana reported that the committee had received correspondence that dealt with education matters and they looked at the Education policy as outlined on page 39 of the G.A programme. It was noted that some new applications were received and the committee requested more time to deliberate on them.

The G.A. recommended that, in future when reporting, the committee should read applications and their recommendations only.

The committee, for further discussion brought the following issues:

- 1) The composition and the brief of the Board of Examiners,
- 2) The question of consultation process with the Presbyteries and the debate on consultation process
- 3) The draft policy to be accepted and be refined to the needs of the church and
- 4) The prescribed syllabus for candidates wishing to take ministry.

After intense debate and discussion on this matter, the committee was given another opportunity to re-visit their recommendation. The GA accepted the policy on education as entry into the ministry of the WORD. It was further agreed that Presbyteries should familiarize themselves with the policy and also educate their Kirk sessions on this matter.

### **Candidates**

#### **Tembuland Presbytery:**

They brought Nonceba Lingani and Sylvia 46yrs old and the Presbytery licensed her; the procedure of licensing a candidate before s/he is approved by the GA was regarded as impediment. Her age fell outside the accepted principle of the GA. Mxolisi Leornod Mqobhoyi, he had no letter of recommendation from his previous church, all copies of his academic

qualification were not commissioned as true copies of the originals, he was also 53yrs. The meeting as per the recommendation of the committee declined the two applications.

The Kwazulu Natal candidates were referred to the committee of bills and overtures and the committee later, ordered the Presbytery to further scrutinize the candidate within their presbyteries. KZN candidates did not meet the required principle; Rev GJ Manana argued that the candidates were adopted by the Presbytery during the process of amalgamation.

### **EMBO Presbytery;**

They brought L Mpunyuka who was 57yrs, he had no proper recommendation from the Presbytery, he was also rejected. The Committee announced the following students as legitimately approved by the GA; TM Pakies. G Gqotso; R Quliie; R Gijana; S Tshanga who was reported to be starting at UWC in 2008.

Pakies and Gqotso were reported to be studying with UNISA and Gqotso with Dumisani; they were both willing to pay for their studies, the meeting adopted the recommendation. It was highlighted that Gqotso will register with Forthare the following year: 2008. Ntobeko Gijana owed R8660, the finance committee was instructed to pay the bill: he qualified for probation. It was reported Quilie could not attend the GA due to a family bereavement.

The meeting adopted the recommendation that the Chaipain (Rev Mdani) should look after the moral and ethical being of the students in all our institutions. The meeting agreed that no student will ever be ordained without having gone through a probation period first. The meeting agreed that Presbyteries must not promise candidates and call them students before they are approved by the GA. Students who failed and couldn't finish the syllabus within record time, will not be ordained by the church until they finish the 4 yrs BHT modules.

## **2. Constitution Committee**

A draft constitution document was tabled. The scribe of the draft document highlighted the following points that need attention and scrutiny:

- Membership of the church and the requirements/criteria;
- Gender equality that must be embedded into the constitution and to be inline with the national constitution that is inclusive of gender balance;
- Financial constraints that hindered the completion of the desired constitution – an estimated amount of R30, 000.00 was required;
- Confession of faith should take precedent;
- Recommended that the working document should go to all the presbyteries for their input. Focus should be on current church issues.

The document was then distributed to all presbytery clerks and since there was a shortage of copies, it was recommended that presbyteries reproduce extra copies for their respective circuits and provide feedback at the next meeting.

## **3. Finance Committee**

With the latest recommendations, the Finance Committee had to include all Presbytery Treasures. Elder M Mkhaza presented the report that:-

Income from 2006 G.A.	=	R354 153.00
Expenditure	=	<u>R236 551.00</u>
Balance	=	<u>R117 602.00</u>
Loan to W.C.A	=	R 7 000.00

Actual balance 2006/2007 = **R110 602.00**

Budget received in 2007 = R231 600.00

Balance carried forward = R110 602.00

Proceeds from sale of programs= R 6 600.00

**Total received in 2007 = R348 802.00**

Contingent received and handed over to hosting Presbytery: = R40 500.00

Total income including contingent = **R389 302.00**

### **Expenditure**

Moderator's allowance = R 12 000.00

Secretariat = R 10 000.00

Treasurer = R 6 000.00

Advance to catering presbytery = R 30 000.00

Loan to be repaid by Cape Presbytery = R 10 000.00

### **Budget Provisions**

Office establishment = R 50 000.00 (per annum)

Office equipment = R 30 000.00

Interim Office = R 24 000.00

Miscellaneous = R 18 000.00

Insurance = R100 000.00

Total = **R290 000.00**

### **Recommended dues per Presbytery for 2008:**

Cape = R100 000.00

Embo = R 40 000.00

KZN = R 40 000.00

Oranjia = R 40 000.00

Thembuland = R 30 000.00

Transvaal & Swaziland = R 40 000.00

Total = **R290 000.00**

### **2006/2007 Financial Report.**

#### **Expenditure:**

1. Paid- out claims at 2006 GA in PE R52 572.00

2. Cash deposit fee R2749.00

3. Rev SK Sihlahla (Fort Hare fees) 26.09.06 R15000.00

4. Rev P Mngcoyi ( Dumisani Theo Ins) 27.09.06 R1200.00

5. Bank service fee	R800.00
6. Mass funeral Cape Twn. <i>02.10.06</i>	R38000.00
7. Mass funeral programs. <i>04.10.06</i>	R3010.00
8. Bank withdrawal charges.	R1420.00
9. Lawyers in PE (Guguletu matter) <i>05.10.06</i>	R5000.00
11. Pasiwe/ Rev Lusu2 KZN/Min Book/2 GA Programs <i>16.10.06</i>	R11200.00
12. PE office meeting SABC Faleni <i>22.11.06</i>	R2000.00
13. PE office meeting SABC Mgujulwa <i>12.12.06</i>	R2360.00
14. Computer, printer service and toner <i>14.12.06</i>	R7000.00
15. Rev. Mbeki's funeral. <i>12.14.06</i>	R10 000.
16. Cash withdrawal charges <i>14.12.06</i>	R1050.00
17 Mrs. Sandla's funeral GA contribution <i>09.01.07</i>	R3050.00
18. Moderator to Sandla's funeral <i>09.01.07</i>	R2500.00
19. TEE College (T Mbekisa) <i>19.01.07</i>	R1040.00
20. TEE College (T Mbekisa) <i>15.01.07</i>	R600.00
21. 4 in 1 Printer, copy,scan, fax. <i>31.01.07</i>	R2430.00
22. Cape Presbytery loan (Lawyers) <i>06.02.07</i>	R10 000.
23. GA Executive Alice <i>21.02.07</i>	R3000.00
24. Moderator to & fro Bloemfontein. <i>23.04.07</i>	R3500.00
25. Cash withdrawal charges <i>23.04.07</i>	R640.00
26. Payment of lawyers in Aliwal North <i>15.05.07</i>	R5000.00
27. Finance committee catering & Traveling to KWT	R1720.00
28. Rev MW Faleni Stationary <i>24.05.07</i>	R800.00
29. SACC Registration fee <i>09.07.07</i>	R4960.00
30. SACC Accommodation & Transport <i>11.07.07</i>	R4000.00
31. Hymn Committee travel expensive	R2200.00
32. Moderator's funeral <i>06.08.07</i>	R29700.00
33. Funeral Umtata (Rev Rozani) <i>15.08.07</i>	R3800.00
34. Cash withdrawal charges <i>15.08.07</i>	R1200.00

**Total R236 551.86**

The committee made further recommendations that:

- i. The fiscal policy with clear guidelines should be set up
- ii. Insurance for ministers, their wives, widows and widowers must be established
- iii. The Office establishment must have its own account
- iv. A bank account must be opened as a matter of urgency.

After the report was received, the meeting was adjourned and closed with a prayer by Rev.G Matinise.

### **Sixth Session**

After an opening prayer by elder B Zondi, the Moderator allowed time for questions and discussions on the report and recommendations of the Finance Committee.

Members wanted to know if any provision has been included in the budget for the missionary work, which was viewed as one of the core function of Christianity. It was agreed that this would be included in the proposed budget.

There was a serious concern about the usage of the secret trust account into which the money was deposited. It was then resolved that the bank account would be opened immediately with three people as signatories

Further resolutions were:

- ❖ Finalization of the fiscal policy that would govern the usage of church funds;
- ❖ Treasurer must submit periodical reports for the management of funds to Executive/Office bearers.
- ❖ Financial statement must be audited by credible registered auditors;
- ❖ Applications of the provisions of the act that governs NGO's must be considered;
- ❖ Presbyteries that do not meet budget dues must be carefully scrutinized and be dealt with.
- ❖ Special attention must be considered for those circuits that do not meet budget requirements.
- ❖ Ministers should account for their failures. It was stressed that ministers should be trained on raising and administration of funds.
- ❖ In this regard, it was stressed that Presbytery Moderators and Clerks must be well capacitated and be exemplary in church administration and compliance to the needs of the church.
- ❖ Our sister churches from the neighbouring state e.g. Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique must also contribute towards the budget of the church notwithstanding the hardships they endure.
- ❖ For the time being, the G.A. agreed to subsidize them from the budget.
- ❖ Payment to the secretariat was revised to R15 000.00 and would be divided according to their functions amongst themselves.
- ❖ The Moderator's honorarium was fixed at R12 000.00.
- ❖ Provision for the interim office was set at R24 000.00

These resolutions were dully accepted and the Moderator thanked the finance committee for their hard work and Rev. H.T. Njikelana closed the session with the benediction

### **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

The G.A. received a request from the Mopeli family (Qwaqwa) to conduct the unveiling of the tombstone on their behalf. The request was accepted and all members were requested to attend. It was agreed that the morning devotion done at the unveiling, would replace our normal service.

### **Seventh Session.**

#### **Report of the Bills and Overtures.**

Elder Mcengwa was asked to offer an opening prayer after which the Moderator welcomed everybody to the meeting, which was then duly constituted. The meeting dealt with the correspondence which was deemed relevant for the open discussion. It was brought to the attention of the house that some correspondence needed the attention of the presbyteries and as such were referred back. Due attention was given to the following correspondence:

1. WCA executive meeting held at Mmabatho Circuit in July 2007 – It was approved that the meeting would continue at an Executive meeting to be held in February 2008 to be hosted by Embo Presbytery.
2. Gugulethu and V.R.Kwatsha circuits requesting financial assistance to settle litigation charges against the church – This was referred to the February Executive meeting
3. Rev. AM Mangcingwane requesting for a transfer from Hewu/Komani Circuit – In his letter he complained of shortage of stipend, no traveling allowance, long distance travels between King & Hewu and its surrounding areas. This was referred back to the Cape Presbytery for consideration.
4. Rev. M S Lusu – He was rejected by the Mmabatho Circuit (Transvaal & Swaziland Presbytery) and is now at home and his services are not being utilized and he is therefore unemployed. It was recommended that Rev. Lusu's case be referred to the Cape Presbytery.
5. Pietermaritzburg Circuit instability – The KZN Presbytery reported that it was handling the case and would bring the outcome to the G.A.
6. Westrand Circuit – Requested financial assistance for the municipality service charges – The feeling was that this issue affected most churches in the townships and as such could not be dealt with in isolation. It was recommended that this matter be brought back to the TVL & Swaziland Presbytery for consideration and further attention.
7. Church invitation to Nairobi summit from 7 to 12 December 2008 – It was recommended that Mozambique and Malawi should attend on behalf of the G.A
8. Rev. H.T. Njikelana's appeal to the G.A against the decision of the Cape Presbytery to suspend him from his circuit. Rev. Njikelana warned the church that should he not be satisfied with the resolution of his complaint, consideration of litigation against the church could not be ruled out. Much as the G.A acknowledged the validness of his case as outlined in the letter, it was felt that proper procedures of the church had to be observed in channeling the letter via the Cape Presbytery. The Presbytery had to endorse the letter even if there has been a disagreement.
9. Letter from Rev. Mtana's family forwarding a claim – This was referred to the Cape Presbytery.
10. Embo Presbytery complaining against Rev. B R Z Nkumanda's utterances at the funeral of Elder GM Fodo. It was alleged that Rev. Nkumanda ridiculed and undermined Rev. G Martinise in an inhumane manner to the detriment of the church. The second letter to this effect was received from Rev. Martinise wherein he lodged a formal complaint. After intense debate and discussion, it was resolved that Embo Presbytery should re-direct the letter to the Cape Presbytery for further discussions and that these two presbyteries engage in discussion in an attempt to resolve this problem The outcome of the case should be reported at the G.A. Executive in Feb 2008. In resolving the case, the G.A. advised that strict adherence to Christian ethics and constitutional provisions should be taken into consideration.
11. RR Wright matter – It was noted that since the church owed the college student fees for time immemorial, the matter had been amicably resolved. The G.A. was happy to report that students that had attended RR Wright, had received their academic records.
12. Transvaal & Swaziland requested for the renaming of WestRand Circuit to J.B.R.Musi Memorial – This was recommended for approval.

13. KZN Presbytery requested renaming of circuits in honouring church pioneers after the late Revs. A S Khumalo and Mnikathi – Durban and Osizweni to N.J Sibiya Memorial. Request was accepted.
14. WCC, Rev. Dr Samuel Kobie enquired about the existence and operations of the P.C.A. It agreed that the Council be informed of the active status of the church.
15. Gcuwa Circuit, Thembuland Presbytery – Requested a call for Rev S Boko. The Request was granted subject to following proper procedures by the presbytery.
16. Rev. M Okumu's book about the church – It was resolved that the contents of the book should be assessed and examined by the Editorial Committee since it based its contents on the P.C.A. The G.A. had to satisfy itself of the contents. It was resolved that a team be appointed to go through the book's outline before a recommendation for sale could be made. The appointed members were: Revs. T Khani; GST Radebe; Mantlane; H.T. Njikelana; elders B Botile; B Zondi and T P Siwela. Recommended that the final decision would be made at the February 2008 G.A. Executive meeting.
17. Transvaal & Swaziland – Recommended the registration and acceptance of Kamvalethu Circuit with Rev. G Makwane as its minister. The request was accepted and approved.
18. Rev. F Kumwenda – Registration of the PCA in Zambia – It was felt that the letter was more of an informative note and was welcomed by the G.A. If a need arose, further discussions would be entertained by the G.A Office Bearers.
19. Orangia Presbytery requested the name change of Bethlehem to H.H Luthuko Memorial – The request was approved with immediate effect.
20. Transvaal and Swaziland Presbytery requested for the re-introduction of the commissioners to the G.A as per the constitutional provisions. The matter was referred to the G.A Executive in 2008.
21. Complaints from W.C.A. regarding the conduct of some church ministers. There has been gruesome evidence tabled by members of the W.C.A regarding the social, emotional and verbal abuse suffered by their members. Another issue was in regard to divorced ministers who bring in new wives to be robed while the divorced ones still wear the mongamelikazi robe. Some of the ministers had excommunicated their wives. The G.A. felt that this matter was too sensitive and that a special session should be convened to discuss a code of conduct for ministers together with their wives. It was recommended that retreat and workshops be organized especially for counseling purposes. It was further recommended that when a minister has a family problem, that must, in the first instance be discussed with the presbytery Moderator or a reputable senior member of the church. It was further resolved that the G/A Office Bearers would meet with leadership of the W.C.A to address the current issues affecting W.C.A members.
22. It was Resolved that the 110 years Celebrations Committee would meet at Bloemfontein on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2007. Two members were expected from each Presbyter together with the president and the clerk of each association from the G.A. level. Rev. C Z Mabece was appointed to co-ordinate the activities of the Celebration Committee.
23. Subscription to the SACC – It was resolved that since the P.C.A is a member church of the SACC, it was imperative that the required subscription fees of R15, 000.00 be paid.
24. The name change and registration of CCM2 circuit from Embo Presbytery to GM Fodo was accepted.

25. The condolence letter received from the WCC in paying tribute to the late Rt. Rev. B.N. Mgujulwa was acknowledged with appreciation. The G.A. recommended that communication channels and working relationships should be strengthened.
26. The preacher's books as presented by Rev. Joka were welcomed especially for equipping and capacitating our preachers.
27. On the matter of circuits that could not afford the ministers' stipend, it was resolved that they will not be given a new minister unless the outgoing minister's dues have been settled. If in earnest the circuits could not afford to support their ministers, they run a risk of those minister being recalled by the G.A. thus the status of affected circuits would be reviewed.

After the adoption of the resolutions, the Moderator closed the meeting with the benediction.

### **Eighth Session.**

After a short opening prayer by Elder Gqotso, the Moderator dully constituted the meeting.

#### **Appointments and transfers.**

Having realized the problems that sometimes result to instability of the church and subsequent litigation, the G/A resolved that in future, appointments and transfers would be dealt with by the presbyteries. Before finalizing transfers, Presbyteries were obligated to ensure that the dues owed by the circuits to the minister must be settled by the circuit. In the case of vacant circuits, it must be a prerogative of the Presbytery Moderator to visit them. It was emphasized that only new ministers would be appointed by the General Assembly.

#### **Report by the Education Committee.**

The Committee reported on the applications received as follows:

1. Nonceba Sylvia Lingani from Thembuland who was aged 46. It was noted that this candidate was licensed without proper procedures being followed. This application was not considered.
2. Mxolisi Nqompoyi from the Methodist church, requested to join the P.C.A. There was notable discrepancies in his documents in that they were not certified and there was no recommendation letter from the presbytery that forwarded his application.
3. L Mpunuka from Embo who was 57 years old could not be considered because proper procedures were not followed.
4. Mr. Quille who was at Fort Hare requested for financial assistance. His letter was referred to Finance Committee and the church undertook to support his studies
5. Ms. T.M. Parkies was studying with UNISA and was self-funding. It was resolved that she should continue with self-funding and the church would only pay for attending G.A. meetings.
6. Mr. M.C Gqotso was doing 2<sup>nd</sup> year at Dumisani and paying for himself. Again the G.A recommended that he should continue with his studies and would be paid only for attending the G.A meetings.
7. Mr. S Tshanga - it was reported that his application was submitted in 2006 but was never finalized; he was registered with TEEC and had apply to register with UWC IN 2008. It was resolved that the application be referred to the Cape Presbytery and be resubmitted with the proof of registration at UWC.

8. Mr. Ntobeko Gijana was a student at Fort Hare and was due for ordination. It was resolved that whilst in the process of completing his degree, he should be sent to the Cape Presbytery as a probationer. The request for R8660 he had applied for financial assistance was approved by the G.A and referred to Finance Committee for finalization.

Rev S W Mdani was recommended as students' chaplain- to visit the institution where students were registered and provide an update to the G.A. It was further recommended that it was part of his duties to teach the students about the constitution of the church. The G.A further recommended that an agreed amount of budget be set aside for the chaplain's traveling expenses.

The G.A approved that no student should be ordained without having completed his or her studies and further that new applicants must be approved by the G.A. Strict adherence to the Education policy should be observed at all times.

### **Office site**

Rev. Mabece reported that he and elder H Ngumla had visited the promised site at Alice. He reported that the identified sites were just behind the Nonzwakazi Church in Alice. They could not meet with chief Mavuso to finalize discussions. The G.A agreed that the site should be considered for a centre but not central office. It was resolved that a follow up with the local government officials and the chief or tribal authority be made. A legal written undertaking on the transfer of the land would have to be obtained. The secretariat was mandated to follow up on this issue as a matter of urgency.

### **Report of the Vacancies and Supply Committee**

Following the recommendation for the appointment of new students, the G.A approved the ordination of brother Ntobeko Gijana to the Cape Presbytery and be encouraged to finish his studies.

### **Rev. B.P. Maine closed the meeting with the benediction.**

### **Concluding session – Sunday 30 September 2007**

The service was conducted by Rev. G J Manana. After singing the opening hymn Re. Z C Mabece made and opening prayer. The text of the day was an abstract from the book of Jeremiah 4 :4-10 The preacher of the day was Rev. M Okumu. His message was “ Deliver the message and acclaim the kingdom of God”. The emphasis was that there is a war declared against us as Christians and that we must look to Christ as our true king. After the sermon Mrs Yanta was asked to pray. Rev. Mchunu from K.Z.N thanked the minister who had preached.

The ordination of Rev. Ntobeko Gijana followed after the sermon in accordance with the constitutional provisions as outlined on page 86 of the constitution. The welcoming and encouraging words were made by Rev. L.S. Luvalo.

The baptismal of infants, Zinzo Mbunjana and Oyintando Mangcingwana followed the process..

After the baptismal the new office of the Y.M.C.A that was elected at Mmabatho was inducted and sworn to office. After the divine service, hymn 126 was sung and the Moderator thanked all members of the congregation and wished them a safe journey home and closed the meeting with the benediction.

*The following amendments were approved by the GA.*

**Amendment of the PCA Constitution: urgent matters:**

Section XVI of page 77 of the PCA Constitution says the amendment may be proposed by the General Assembly to the Presbytery or visa versa; but shall not be obligatory on the church unless a majority of all the presbyteries approve thereof in writings, and unless all agreed to and enacted by the General Assembly. Votes of the Presbyteries shall be sent to the GA stated Clerk 10 day before the ordinary meeting of the GA.

**Moderator of the GA.**

According to the constitution of the PCA a moderator shall occupy the office of the GA for only a year (ONE). This was discussed by the GA the meeting agreed that two years will be appropriate, but this was not amended as prescribed above. The amendment should be read as follows.

***Proposed amendment.***

The Ordinary meeting of the GA shall elect its moderator and at the end of the first year of the reign of the incumbent moderator. Moderator-elect shall be elected by the ordinary meeting of the General Assembly and shall be inducted on the following year in the same meeting by the outgoing moderator. In case of him/her un-ability to act, the judicatory shall elect one of its members as provided in Chapter XV11 of pg 79/ clz. 6. This section should be read in conjunction with the section that says this “ in the supreme Court o f the Church , this shall not be discretionary but always compulsory” (page 79/4). The incumbent Moderator shall not be available for the election of the moderator –elect. This is contrary with the procedures provided in this constitution and interpretation of the PCA constitution.

**Office bearers.**

The office bearers of the General Assembly shall occupy the office of the General Assembly for the period of THREE Years in case of them unable to act, the meeting of the General Assembly shall elect pro tempore office bearers until the next ordinary meeting of the GA.

**Missionary and a Pastor.**

A missionary shall be an ordained minister who has completed the entire necessary requirement, and who shall be ministering without a calling by the congregation. That minister shall be available for transfer at any moment and to everywhere as the wish of the Presbytery and the General Assembly. This particular minister is not attached to the congregation, from which he/she is ministering, but to the GA and to the presbytery of his/her jurisdiction. She/He does not have a muscle to protest against his/her transfer. as this is always done for the good and the betterment of PCA.

**Pastor.**

A pastor shall be a minister of this church who has at least acquired 3 years of experience as a minister of religion of this Church. This minister shall be eligible for a call when the call process has been administered properly, this particular minister will not be available for any transfer by the GA and by the Presbytery, Unless by proper arrangements with all the parties concerned and the Stated Clerk of the GA will facilitate this process of his/her transfer.

**Congregation Wishing to Call.**

The congregation calling a minister shall be bound to produce or have the following requirements: The manse, the church building; viable/sound financial position, this will have to be supported by the treasurer of the Presbytery and one from GA. And also the original or certified copy of bank statement; full members of the church must also be provided.

### **Secular Courts.**

According to the South African constitution and (Bill of Rights) the law serves as the protection of the rights of all South Africans. A person is a South African before s/he becomes a members of the PCA do not have a muscle to persuade people to lose their rights by virtue of being members of the PCA. This will be illegal/ it wont even hold water for a long time as our defence mechanism. This will be morally, and ethically wrong. It is the traditional stand point of the church that, no one should be allowed to go to the outside courts without having explored the internal procedures first, up to the level of the GA which is the last court. If the party or parties aggrieved are still not healed, The General Assembly shall organize a committee which will consists of credible members from our sister churches to serve as mediators, this will be organized by the Stated Clerk and the Presbytery moderators, who will also form part of this committee but not the Stated Clerk.

### **Stipend.**

Minimum stipends for a minister shall be determined by the Presbytery for the jurisdiction, all circuits shall be bind by the decision, and this will be categorized according to the experience of the minister in the PCA. Circuits will not be punished for contributing more than is required towards the stipend of their minister, in fact they are encouraged to do so. All those who fail to fulfill this requirement, might lose their circuit status and be incorporated with the neighboring circuits. This

stipend should be measured according to the inflation rate, and there will be an increase every year after the ordinary meeting of the GA.

### **Qualification of the GA Moderator and Presbyteries.**

The moderator shall be an ordained minister of the PCA. He/she must have five years of experience as a minister of this Church. Page 55: cls. 4 and 5 must be considered by electoral **judiciary** when electing a moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Africa who will at the same time be the moderator of the PCA General Assembly.

### **Inclusive terms.**

Words male, He and all other exclusive words shall be read as inclusive. S/he will be always be a person.

## **The 2007 GA had the following committee members**

### **Bills and Overtures:**

**GA Moderator;** Stated Clerk; Ass. Clerk and Rec. Clerk.

Rev EN Matomela Rev CV Zonke.

All Presbytery Moderators

Elders: Durban, St Williams, Qwaqwa, Nyanga, Kroonstad, and Tora.

### **Education Committee:**

**Rev SW Mdani** , Rev S. Ndzama, Rev CN Matshotyana, Rev PM Mgcoyi; Rev T Mbokotho ; Rev BM Ngcayisa; Rev MG Dukwana; Rev M Okum and Elder Jack.

**Finance Committee:**

**Elder MN Mkaza**; HM Ngumla; L Fihla; Rev OM Mgujulwa and all Presbytery Treasurers.

**Constitution and amendment Committee:**

**Rev GST Radebe**; Mr. M Dimbaza; Rev T Khani; Rev M Nyamezela; Rev MC Vakala; Rev AV Yanta; Elders St Williams, Langa, Motherwell; Joel Nxiweni; Libode

**Projects Committee:**

**Rev BJ Dlamini**; Rev Dr. H Cengimbo; Rev D Madikane; Rev PV Peter; Rev E Joka.

**Seminar Committee:**

**Rev BRZ Nkumanda**; Rev MM Booii; Rev S Sihlahla; Rev CZ Mabece; Rev PE Yanta; Rev NV Ngoza; Elders: Kwazakele; Albert Mhlonyane and Hewu.

**2008 GA Celebration Committee:**

Capable members from all Presbyteries.  
Presbytery Clerks to provide the S. Clerk with the names ASAP.

**Resolution Committee:**

**Rec. Clerk. B Botile**; Rev FW Tokwe; Rev SK Sihlahla Gxaleka; Sidlabane M, S Mdlungu and M Khumalo

**Scholarship fund Committee:**

**Rev Dr. G. Nqabeni**; Rev Z Siwisa; Elder B Botile  
Recommendation will be directed to Finance committee.

**Mobile Clinic:**

Co-coordinator: **Mrs. NM Dyakala** and all Health Professionals

NB. Bolded names are conveners of the committees and are blessed with powers to co-opt relevant members.

**The GA adopted the policy on education which was presented by the Education committee:  
The policy was compiled by Rev MG Dukwana and SW Mdani:**

**PCA POLICY ON EDUCATION AND MINISTRY.**

**BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CANDIDATES APPLYING FOR THE MINISTRY  
OF THE CHURCH 2007. (PCA POLICY ON EDUCATION and MINISTRY)**

**A CANDIDATE MUST POSSESS THE FOLLOWING:**

- .A candidate must be a full member of the Presbyterian Church of Africa, and not less than 21 years of age. And be observant of the qualifications stipulated in the PCA constitution. To be an Elder would be a preferred recommendation.
- .Must be in good standing with the local Church Courts of the aforementioned Church
- .Must be in possession of a National Senior Certificate.
- .Good recommendations from the respective Kirk Session and Presbytery, it is also important that a personal application (original) be included in the documents.

.The documents must be certified if not, no consideration will be given to the application.

.Forgery/counterfeit is a serious criminal offence that can lead to the expulsion of a candidate, and the church can take legal steps towards that deceitfulness.

.A candidate must at least have a very good background or knowledge of our church doctrine; this is the responsibility of the Church or Kirk Session.

**NB.** Kirk Sessions have a responsibility of ensuring that a good foundation has been laid immediately when applying for the Ministry of the church. Kirk Sessions must try by all means not to *pass the bark with regard* to the approval of the candidate's application to the Presbytery; spade work must be done thoroughly and without any preferential treatment (favoritism).

### **To be strictly noted**

-There must be stipulations with regard to age: between 21 and 40 years would be prerequisite age to join the ministry of the Word of God. It's utterly a futile exercise to take candidates who are on pension already to become full time Circuit Ministers. If a church can make a provision may be, such people may become self-supporting Ministers who are not even entitled to stipend but to traveling allowance and appreciation from the congregation. Should not be attached to any congregation, but available to help when need arises within/ out their Presbytery.

-No Presbytery has a right to take a candidate to the Seminary or any Theological Institute or University prior the final approval of the High Court (GA) of the church.

-There must be prescribed subjects or modules that must be compulsory to a candidate of our church. Like those tabulated in the constitution.

-All Presbyteries are required to adhere to the rules and regulations stipulated in the constitution of the church, if not, a candidate will suffer for the ignorance of his/her respective Presbytery.

-Strongly recommends that the church must take all the candidates to the University and **must** register full time, it is a known fact that theology by under-graduates cannot be corresponded. The church shall pay for the tuition fees/ anything less than a university qualification will not be considered for ordination. During the Year of Ordination student will produce the Degree in Theology which will be seen as a right for his/her ordination to the ministry of the Word. A year failed by a student will not be financed by the church. The reason being that the time is very challenging, therefore, the church must ensure that it creates quality leadership for the betterment of its future. The Presbytery has to pay for an accommodation and the traveling to and from the University.

-By sending candidates to university the church is investing to her future leaders; so that the church is able to compete globally. It should be noted that the science of today's theology is on the shoulders of the academics.

-The General Assembly must help/assist ministers who wish to proceed further with their studies; this will be by means of paying a registration for them at the university not direct to an individual. A minister who failed to make a follow-up to his/her studies will pay back the money to the General Assembly.

-All the candidates must sign a contract that stipulates that a person will serve the church a period of not less than five years from the date of ordination. This should be seen as the service of commitment and obligation.

-It must be made compulsory that a candidate to the ministry must serve probation of not less than a year. And a syllabus for this should be designed by the office of the Stated Clerk together with members of the Board of Examiners and report in writing to the committee on education about his/her progress.

Therefore, there must be no ordination without probation. Probation must be a pre-requisite. Minister from other denominations; applying to our church will be accepted under the same educational pre-requisite (Degree in theological studies from a recognized university). To familiarize themselves with procedures and doctrine/dogma of our church they will be bound to serve a period of not less than two years not under the auspices of the Presbytery which brought their application. A copy of verification from his/her former church will be extremely necessary; with a clear contact details so that the Stated clerk could be able to communicate with the church to substantiate the validity of the correspondence.

-When a student has commenced at university, s/he will be under the guidance of the Board of Examiners where s/he will be given research assignments or essays etc. It will be decided by the General Assembly who constitutes the Board of Examiners.

-The Board will set a clear syllabus to be followed when assessing or equipping a student and eventually that must be presented to the Ordinary General Assembly meeting of the Presbyterian Church of Africa for final adoption or approval.

-An Education Committee will be just an entrance responsible for the screening of the candidates prior to the seminary or university, ensuring that a candidate meets the basic requirements.

-The committee encourages that all Ministers of our church to submit their cv'to (profiles) the office of the General Assembly for info and record sake this should be done every two years. This will be of epoch making indeed so as to know precisely the talents or gifts our Ministers possess for the prosperity/opulence of the church. Finally; the student's chaplain will arrange with the university to come once a month and introduce the students to the PCA constitution and Presbyterianism set up. And will be bound to give a full report on the academic and moral standards of our students to the Board of Examiners and to the education committee through the GA in writing.

## **PRESBYTERY REPORTS**

I commend our Presbytery Clerks; WCA; YWCA and Youth General Secretary for compiling such wonderful reports about their Presbyteries and Associations; matters stipulated on them are very important and should be considered by the GA, as matters of urgency . For this GA, I would like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the highlighted sentences.

### **Transvaal & Swaziland Presbytery**

#### **PRESBYTERY REPORT**

#### **OFFICIALS:**

Mod. Rev. L.A Mokoena, Secretary Rev. SK. Sihlahla, Assistance Secretary Elder L. Fihla, Rec Secretary Elder L. Bottoman, Treasure Elder J. Nkomo, Trustees Elder S. Mtwebana and Elder Mthanyana.

General Assembly Moderator and the members of the General Assembly at large.

**I learnt that the only way things are going to change is when I change. "Be change you wish to see"**

I bring to you the warmest greetings, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Almighty God, for granting me the opportunity to present this report for the benefit of the General Assembly. It is indeed a great honor for me to have been asked to share with you the hiccups of this Presbytery. It is also an equally heavy responsibility to stand and say, thus far says the Lord has been with us. I have accepted this responsibility with a deep sense of awe and some level of anxiety and I prayed to God for the solution. I am very happy in reporting that:

Transvaal and Swaziland Presbytery is now an effective Presbytery in as far as spiritual observance is concerned. Meetings are held and constituted. All the office bearers were elected at our ordinary meeting which was held in Pretoria in March 07. Our Presbytery consists of five Circuits which are functioning though unsettled. According to our statistics committee we have ± 800 congregants in our Presbytery.

Our jurisdiction covers the whole of Gauteng Province to the borders of the Vaal River in Mmabatho Mafikeng and Pretoria. It is a known fact that our Presbytery is progressing, though we need to be motivated from time to time. It is in the interest of this Presbytery to **have seminars ASAP**. All our Circuits are in category C, as far as the prescribed categories. We have many challenges which I will list in the following manner. Pretoria Circuit is really not qualifying to be a circuit in as far as its membership is concerned. The minister, who is serving there, is experiencing hardship as far as receiving the monthly stipend as per agreement with that congregation. But we, as the officials explained all the procedures for that situation but that agreement is not followed by the members of that Circuit so with our consciences and our heartfelt empathies being Christians, we request the office of **Vacancies and supply to consider Rev. J.P. Lentseo** as a Minister who is without a circuit, in that he receives the status of obtaining a Ministers Maintenance. Statistics of the Circuits is as follows: West Rand Circuit ± 200, Moroka ± 180, Vaal ± 200 Mmabatho ± 200 and Pretoria ± **20**. The number of Ministers with Circuits / Mod Rev. LA Mokoena - Mmabatho Circuit, Rev M. Mbunjana – Moroka, Rev. LL Nkabi - Vaal, Rev J.P. Lentsoe – Pretoria, Rev SK. Sihlahla - West Rand and we have no Ministers without Circuits. All the associations are peacefully and spiritually progressing. Currently none of our members are in Colleges and Universities. Profiles of Ministers are attached. As I looked back from the unity of our Church in 2005 December, I have discovered that no report of this nature has been presented to the GA, however it really excites me to pinpoint the success that our Presbytery has accomplished thus far. Hopefully, the Almighty on our side, we shall be able to provide a detailed report during the next sitting.

Yours in Christ

**Rev. SK. Sihlahla (Presbytery Clerk)**

## **EMBO PRESBYTERY REPORT**

**EMBO PRESBYTERY COMPRISES OF 12 CIRCUITS**

**EMBO PRESBYTERY BEARERS 2007-2008**

**MODERATOR**

**REV L S LUVALO**

PRESBYTERY CLERK  
 ASSISTANT CLERK  
 TREASURER  
 TRUSTEES  
 PRECENTORS

REV M C VAKALA  
 REV S B NZAMA  
 S MONI  
 REV B J DLAMINI  
 SR T PAKISI  
 BRO E Z MAJOKWENI

CIRCUIT	MINISTER	CATEGORY
1. MT. Frere	Rev L S luvalo	A
2. Qawukeni	Rev G M Martines	C
3. H. H Mantanga M	Rev V Canga	C
4. Tyeni	Rev C V Zonke	B
5. Qumbu	Rev K Ntabeni	B - 360
6. C. C. M	Rev H M Cengimbo	C
7. Libode PSJ	Rev M C Vakala	B - 400
8. Matatiele	Rev T Moyikwa	C
9. Mt Ayliff	Rev S b Nzama	B -300
10. Ngqeleni	Rev H M Solani	B - 250
11. Mt Fletcher	Rev T Ntelezi	C
12. G. M food	Rev B J Dlamini	C

The presbytery covers the Pondoland area and the Griqualand area. Most of these circuits (99.9%) are right into the rural area. Which makes it difficult for ministers in those areas to perform their duties exceptionally well.

The Embo Presbytery regardless of being rural, is functioning well. The presbytery has successfully managed to handle some burning issues like the partition of CCM, and the newly formed circuit G.M Fodo which is under the care of Rev Dlamini, who initially was in Matatiele. The presbytery at an ordinary meeting held in H.H Mantanga memorial transferred Rev B J Dlamini to this newly formed circuit e.g. G M Fodo, and Rev. Moyikwa to Matatiele. The presbytery is visiting the circuits when necessary.

Challenges currently facing our presbytery are as follows, **church education**, there's a lack of **knowledge of Presbyterianism**. Our church is not known by her members, the **role of elders as ruling elders, and the role of ministers as teaching elders**.

Church buildings: most of our circuits are without proper church buildings including manses, most of our ministers are not stationed in their circuits because these circuits do not have manses. They only come during weekends to their circuit and that is a great challenge. The financial status of our presbytery is normal. Annual budget from each circuit is R600.00, when all our circuits have contributed without fail it amounts to R7200.00 in total. Our association are functioning fairly well, the presbytery interacts with her auxiliaries time and again. The spirituality of the presbytery is fine; we do have special sessions **of prayer for the sick and destitute**. In our jurisdictions we are having two theological students already in higher learning institutions, namely Mrs. T Pakisi who is doing **B.TH**. With **Unisa** and **Mrs. Mpunyuka** who is doing diploma with **St. Bedes**.

PRESBYTERY CLERK:  
REV M C VAKALA.

## **2007 CAPE PRESBYTERY REPORT.**

### **RE: 2007 ANNUAL CAPE PRESBYTERY REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ORANGIA PRESBYTERY (QWAQWA CIRCUIT).**

The honorable Moderator and all members of the office of the General Assembly, Presbytery Moderators, Circuit Moderators, Delegates and all members in the house, I greet you all in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ Amen.

While the church is clearly a living spiritual organism? made up of the body of believers (Eph. 2:19-22, p. 1793 NIV) it is also a structural organization, for the work of the ministry must be accomplished within some framework. Allow me to present to you this report in my capacity as the Presbytery Clerk, The Cape Presbytery is as follows:

- Cape presbytery consists of 31 Circuits and 34 ordained Ministers
- Cape Presbytery is divided into three Categories: A: 5 Circuits; B: 4 Circuits; C: 22 Circuits.
- Three Ministers without Circuits: Rev. M Mabhula, Rev. HT Njikelana, Rev. S Skweyiya. We are still operating as Cape Presbytery. We held successfully our annual Presbytery sitting at CD Kwatsha Memorial Congregation from the 14 March to the 18 March 2007. I am sure most of us know that Cape Presbytery is the **best Presbytery** in our Church. It was well attended and the Sprits were very high.

### **MORNING DEVOTIONS:**

At every meeting of the Presbytery a sermon preached and every particular Session opened and closed with (communion with God) prayer.

*Our task as preachers is not to give a sermon but to deliver a message from God's Word to people.*

### **BEREAVEMENTS BETWEEN AUGUST 2006 – AUGUST 2007:**

Our Cape Presbytery has lost four great Ministers, two Ministers Wives and many Delegates: Rev. Khawulezile Solomon Yanta, Rev. Lawrence Floris Memani, Rev. Zola Allen Mbeki and Rev. Byden Nceba Mgujulwa: Mrs Bulelani Ruth Kefile and Mrs Nomampondomise Bears Zele-Sandla and many delegates.

“We believe that Jesus died and rose again” and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

### **PRESBYTERY BUDGET:**

The creation and maintenance of a budget is essential:

- A correct representation of the financial resources and ministry needs of the Presbytery. Presented annually financial report to the Presbytery for approval and record. Reviewed and revised during the year as needed to keep in line with income. We bank the money, using three signatories. Presbytery notified regularly the Circuit of their progress.

### **MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTIES, ECT:**

The Presbytery is responsible for and appoint people to oversee the maintenance of the Church properties.

### **STATISTICS RECORDS:**

Since it is not possible to meet correct numbers from the Circuits, we encourage the Ministers and Delegates to **evaluate growth**. And provide the necessary information to Presbytery.

### **COMMITTEES:**

One of the keys to a successful church is **significant personal involvement by the members**. The use of committees is to develop and provide church members with input into the church ministry.

### **ADDRESSING CONTEMPORARY MORAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES:**

It is important for the church to respond to and take a position on current contemporary social, **moral and ethical issues** which affect its members: This session was well conducted by Mrs. Cordelia Faleni

- **HIV&AIDS**
- **Abortion**
- **Drugs, homosexuals these issues are demanding our full attention.**

*The Bible always provides a specific answer or sufficient guidance to reach the right conclusion. (Ps. 119:97-105, p.919 NIV Bible Study)*

*And therefore what is right is what God says is right in His Word. To be right (righteous) is to be in agreement with or conformity to God's standard and perspective.*

### **STUDENTS**

Presbytery has three registered Students Ministers:

1. Br. N Gijana (3 yrs)
2. Br. K Quillie (2 yrs)
3. Br. M Gqontso (2 yrs)

**We have their progress reports.**

### **COURT CASES**

Some of our Circuits and Congregation members were served with now valid Court Interdict:

1. **GUGULETHU CIRCUIT:** Date of Trial of the Case at Cape Regional Court were postponed according to their order; 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2007.
2. **ALLIWAL NORTH CIRCUIT:** The Case is still on
3. **TINARHA CIRCUIT:** The Case is still on.
4. Another legal Case from Attorney Mr. CZ Mbanjwa claim the amount of R7766.06 (AM Bottoman Memorial Congregation under Rev. FW Tokwe)

### **PROGRESS**

This Presbytery always appreciates progress and development in our Church. But it experiences difficulties in some instances. Usually the difficulties emanate from policy being overshadowed or clouded by practice, e.g.

- **Ministers' stipend**
- **Church structures**
- **Church Associations**
- **Finance(Systems & Control)**
- **Ministers'-service and in-service education**

**What are the policy and or practice of our Church towards the above? This not an easy question to answer right away, but research for possible responses thereto is imperative.**

At each and every full ordinary Presbytery we elect the New Office Bearers.

At every full annual ordinary Presbytery, we officially close with a Holy Communion.

After the powerful message. The Moderator of the Cape Presbytery declared official closure and blessings from the Moderator.

***GOD IS LOVE. 1 John 4 :16***

Yours in His Service.

Rev. PV Peter.

**Cape Presbytery Clerk Pro Tempore.**

### **THEMBULAND PRESBYTERY**

I Presbytery iqala kumlambo inciba iyekuma ku Mthatha river; Ipresbytery le ine circuite ezintandathu ezimi ngoluhlobo: Lady frere/cala; RD Tole; Ngqamakwe; Gcuwa; Mthatha; Dudumashe. Office ye Presbytery: Moderator Rev BN Mjana; Stated Clerk Rev KE Nyamezele; Assistant Clerk Rev NC Nxiweni; Recording Clerk Rev RS Matshotyana; Treasurer Elder RS Sobekwa; Trustee Elder SK Majokweni and RM Mbonjeni; Precentor Rev S Boko. **Abefundisi abangena Circuit.** Rev NC Matshotyana; Rev P Nxiweni; Rev S Nodzaba. **Abafundi esinabo apha kwi Presbytery. Nonceba Lingani; Mxolisi Kqompoyi: baye balaysenswa** yi presbytery nge 27 July 2007 kwa Dudumashe. I CV zabefundisi zathunyelwa kwi office ye General Assembly.

UNobhala We Presbytery

Rev Nyamezele K

### **Kwazulu Natal Presbytery.**

#### **Category of Circuits:**

The matter was never attended to by the ordinary meeting of the presbytery; the failure was due to the fact that committee members were not available to give report. The Presbytery is facing a division of Pietermaritzburg matter, the constitutionality of the matter is under scrutiny but the concerned members. Four stations which were part of this circuit are given a circuit status. The church building is the bone of contention: which side is the building going to belong? The Presbytery is battling trying to find amicable solution for this matter. The Presbytery is with **12 ministers who are without circuits; they are Rev SGT Radebe; Rev Khanyile; Rev BM Mkhize; Rev T Mtshali; Rev Zulu; Rev MG Koloko; Rev S Hlabisa; Rev ZE Mthembu; Rev Mzimvubu; Rev Zondi; Rev I Lukhozi.**

Presbytery Clerk.

**Rev PL Nondzaba.**

#### **Association's Report:**

### **NARRATIVE W.C.A REPORT**

This is a response to your letter dated the 10th of July 2007, requesting the association's narrative report. After liaising with various synod Presidents who work hand in hand with G.A Women's Association, this is what I came up with.

## MEMBERSHIP

The G.A.W.C.A is comprised of six synods, namely, Cape, Embo, KwaZulu Natal, Tembuland, TVL, and Swaziland & Orangia. The biggest of these is the Cape which is made up of 32 but 28 active circuits. Then follows Tembuland with 13 circuits (all active), K.Z.N is increasing everyday as new circuits are introduced to our association whenever we have a sitting, Embo on the other hand is a very active yet small synod comprising of only six circuits, and trailing behind are the Transvaal and Orangia both in numbers and active circuits.

## PROGRESS REPORT

Our association is in its developmental stage this is a result of the new born unification which is not an event but a process in itself; therefore to say that our association is big enough would be a myth. Our synods are growing yearly, leading to the gradual increase in number of the G.A.W.C.A great progress is visible both in attendance to meetings and spirituality of our members. Our members from both defunct General Assemblies contribute profoundly to uplift not only the standard of our association but the church at large. As a result of this, our meetings have become an arena of interesting arguments and ideas. Every one has the best interest in the P.C.A at heart. Furthermore our association concerns itself with the wellbeing of its members. The synod presidents give an annual written report of their comings and goings to the G.A.W.C.A. This makes it easy for the G.A.W.C.A to keep ties with the people at grass roots level.

## CHALLENGES AND PROBLEMS

As an association grows, so are the challenges and problems that it is faced with. The most important aspects that keep any institution alive are communication and communication becomes effective only when you understand each other. Language plays **a very crucial role in communication because of a variety of languages spoken by members of our church it has become a necessity to use one common language**, especially for minute taking and correspondence purpose. English has thus, been agreed upon as a medium of communication. It is therefore the secretary's job to make sure that minutes are taken & read in English. This is not as plain sailing as it may sound because our church is originally a black church, and part of being black is communicating in an African Language. **Another challenge that we are faced with is the high rate of Pastor's divorces, thus Pastor's wives insist of using their husband's surname. They also insist on wearing the Pastor's wife regalia even though the husbands' have remarried.** We have asked the G.A (Pastors & Elders) to intervene and assist us, in **redefining the status of these divorces and simultaneously accepting the newly weds as the lawful wives who run their husbands circuits. It seems as if the church is silent in this matter while the problem continues to multiply itself, because in order for a Pastor's wife to be given a right lead to the women's Association at circuit level, she needs to be inducted.** Our association finds it hard to induct a Pastor's wife who is registered under the same surname and husband who belongs to the one already in our records.

## WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION

The status of women in the entire church should be recognized in the PCA constitution. There is a new phenomenon of women who are called to ministry, who were initially members of the Women's Association or **Young Women association**. **This group of women seem to believe that in order to be good?. Another problem that our association is faced with is the status of widowed Pastor's wives at circuit level, as well as their job description.** It is natural that a widowed pastor's wife has a divine influence over the women congregation that she has worked with for years. It is sometimes this influence that causes a problem in the association because it can lead to **some kind of an unhealthy competition between the new Pastor's wife and the widow**. **Our constitution doesn't clearly define the status, job description as well as the dues that** she is entitled to. This in most cases divides the association as the congregation usually ( but not always) prefers to remain under the influence of the widow above that of a new Pastor's wife, and causing a problem in the church as a whole. When problems like these arise, the church tends to take the side of the widowed pastor's wife who has worked for the church over the new and inexperienced one.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND OBJECTIVES

Our main objective is to create an association that will be there for its members not only in the church premises but that will stretch beyond its premises to the grass roots level. With this view in our mind our association has managed to encourage its members to be self reliant people by introducing hand work as a project from circuit level right to the highest level of the church. With this project women generate income and equip themselves with skills for subsistence purposes. Furthermore our church and its associations have a tradition of being led by elderly and experienced people, but the unification has seen a new phenomenon of a young blood in key positions. Middle aged and young blood are actively involved in the day to day running of the church both at synod & G.A level. Be that as it may, we have not done away with the wisdom and expertise of the elderly and instead we use them as our guardian angels. Collaboration between young and old in our association will ensure an association with solid foundations

## FINANCES AND MANAGEMENT

Our association meets twice a year that is in February and in September but we generate income only in September annually. Our income is earned in the form of BUDGET. Initially circuits contributed same amount regardless of size (membership), but through financial constraints our president has recommended that our circuits be categorized into A, B & C according to their sizes. The amounts to be contributed have also been increased. With this new measure our association has a far sighted vision of embittering not only the association but the church as a whole. We also want to tend a helping hand to the establishment of our church's central office, and we can only be able to do this when we are financially independent ourselves. The association has also introduced a burial fund, which covers the ministers and their spouses in the event of death. From this the association contributes a sum of R2000 to the minister's family. This we know it's a drop in an ocean, but it's a good start to something that was non-existent for ages. To us it says: "you are going somewhere". This will ensure that our finances are managed properly, for nothing destroys any institution or association like the mismanagement of funds.

## **RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER G.A. ASSOCIATIONS**

The G.A.W.C.A has a sustainable relationship with other association of our church. These are G.A ( convened by the pastors & elders), the YMCA, YWCA and the GAYA. The general Assembly works side by side with the GAWCA. As these sit concurrently it makes it easy for them to assist one another if needs be. Our association prides itself in helping the G.A spiritually, financially and otherwise. This various deacon's court in our various circuits relies on the W.C.A where it falls short financially and this is the same in Presbytery and Assembly level. The YMCA on the other hand has unbreakable bond with the YWCA our daughter association. The WCA acts as an overseer of the YWCA, and this means that whatever decision is taken by the YWCA, is taken under a watchful eye of our association and no meeting is convened without our presents. Finally the WCA also supports the GAYA. Since our Pastor's wives are delegates to the youth meeting this makes them members of the GAYA. Their contribution is therefore unsurpassed.

## **FELLOWSHIP AND SUPPORT**

The GAWCA comprises of young, middle & old women. Some of our members are no longer able to attend our prayer meeting as well as general assembly sitting, because of either ill health or old age. In this case we encourage home visits at circuit level where prayers are offered for revival purposes. These strengthen the ties that our association has with these members, and ensures fellowship and support both physical and spiritually.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

Since our church was established in 1898, different association were thus established a few years afterwards, ours was then formed in 1949. The constitution that rules us is as old as one could imagine, but nevertheless it is the only document that guides our association. Prior the unification of the church a committee led by Mrs. Faleni was elected with the sole duty of amending this constitution to suit the modern church. This effort was then put on hold until the unity was finalized. The office of the GAWCA has a proposed copy which will be the one used to revive this idea. We are furthermore, ruled by the entire church's old constitution which we hope will also be amended as well.

## **2008 PCA CELEBRATION**

As our church prepares for Jubilee in 2008, our association also promises to take an active role to make sure that this is a jubilee to be remembered. The synods have already been given a mandate to elect committees that will report to the GA. To get more ideas and projects going, discussion will be entered into during our upcoming General Assembly.

I hope this serves the purpose for which it was designed. For more information you are always welcome to contact our office.

Mrs. DN Mdani  
**WCA Secretary General**

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AFRICA**  
**Y.M.C.A (G.A) ANNUAL REPORT**

This association is made up of 7 synods. Its meetings are held annually

**MEMBERSHIP**

The association does not have a statistics. Its membership is not known, as this association has never asked its synods to bring forth their numbers.

**CHALLENGES AND PROBLEMS**

This association is running smoothly except the only challenge **it had, was women wearing waist coats, which the association took a decision on this regard, by barring the women from wearing the waist coats**, this land mark decision was taken at an annual conference held in Mafikeng on the 2-5<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

**FINANCES**

Circuits are keeping this association running they finance this assembly by contributing annually an amount of R300.00, R400.00 and R500.00 as per category. The finances and the records are in the capable hands of Rev. Ngubane as he is the treasurer of this association.

**RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER G.A. ASSOCIATIONS**

The relationship between Y.M.C.A. is excellent. There's a traditional bond between the two, they even share same programs like prayer meetings for HIV & AIDS. The relation between the two is strong and healthy. The relationship between Y.M.C.A; YWCA and Y.A has been sourced along the way due to time allocations, whereby G.A.Y.A. feels sometimes not respected by this association.

**SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS**

Not any at the moment.

**Y.M.C.A. AND UNITY**

This association is the driving force behind unity. It is not for fractions in our church. As this association we are very happy with this new development and we hope the G.A. is still engaging in talks with the group led by rev. B.B. Nocanda. This association will offer prayers towards that initiative "***PHAMBILI MA AFRIKA***"

**SPIRITUALITY**

This association is known in that regard. The only time we felt spiritually dry was when we were in Mafikeng. There were many contributing factors, but in all, this association by its nature is spiritually matured.

**FELLOWSHIP AND SUPPORT**

Fellowship is one of the pillars of this association. Fellowship is promoted among the members of this association, when one of our member passes on; necessary support to the bereaved family

is made visible. We offer word of condolences and financial support to the families.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

The only policy matter we had was women wearing waistcoats, and we dealt with that amicably. 2008 P.C.A. celebration: this matter is not yet discussed. *G.A. Y.M.C.A MC Vakala.*

#### **The meeting of the Executive of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Africa held at Mount Frere on 22<sup>nd</sup> Friday to 23<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, February 2008.**

Official opening was conducted by Rev CZ Mabece who was the assistant clerk of the GA. Rev GM Mokabo who was the Moderator of the Cape Presbytery was requested to pray. The Lord's prayer was sung, led by Rev Mgcayi of Orangia Presbytery. Hymn 108 from Sotho hymnal book was sung. "Athe Jesu o n'ampona"

The following ministers were ordered to read the Bible: The message was taken from the book of Judges 13: 1-5 and 24 - 25.

- Rev Mfecane: Sotho
- Rev K. Sihlahla: Xhosa

Rev CZ Mabece wished the congregation a happy new year and thereafter ordered the congregation to sing hymn 216. The Moderator of the General Assembly Rt. Rev EN Matomela was to deliver the divine message of the day. After he greeted everybody, acknowledging the presence of the dignitaries; Mayor and the member of the council of Churches. He introduced the text of the day: Judges 13: 5 " Isitshetshe sokucheba asiyikusondezwa entlokweni ngoba lenkwenkwe iyakuba ngumahlulwa ka Thixo yiyo eyakuwasindisa amasirayeli esandleni samaFilisti" The text was well exposed and preached by the moderator. "A man who was given such a strong start, finishes so poor"? After the sermon Mrs. Shosha offered a prayer. Rev PV Peter who was the clerk of the Cape Presbytery was ordered to thank the sermon on behalf of the congregation and the entire GA executive meeting.

The Mayor Mrs. B. Mabhegu who was together with Mr. S Tshekala: the speakers of the Mayor. There was also a speaker from the council of Churches of the area. Both the mayor and the council of churches members spoke wishing the meeting success and prosperity.

#### **Announcements by the Stated Clerk. Rev MW Faleni**

- The GA will be declared opened by the Moderator
- The meeting will sit for two days only: 22 and 23 February 2008: The meeting requested the WCA to consider their executive representation / ways of minimizing their delegates.
- He thanked the guests for their encouraging speeches.

Hymn 5 was sung, the moderator Rt. Rev EN Matomela declared the meeting open and there after pronounced the benediction.

#### **Session 2.**

The meeting was opened by the Moderator hymn 20. Elder Mlandu of the Cape Presbytery prayed. The moderator instructed the clerks to collect the hospitality fee and submit their registration forms.

#### **Roll call**

Mod. Rt. EN Rev EN Matomela. Clerk Rev MW Faleni. CZ Mabece Ass. Clerk. Mkaza. Nxiweni.

**Orangia:**

Moderator: Rev PB Maine

Clerk: Rev DM Thekiso

Treasurer: Rev TE Mfecane

Trustee was absent.

**Cape Presbytery:**

Moderator: Rev GM Mokabo

Clerk: Rev PV Peter

Treasurer Elder VE Mlandu

Trustee; absent ( gm Nqabeni) was represented by Rev N Ngoza.

**Embo**

Rev LS Luvalo

Clerk; Rev MC Vakala

Treasurer: S Moni

Trustee \; Rev BJ Dlamini

**Eastern Thembuland**

Moderator: Rev RM Matlane or

Clerk: Rev MW Pangumso

Treasurer Elder LMN Nhama

Trustee Rev M Lugogo

**Tembuland**

Moderator: Rev BCN Mjana

Clerk: KE Nyamezela

Treasurer: R Sobhekwa

Trustee: SK Majokweni

**Transvaal/ Swaziland**

Moderator: Rev LA Mokoena (absent) was represented by Rev Mbunjana

Clerk: Rev SK Sihlahla

Treasurer Elder DM Ncayishe

Trustee: Rev LL Nkabi

**KZN**

Moderator: Rev GJ Manana

Clerk: Rev PL Nondzaba (absent) was represented by Rev TG Sithole

Treasurer: Rev KE Ngubane

Trustees: Elder. E Cetshane. /

**Apologies**

Two letters of apology were accepted: from Rev SM Sihawu and Elder B Botile. The meeting agreed that those Presbyteries which are not fully represented should co-opt.

**Contingent report.**

Cape R1000. Tembuland R1000. Eastern Tembuland R1000. Tran/Swazi R1000. KZN R1000. Orangia R1000. Embo R8400. It amounted to R6000 plus R8400. = R14400. The meeting of the GA executive questioned the financial contribution of the GA

Members who were not executive members were requested to pay, as their contribution towards the contingent?. Members agreed that a member should contribute R20 a day. The GA on behalf of the office GA bearers was ordered to contribute R1000.

### **The Dockets**

The Presbytery Clerks were given the docket (agenda of the day) for their members. The meeting priced them R27.50 each.

The meeting was adjourned; Rev Thekiso pronounced the benediction.

### **Meeting resumes**

Hymn 15 Elder Cetshane of KZN prayed.

The agenda was paid by Presbyteries and the amount of R805: was collected by the meeting from the Agenda.

### **Welcoming of the delegates.**

The Moderator welcomed members of the executive and those who were not members. He thanked members for attending the meeting and in supporting of the GA. The Moderator advised the meeting of the status of the GA executive, and the proper representation. The meeting agreed and understood the procedure as explained.

### **Minutes of the Mabatho Executive**

The meeting agreed that the minutes of the executive be adopted as read. As it was reported to our GA in Qwaqwa and discussed as part of report of the GA by the stated Clerk.

### **Bereavement:**

Rev Mokabo who lost his mother and Luvalo who lost his son. The meeting agreed to conduct a special service on their behalf. The meeting agreed to do a special collection and be divided among the two.

### **Court Cases:**

#### **BLOEMFONTEIN**

Rev Nocanda and his group made a court application in Bloemfontein to be declared as the rightful church. The matter has been referred to the lawyer for legal advice. The matter is still pending.

#### **Kroonstad**

Rev Maine won the court case against them.

#### **Gugulethu.**

The case against us; where we were interdicted and the matter was postponed and dismissed.

#### **Grahamstown**

The matter will be review, based on Mr. Mbanjwa's letter and support from other parties like: Rev Mdinyane promised to help the church on this matter as he was there.

#### **Mtata.**

- Rev Nocanda is on the process of selling the church manse; the meeting decided to challenge the matter legally and stop Nocanda from doing that.
- Nocanda cases Bloemfontein, Kroonstad, Gugulethu, Graham's town, Mtata selling of the church building and others, details of the court cases.

WCA entered the house and brought R10.000, which was for the contingent{ songimbo Somposho; Mjana}s

### **Reports of the Nocanda unity and Gauteng. {Dubazana}.**

SACC and Unity initiated at Gauteng.

### **The Unity of PCA.**

After the report, the meeting discussed the matter and encouraged the office to continue with negotiation with Rev Nocanda's group. Members had different views about negotiating with Nocanda. Some members felt that the court issues should continue and negotiations should be stopped. Finally, the meeting agreed that both negotiations and those court matters which could not be avoided should continue concurrently.

**Dubazana:** letter of thanks be written to her to say thank you for the initiative she has done to bring PCA together.

It was agreed that the following day the meeting will resume at 7:00. The meeting was to be closed on Saturday to allow members to travel on Sunday and be able to work on Monday. Rev BNC Mjana was ordered to pronounce a benediction.

### **Fourth Session. 7:20 Saturday**

The meeting resumes; Hymn 218 sung and Rev L Nkabi prayed.

### **110 Celebrations.**

The meeting at QwaQwa took a resolution to continue with the celebrations. The structure of the meeting was not clear and members of the Presbyteries were not clear of how the representation should be. The committees agreed on the following committees.

- Funds raising, and organization; publishing and editorial; entertainment; and catering the finance committee of the GA will also operate as the 110 celebration committee.

### **Breakfast.**

#### **Meeting resumes.**

225 Hymn was sung, Rev Nyamezela K prayed. It was explained that the meeting which was to be held in Bloemfontein was confusion because the understanding was different, especially on the structure of the Presbyteries. The meeting agreed on the aforementioned committees. The meeting felt that there was a need of centralization of funds; the meeting agreed that the PCA finance committee should operate as the head of finances. The meeting agreed that the name shall be fund raising and organization to avoid having two finance committees. The finance committee will deal with funds of the PCA.

The debated the members concerned. 29 members collected as follows.

2 per Association in the GA level and three members per province/ Presbytery.

- Per General Assembly level in the Association.

Rev CZ Mabece; Rev MC Vakala and Elder Nhama were sent to the WCA to report the celebration discussion.

#### **Convener.**

Rev ZC Mabece

Rev MC Vakala : Clerk

The meeting agreed that the office bearers of the GA be ex-officio members.

The feeling of the meeting was that the celebrations be the following year 2009 in September.

The venue of the GA for 2008 will be changed to Cape Presbytery due to the reason that it was marked for the celebration. The meeting agreed that 2008 GA be held in KZN.

### **GA Commissioners.**

The meeting of the GA executive was given a mandate by the previous GA meeting. The meeting of the executive agreed that the matter be done constitutionally. The meeting agreed that the Assembly be constituted constitutionally.

It was suggested that an amendment be considered; Presbytery Moderators and conveners of the committees be made full members of the GA. The Moderator of the Presbytery; the Clerk; the Treasurer; and one Trustee of the Presbytery should be made members of the GA. The meeting agreed that the amendment be sent to the Presbyteries for full discussion and be sent to the 2008 GA. Presbytery Clerks were ordered to add this matter to their list of issues to be amendment. The meeting highlighted that the high courts of the church, Presbyteries and General Assembly are open courts. {All members are allowed to attend but cannot vote on delicate matters and the meeting could be held in camera}.

#### **Election of the Moderator-elect.**

It was suggested that the names and nominees be sent to the GA prior- the GA by the Presbyteries. The meeting was divided on the issue some felt that it should be done as suggested, and some felt that the old system should prevail. The meeting felt that the nominations and canvassing is done already underground by members of the PCA voicing the views on elections. It was agreed that Presbyteries should learn to represent their Presbyteries to the GA. The meeting agreed to take the matter to the Presbyteries for finalization. Presbyteries were requested to discuss the matter and send it to the GA.

#### **Rev OKUM'S book.**

The commissioners who were ordered to read the book felt that it should be sent to the Presbyteries. The meeting agreed that the comments of Rev Mantlane will be sent to all our Presbyteries through the stated clerk for discussion. Hymn 45 closing. Benediction. CV Zonke.

#### **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008.**

Rev RM Mantlane conducted the devotion, hymn 206, the devotions were divided into two: condolence to Rev Mokabo and Rev Luvalo they both, during December of the previous year lost their family members. Rev Luvalo lost a son Rev Mokabo his mother, and two brothers.

Hymn 338 sung Rev KK Dlamini prayed.

Rev MW Pangumso. Xhosa

Rev Moyikwa. Sotho

Psalm 25: 9 / Acts 27: 22. Hymn 271 was sung to invite the preacher to the Pulpit. The message of the day was from Rev GJ Manana who was KZN moderator. He preaches the sermon fairly well. "The theme was about the well prepared leader". Rev Lukhozi of KZN prayed after the sermon.

Rev CZ Mabece asked for collection {money} it was meant as condolence contribution to both families. The moderator on behalf of the GA made words of wisdom and comfort to the bereaved families. The collected money amounted to R1127.40 each was given R563.70. Rev Mjana and Mrs. Mzamo were requested to hand over the money to the families

#### **Notices by the stated Clerk.**

- The meeting is going to be closed today
- We will be meeting at 15h00 both families for reports on PCA matters

Rev D Thekiso was requested to thank the preacher of the day. Rev Ndela lost his mother and was to be buried on 31-03-2008.

Hymn 35 Rev Manitshane pronounced a benediction.

**The meeting resumes.**

Hymn 10 Rev Mbatha prayed.

**Basic qualities for PCA Leadership.**

The meeting agreed that the matter must be sent to the Presbyteries for discussion and to the GA for final adoption. It was explained to the meeting that an ordained minister is a person who has been to the theological college for three years. The meeting agreed that the church will recognize the ordained ministers, but never again ordain untrained people. It was agreed that refresher courses be developed for our ministers. The moderator suggested that ministers should apply to the office of the Stated Clerk for registrations. They need to be encouraged to further their education in theological studies.

**Finance Policy**

The committee discussed the matter and it was agreed that a finance workshop be organized to equip all people dealing with church finance. The Presbyteries were ordered to ensure that their ministers are getting enough stipend a minimum of R5000 is recommended.

**Late Apology**

Rev LA Mokoena's apology was read.

Proposed Budget. Attached at the document 2008.

Lunch.

Meeting resumes; hymn 15 prayer by Elder Jele.

University payments, students should sign the order of commitment the period of not less than 10 yrs.

**Ordination of Ministers.**

According to the PCA constitution, ordination is done at Presbytery level members felt that the ordination should be done at Presbytery level or at GA level. The meeting agreed that the ordination should be done by the GA. The meeting agreed that the GA will ordain until the matter is settled constitutionally. This matter will be taken to the Presbyteries for discussion and to the GA. The presence of Rev Mdinyane was acknowledged.

Contingent Presbytery R6000. WCA R10000 NON MEMBERS R760. R17760. Programmes R1485. Bereavement R20372.20

The Moderator thanked the meeting and members for attending and supporting the meeting. There were no further matters to be discussed there was a proposal for the closure, the meeting agreed.

Hymn 333 benediction CV Zonke.

The GA Executive meeting adopted the ff policies.

**PCA FINANCE POLICY.**

Stewardship is a necessary sermon topic in our churches, but we must be diligent to see that the church practices good stewardship after the congregation has done its part. Ministers and leaders have a responsibility to properly manage funds given to the church. Careful money management establishes credibility with the church body as well as with those examining the finances of the church. Sloppiness in this area leads to mistakes and invites possible criminal activity. The

treasurer's reports to the GA should be sent to the Presbyteries a month before the General Assembly. Ask your auditor for suggestions to improve your accounting procedures and internal controls and then take their suggestions to heart. The Treasurer and the GA should make sure that there is adequate bonding on church officials (finance committee) who handle money.

Most treasurers are good; OUR treasurer must be an honest person who has a good financial credibility. Embezzling is a sickness that doesn't go away or get better. In fact, the activity and amount generally grow to the point where the embezzlement becomes obvious and the person is caught. Embezzlers were good, honest people at one time, and are able to make excuses for themselves in their own minds. We have budgets; we need professional auditors as agreed in our 2007 GA. The statement and reports must be sent to the independent auditors before being sent to the Presbyteries a month before the sitting of the GA.

Treasurer will minimize the use of petty cash, and this will have to be approved by the ordinary GA. Establish procedures for the permissible uses of petty cash and the maximum amount that may be removed at one time. Larger amounts should be handled with a checks system. Petty cash payments should be backed up by checks that have proper approval by the moderator and the clerk of the GA. Invoices should be approved by the finance committee before payment and marked and finally signed by the Moderator of the GA. No money should be issued without the knowledge of the Moderator of the church as the custodian of the PCA.

#### CHECKS & BALANCES:

The finance committee should examine the books of the treasurer before they are sent to the independent auditor, original checkbook, checks, and records. The treasurer is advised not to take his/her work for granted. The report to the Assembly must be approved by the finance committee and signed by the Moderator and the Treasurer

Bank statements should be reviewed/reconciled by the finance committee and taken to the auditors. A regular list of checks received should be prepared by the finance committee together with the treasurer.

Checks should not be signed until made out (not pre-signed, blank cheques). The check signer should be given supporting documents such as invoices at the time she/he is given the check to sign. If possible, consider requiring two signatures on all checks and withdrawals. The General Assembly will have the Stated Clerk, Moderator and Treasurer as the signatures'. Canceled checks or equivalent bank documentation should be stored at the church. Yes, storage is a problem, but requesting bank copies of checks is extremely expensive and time consuming. The finance committee should review checks/documentation to be certain that the stubs match the checks/documentation.

Sign the checkbook itself with the date and balance at the time of the audit. Next year, we shall begin at this point. The GA must make sure that the finance secretary and treasurer are two separate people. Funds can secretly disappear when the same person deposits the money and writes the checks.

The bank must be instructed to notify the GA Moderator or the Clerk of any overdrafts.

The cheques canceled should be arranged in numerical order or have the treasurer tape them back into the checkbook. Make sure all the checks are accounted for, even the voids. It is important to mark the check and the stub "void" and tear the signature area. If other than checks are provided as documentation from your bank, retain and verify with voided checks. These tasks should be done by someone other than the treasurer (finance committee secretary). The treasurer's reports to the GA should be sent to the Presbyteries a month before the General Assembly, after being signed by the moderator and checked by independent moderator.

The GA treasurer is advised to auditor and familiarizes him/herself with accounting procedures and internal controls of church funds.

The Treasurer and the GA should make sure that there is adequate bonding on church officials (finance committee) who handle money. The committee should understand that the money belongs to God and there should be accurate accountability and respect when handling them. Any Presbytery has a right to launch a dispute when unhappy with the report of the treasurer and the dispute should be sent to the GA stated Clerk, 3 weeks before the ordinary meeting of the General Assembly.

Most treasurers are good; OUR treasurer must be an honest person who has a good financial credibility. Embezzling is a sickness that doesn't go away or get better. In fact, the activity and amount generally grow to the point where the embezzlement becomes obvious and the person is caught. Embezzlers were good, honest people at one time, and are able to make excuses for themselves in their own minds. We have budgets; we need professional auditors as agreed in our 2007 GA. The statement and reports must be sent to the independent auditors before sent to the Presbyteries two months before the sitting of the GA. Treasurer will minimize the use of petty cash, and will be have to be approved by the ordinary GA. Establish procedures for the permissible uses of petty cash and the maximum amount that may be removed at one time. Larger amounts should be handled with a cheques system. Petty cash payments should be backed up by cheques that have proper approval by the moderator and the clerk of the GA. invoices should be approved by the finance committee before payment and marked.

The finance committee should examine the books of the treasurer before they are sent to the independent auditor, original checkbook, checks, and records. The treasurer is advised not to take his/her work for granted.

Bank statements should be reviewed/reconciled by the finance committee and taken to the auditors. A regular list of checks received should be prepared by the finance committee together with the treasurer.

It should be noted that the finance committee has a recommendatory role; they have no deciding muscle in all monetary matters of the PCA. The finance committee can not recommend the payment of claims that has nothing to do with the GA, like minister's stipends and minister's appointments and expenditures.

The Presbyteries are entirely responsible for those payments.

The finance committee must allocate travelling allowance for the office bearers of the GA which will only be used for GA related matters, like attending ecumenical matters and others urgent issues which will have to be approved by the GA moderator and the GA clerk.

Invoices will have to accompany all claims to the GA finance committee; claims without invoices will have to be accompanied by a motivational letter signed by two witnesses.

Claims must be sent to the office of the stated clerk on time, no claims shall be submitted during the sitting of the GA, such claims shall not be considered, unless the duties have been performed in that sitting; the finance by the approval of the GA will settle such claims.

Matters required to be settled urgently, during the interval of the GA will have to be discussed with the treasurer, moderator and the clerk of the GA.

Designated funds cannot be spent on unintended purposes unless a prior written agreement has been established by the church. Without a prior written agreement in the church documents, legally, the only way a church can change the purpose of designated funds is by order of the GA. If the cash is for an approved project or ministry of the church and the designated fund has been established. For instance monies approved by the GA for certain projects cannot be directed to other matters without the approval of the ordinary meeting of the GA. Any procedure foreign to this policy is running a risk of being invalidated and can be questioned by any presbytery, or GA officials.

The GA Associations shall contribute 30% of their income to the bank account of the GA annually. This money will be administered by the treasurer of the GA and treasurer of that particular association. The Association's treasurers are also bound to send their annual finance report to the GA treasurer. The intention here is not to control the monies of the Associations, but to promote, enhance and instill accountability and answerability to all our treasurers.

The Presbytery Moderators and Clerks shall be held responsible for the failure of their circuits to contribute the prescribed budget for the ordinary meeting of the GA. Presbyteries are guided by the constitution to deal with such circuits, up to a point where they lose their circuit status and be amalgamated to the neighbouring circuits. Presbyteries will deposit the ordinary budget funds to the Assembly banking account a few weeks before the sitting of the GA; it is never completely safe to carry large amounts of church funds to the GA in cash.

### **Financial Accountability**

The office of the GA is structured along divisional lines (Presbyteries) and each presbytery Moderator has programmatic and administrative responsibility for the areas (circuits) under their jurisdiction. The moderator, -Stated clerk, Treasurer and the finance committee is responsible for the development of policy, for and oversight of, good financial practices and compliance with this policy as custodians of the PCA.

The office of the GA shall be responsible for developing an accountability structure that will adhere to the following principles:

- Accountability can not be delegated.
- A person can not delegate greater responsibility than he/she has.
- Tasks shall only be delegated to people who are qualified to perform them.

A qualified person must:

- Be actively involved in the tasks being performed and have an in depth knowledge of church finances.
- Have the appropriate knowledge and technical skills to perform the task, including of knowledge relevant regulations and policies (knowledge of the Public Finance Management Act. PFMA )
- Have knowledge and an ethical background to carry out the tasks.

The office of the GA must keep a complete, up to date, accurate record of an audit trail of modifications.

These must be appropriately decided and communicated, documented and periodically reviewed for accuracy, completeness and effectiveness.

The office of the GA must designate an individual with responsibility for updating these tasks.

Preparing and reviewing Budgetary and Financial Transactions:

Two people will be required to process each financial transaction. Financial committee clerk enters information about the transaction, and the convener reviews each financial transaction to ensure that the financial clerk has properly fulfilled his/her function. Both the above personnel must be involved in each financial transaction.

Financial Committee Clerk:

- Understand all relevant regulatory requirements, and the purpose of each transaction.
- Record an accurate and thorough explanation of each transaction
- Ensure full accounting units are involved
- Ensure that any funds requested are appropriate
- Be able to solve any questions that come to mind during the completion of the transaction or are raised via messages.
- Forward the completed transaction, with any supporting documents. Urgent decisions will have to be approved by the GA office

The Convener:

The convener will convene the finance meetings in our ordinary meeting of the General Assembly; meetings outside the GA jurisdiction will have to be arranged in consultation with the office of the GA and the Moderator

- Review all transactions within three working days of receipt.
- Inspect each transaction to ensure the financial committee clerk has properly fulfilled his or her responsibilities.
- Solve all questions that may arise concerning a transaction.
- Ensure that each transaction complies with policy, regulatory and other requirements.

The GA formally delegates signature responsibility to provide a method to control who may approve financial transactions and to meet the GA's financial stewardship and responsibility.

The GA's financial Stewardship responsibilities include:

- Spending money wisely and monitoring expenditures as if they were its own.
- Purchasing goods and services wisely.
- Assisting other presbyteries when approached.
- Being accountable for one's actions.
- Encouraging others to be good stewards of resources.

### Budgeting Financial Resources

This is done for the sole purpose of sound financial management.

A budget must be established annually by the office of the GA, reviewed and approved.

The budget provides a tool to project resources necessary to achieve goals and objectives of the GA/church.

Presbyteries and GA must operate within their budgets, when expenditures exceed budget, justification for such excess must be provided to the ordinary meeting of GA.

The GA and the financial committee must develop a formal plan to eliminate deficits generated.

### Monitoring and Evaluating Financial Data

Each Presbytery must have a financial committee with the approval of the ordinary meeting of the Presbytery; the Presbytery Moderator must establish monitoring procedures to provide assurance that financial transactions are appropriate and are accurately recorded. E.g. Finance committee.

Procedures for monitoring the GA and Presbytery funds and evaluating financial data must include:

- Utilizing monthly financial reports that are clear and concise.
- Provide budget vs. actual comparison.
- Identify trends and special areas of concern.
- Police expenses at the end of each ledger cycle.
- Identification of the individual/(S) responsible for performing the reconciliation procedures.
- All transactions must be verified for :
  1. Amount
  2. proper account period
  3. Communication with the financial institution.

A method for taking corrective action must be established by the GA.

Financial committee decision affects every aspect of the GA, but such decisions can only be as good as the data on which they are based. (Anything outside the policy is running a risk of being invalid and could constitute misappropriation of GA/ Presbytery funds.)

Consequently each Presbytery must establish and implement procedures that will be communicated via the GA to ensure data integrity.

These procedures must provide reasonable assurance that transactions are in accordance with the GA's authorization and are recorded in the financial policy in an accurate and timely manner. Checks and balances must exist within and between operating units (Presbyteries' financial committees.)

Accounting principles must be consistently applied with all the Presbyteries.

Monies incurred and expenditures should be reported.

Holding invoices does not and must not prevent the expense from being incurred.

All expenditure must be fully compliant.

### **Basic Qualities for Christian Leaders**

Like Joseph, church leaders need to show leadership qualities that will attract people. They need to lead people to become like them. A church leader is one who answers God's call to become a leader for God's work. He accepts the authority that the group gives him to lead them. He uses that authority for building up of the body of Jesus Christ, the church.

In a group, a successful leader has four parts, namely:

- Organization
- Program
- Morale – condition of character and mind.
- Leadership – the greatest of them all

The organization, the morale of followers, and the program of any institution, including the church usually go where the leadership goes. Joseph's character and acts were good qualities for a leader.

Any leader with these qualities will have success. The following much-needed leadership principles are good qualities for church leaders. Principle mean "rule of action". It also means "truth that is a base for other truths"

A Christian leader must have a strong **Certainty**. Certainty is a sure fact or freedom from doubt-God prepared and kept Joseph safe for HIS purpose (Genesis 42 : 37- 43) this is a testimony that a christian leader must have a sense of call to be Gods leader. His firm belief gives him/Her a personal desire for leadership ministry. S/he would do it with proud and self respecting character. "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God" (Romans 1:1)

A Christian leader must have an **Integrity** that no one can question.

Integrity is being honest or truthful. It also is living and doing right." Can we find anyone like this man.....?He (Pharaoh) had him ride in a chariot...." (Genesis 41: 38, 43)Joseph was true to himself, even when others lied against him and gave him trouble. He kept himself pure and honourable. He knew that it was important to keep integrity in front of God and man.

Apostle Paul listed integrity as a needed quality for Christian leaders. *A leader must be free from blame* (1 Timothy 3:2) A leader stands for God before the people inside and outside of the church. *A Christian leader knows the difference between right and wrong. S/he chooses the right and does the right* (Acts 5: 27-32)

A leader needs to have **Capability** that no one can deny.

Capability is having fitness or ability. It also is being able. *“Then Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, Go to Joseph and do what he tells you”* (Genesis 39:55) amongst all good traits, he was easy to teach. Church leaders can learn much from good mentors.

*A leader depends on God to change from making mistakes to advancing things for God, others and himself.* (Genesis 45: 4-9)

A leader must properly use his God or man-given **Authority**.

Authority is legal power to ensure people obey. *“Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh”* (Genesis 39:46) Joseph knew who gave him the authority as a leader. Every leader has a leader. A person is not a leader when no one is following him. *A Christian does not forget that his leadership depends on responsibility that goes with authority.* (2 Corinthians 5:9-10) Responsibility is being able to think and act in a reasonable way.

A leader must have **Accountability** that no one can argue with.

Accountability is being responsible. *So Potiphar told Joseph to take good care of everything he owned* (Genesis 39:6) *So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I am putting you in charge of the whole land of Egypt”* (Genesis 41:41) Joseph loved to do reports and reviews. He opened his books for all to see (transparent). He believed that honesty is a good policy. He served 80 years in Egypt with good and respected positions. God and people expect the church leaders to have all of Joseph’s qualities. Good leaders accept responsibility for the results of their decisions. *A Christian leader knows how to make good decisions. S/he then lives with the decisions s/he has made.* (2 Corinthians 5:10)

A leader needs to show **Loyalty** that will not change.

Loyalty is being faithful. It is also being faithful to promise. It, too, is being faithful to duty. Joseph was loyal to Pharaoh who trusted him and gave him position and power. *“Joseph stayed in Egypt along with all his father’s family. He lived a 110 years* (Genesis 50:23) He went to Egypt as a as a Hebrew. He blessed Egypt with his loyal service. He was always loyal to God and his people Israel. Loyalty is a leadership quality. Loyal leaders are the reasons for healthy churches to grow; they influence others in their ministries through their loyalty to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Loyal leaders produce loyal members.

A leader must know **How to plan and Direct Actions** that do not allow for any mistakes.

Joseph suggested a very good plan to Pharaoh. He presented the steps to make. They included:

- What to do?
- Why do it?
- When to do it?
- Who to do it?
- How to finish it?

Joseph planned not only to save Egypt from hunger, but to make Egypt a great nation. Through this plan, Joseph was able to bring back his loved ones to Egypt and to save them from hunger. His plan was simple. (Genesis 41: 34-37) Those who worked with him understood his plan clearly. God wants Christian leaders to share their vision with other. Vision is power of seeing things by clear thinking. (1Corinthians 11)

## ELECTION OF PCA LEADER/ MODERATOR-ELECT.

Our constitution is really very shallow on this matter, “the ordained minister” this clause must be read together with all other clauses which has to do with the ordination of a minister and his/her qualifications. To say a moderator “must be an ordain minister” is miss-reading the constitution and this could be extremely dangerous. Presbyteries are urged to look at the proposed qualifications for a leader of PCA. It must be clear to PCA’s that the quality of leadership is defined by the quality of its leaders. No quality leaders results in no quality leadership and no quality church. The Presbyterian Church of Africa is in great need of quality leaders.

Election of the church leader must be a free matter; all PCA’s must be allowed to discuss it openly, and without fear. Presbyteries should be allowed to have items in their agenda and propose names for the leadership of the GA. The influence of the WCA/YMCA/YA should also be considered, as much as they are not members of the GA, and can never vote according to our structured ordinance/rules. But this should not stop them from discussing the leadership they would like to see emerging in their church. Qualified leaders are hard to find. But the search becomes even more difficult when we look for the wrong qualifications. Churches invariably seek candidates who are godly and of good reputation. Does the candidate's calling match the position? Is he or she passionate, devoted, and gifted? Good questions, good qualities, but the most important qualification is often overlooked.

In our church we select a moderator-elect who will work with the incumbent moderator to familiarize him/her with the work before he/she takes the chair. For years, this has given us enough time to look for candidates who are wise. Passion and vision are important traits, but wisdom points vision in the right direction and keeps passion pushing in the proper places. The incumbent moderator will have to work more closely with his /her successor.

### **1. Does this person live a life of grace?**

Wise spiritual leaders have a vision of God's flow of grace to us and through us. They move with that flow. The decisions they make in the church about programs, people, and budgets are in tune with God's works of grace and compassion. A wise leader, therefore, will reflect a generosity of spirit, a love for mercy, and the ability to forgive.

Members are warned about people motivated by envy and selfish ambition. Sometimes ambitious people are appointed as leaders because they are willing to step in where others are not. But such self-interest is out of touch with God's grace-work. Wisdom is absent when a leader is looking more to receive than to give. Leaders who will compete with the world’s leaders and not embarrass the PCA in the mist of other churches are greatly needed. WE should

at all times bear in mind that the essence of leadership in the church is to serve with zeal and to influence the actions of others positively.

## **2. Do others seek this person's counsel?**

Wise people influence by planting seeds in the hearts and minds of others. Wise people are trusted. Their words are deep and sound.

For many years PCA has seen people seek out one of our leaders when they needed advice. Is this person approachable? Willing to help other PCA members, is he knowledgeable about the procedures and the constitution of the Church? Is the person strong enough to protect and defend the PCA's constitution and her people in all spheres of life?

## **3. Does this person live a consistent life?**

We need leaders who are consistent, stable, and whose personal lives are congruent with their public personas. There is a need to have integrity or wholeness to who they are, what they think, and

how they act. Integrity is greatly needed in the PCA; we would want to be led by leaders who cannot be questioned morally. Who have a high moral standard and treat the PCA leadership as noble a profession.

This person must have enthusiasm and zeal. At least must be well experienced with church politics and five years experience in the field of ministry is highly recommended. He/She must be crystal-clear consistent in his/her personal life as a man/woman (husband) and as a minister of PCA. When a leader speaks to the congregation, there is immediate trust because everyone knows that with him/her what you see is what you get, his/her integrity is not tainted.

## **4. Does this person show depth of thought?**

Wise leaders want their decisions to be based on biblical principles, and they are willing to make the mental and spiritual effort to discern them. Beyond asking why a decision should be made, a wise leader discerns the underlying values that are shaping church life.

Often seek the opinion of colleagues; because his wisdom is evident by the depth of thought he brings to every discussion. His opinions are not designed to please people, or to take the safe alternative, but to plunge through the superficial to the depths of underlying principles. A PCA leader must be greatest passion on development and education, because the church is semi-paralyzed in these aspects.

Wisdom dictates that we do not selfishly promote our preferences, but distinguish between issues of style and substance. Wisdom prevents us from feeling threatened by new ideas. When we are wise, we can freely admit how often we succumb to foolishness.

## **5. Does this person make impartial Judgments'?**

A leader's judgments endanger trust only if people see that the judgments do not waver from one situation to the next. Children aren't the only ones to say, "That's not fair!" Sensitivity to justice is true of everyone. The people in our churches are always looking for fairness and justice. The kind of leader PCA would look for is someone who will not practice favoritisms and by so doing promote schism in the church. We want a unifier, one who would not allow the body of Christ to be divided. We have examples of leaders who have demonstrated fair-mindedness in their judgments; people have learned to trust them. E.g. Bottoman; MM Kondlo and many others.

## **6. Does this person understand suffering?**

Much wisdom is borne out of pain. It strips us down to bare essentials; it puts in perspective the things that matter; it teaches the things that belong to the soul. Wise people know how to remain true to their convictions while desiring to understand divergent points of view. They are willing to adapt their thinking because they realize their own fallibility.

As Ecclesiastes puts it: "Sorrow is better than laughter, because a sad face is good for the heart. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of pleasure" (7:3-4). This leader must understand PCA sufferings, hiccups, and walk away from injecting that to the church.

## **7. The PCA leader must have all**

You might say, "I don't know if I know anybody in my church who would meet all these criteria." You're not alone. Any wisdom that we do find in ourselves or in other leaders is a work in progress. We want teachable leaders.

Nonetheless, we should never assign leadership roles to people who would be described by Proverbs as "unwise." Our constitution says it is reproachful to place ministry to the ignorant men. If a person is imprudent, self-absorbed, unmerciful, or given to partiality, his/her foot and mouth are quick to be tainted by corruption, he or she should not be assigned a leadership role, It doesn't matter if that person is the only one willing to lead the church, or if that person has the most passion and zeal. If he or she shows a void of wisdom, then someone else should be assigned. He is dangerous to the stability of the body of Christ and most of all to him/herself.

## **8. Education**

Education is known as the key in many aspects of life, the church for many years has undermined the power of knowledge and education. Leaders who are not educated will not be able to think beyond the walls of their church. Development will not happen and we will have no progress in our deliberations and the church will never be relevant to the members. The church has taken a good investment decision to invest in the education of their ministers. The level of education for probationers to qualify for ordination is clearly stipulated in the constitution.

Education will create opportunities for our leaders and create better opportunities for our church.

### **9. Look from his/her circuit and his Presbytery.**

Is the person performing well in his/her circuit and Presbytery? If he doesn't bring the required budget to the Presbytery, because he/she could not motivate his people to work towards their obligated mandate, how is s/he going to handle the huge spectrum of the size of the GA. If the administration in his own circuit is in tatters, such a person will have to be constantly developed and monitored before he could be a member GA. The history of his/her ministry will be a reflection of his/her leadership.

### **10. Praying Person.**

The PCA is in great need of spiritual leaders, who are devoted in prayer and believe in praying for the church and for his divine guidance in the position of trust. A leader who will enrich the church spiritually, and look up to God for wisdom and guidance. "Praying leaders are those who are saved by the Holy Spirit, they are not canvassed" (Aristotle).

