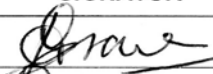
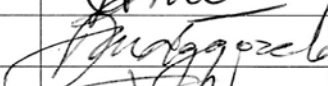
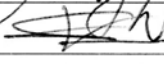
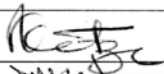
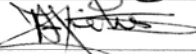
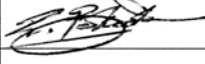



**CAPE SYNOD MODERAMEN**

POSITION		MEMBERS PRESENT	SIGNATUR
Moderator		Rev. Pieter Grove	
Assessor		Rev. Barnabas Ngqozela	
Scribe		Rev. Elbie Vinqi	
Actuarius		Rev. Dawid P Carelse	
CAPE SYNOD PRESBYTERIES	POOSITION	MEMBERS PRESENT	SIGNATURE
Aliwal Noord	Church council	Deacon Esmé Boss'r	
Amandelboom	Minister	Rev. Fabian Clyde Kotze	
	Church council	Eld. Andries Tieties	
Cala	Minister	Rev. Zandisile Moses Bokoda	
	Church council	Eld. Bulelani Caleb Mateta	
Clanwilliam	Minister	Rev. Donovan Koordom	
	Church council	Eld Hermanus Bienes	



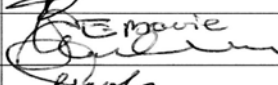
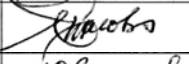
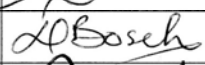
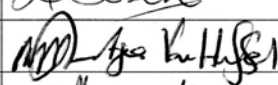
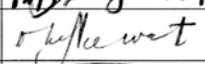

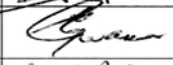


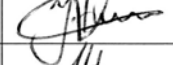
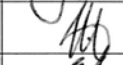



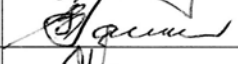
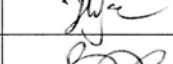

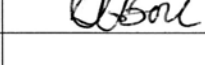
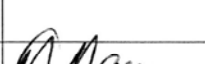
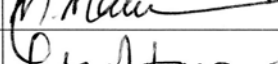
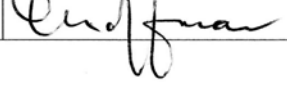
*Callahan*

*Church Council*

*Sr Gladys Cryer*

*Cryer*



<b>Colesberg</b>	Church council	Eld. Ndoyithini Richard Vers	
<b>George</b>	Minister	Rev. Bonga Mbenenge	
	Church council	Deacon Esterina Bowie	
<b>Graaff-Reinet</b>	Minister	Rev. Clive Donald Jacobs	
	Church council	Eld. Deveraux Haig Bosch	
<b>Kraaifontein</b>	Minister	Prof. Mary-Anne Plaatjies-Van Huffel	
	Church council	SEACON Eld. Doris Monica Neewat	
<b>Monti</b>	Minister	Rev. Bulelani Vete	
	Church council	Eld. Bonisile Mlungwana	
<b>Mthatha</b>	Minister	Rev. Joseph Konzekile Ntlatywa	
	Church council	Eld. Kwezi Giba	
<b>Port Elizabeth</b>	Minister	Rev. Luxolo Titimani	
	Church council	Eld. Theresa Heydenrycht	
<b>SA Gestig</b>	Minister	Rev. Brian Handel	
	Church council	Deacon Cila Opperman	
<b>Sarepta</b>	Minister	Rev. Gerald David Swartz	
	Church council	Eld. Sarena Thelma Hamman	
<b>Steinkopf</b>	Minister	Rev. Jacques Warrant Jacobs	
	Church council	Eld. Bernard Stephen Engel	
<b>Stellenbosch</b>	Minister	Rev. Daniel Carlo Bock	
	Church council	Eld. Phillipus Jacobus van Wyk	
<b>Uitenhage</b>	Minister	Rev. Mark Peter Manasse	
	Church council	Eld. Dawid James Hoffman	



*WELLINGTON CHURCH COUNCIL Eld. Adam de Vries*

<b>Wellington</b>	Minister	Dr. Jacques Walter Beukes	<i>J. Beukes</i>
<b>Worcester</b>	Minister	Rev. Malcolm Patrick James	<i>M. James</i>
	Church council	Eld. Wilfred Johannes Hartman	<i>W. Hartman</i>
<b>Zuurbraak</b>	Minister	Rev. Jacobson Andy Strauss	<i>A. Strauss</i>
	Church council	Eld. Absalom Willemse	<i>A. Willemse</i>



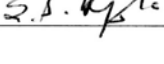

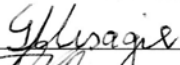
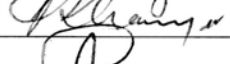

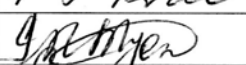
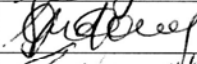
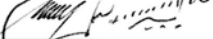

**FREE STATE AND LESOTHO**

Moderator	Rev Isaac Khambule		
Scribe	Rev BCT Mochekoane		<i>B. Mochekoane</i>
Actuary	Rev Langa Petrus Fokase		<i>L. Fokase</i>
<b>PRESBYTERY</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
<b>Bethulie</b>	Church council	Eld. NA Makhosane	<i>N. Makhosane</i>
	Church council	Eld. R Power	<i>R. Power</i>
<b>Bloemfontein</b>	Minister	Rev MTJ Letsie	<i>M. Letsie</i>
	Church council	Eld. L Masoetsa	<i>L. Masoetsa</i>
<b>Botshabelo</b>	Minister	Rev. BP Staat	
	Church council	Eld. TS Matlokotsi	<i>T. Matlokotsi</i>
<b>Heilbron</b>	Minister	Rev LI Tabi	<i>L. Tabi</i>
	Church council	Eld. T Motaung	<i>T. Motaung</i>
<b>Kroonstad</b>	Minister	Rev. MG Mohoje	<i>M. Mohoje</i>
	Church council	Eld. PD Mosiane	<i>P. Mosiane</i>
<b>Thabong</b>	Minister	Rev. TG Lekoala	<i>T. Lekoala</i>
	Church council	Elder EM Makhasane	<i>E. Makhasane</i>
<b>Wesselsbron</b>	Minister	Rev. MP Moahloli	<i>M. Moahloli</i>





Winburg	Minister	Rev. MD Selekisho	
	Church council	Elder NC Mohapi	
Witsieshoek	Minister	Rev. MS Mothopeletsi	
	Church council	Eld. CS Kolobe	

#### KWAZULU NATAL

Moderator	Rev TE Ngema (Acting Moderator)		
Assessor	Rev TE Ngema		
Scribe	Rev SJ Majola		
Actuary	Rev HA Mbatha		
PRESBYTERY	POSITION	MEMBERS PRESENT	SIGNATURE
Greytown	Minister	Rev. Nhlanhla Nicholas Chamane	
Utrecht	Minister	Rev. Thulane Samuel Zuma	
	Church council	Eld. Gladys Visagie	
Thekwini	Minister	Rev. Pieter D Khanyile	
Thukela	Minister	Rev. Isaac Ngema	
Vryheid	Minister	Rev. Pieter Kriel	
	Church council	Eld. Nonhlanhla J Myeni	
Zululand	Minister	Rev. Skhumbuzo Jeremiah Ndlovu	
	Church council	Eld. Mandla Nxumalo	

#### 2.4 NAMIBIA

Moderator	Rev Leon Lourens Husselmann		
Assessor	Rev Edwin Matundu		
Scribe	Rev William Johannes Julius		

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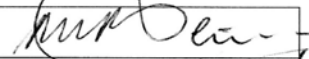
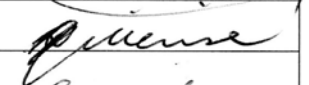
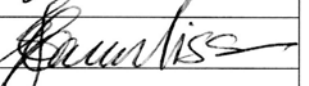
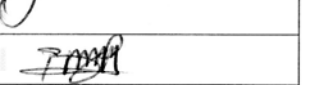
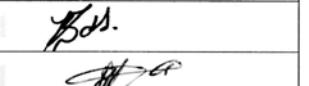
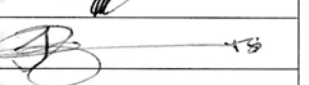
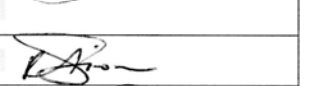



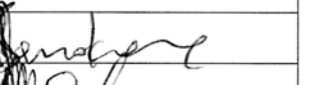
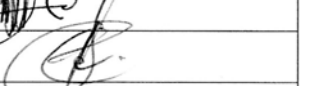
Actuary	Rev Adriaan A Du Plessis		<i>Adriaan Plessis</i>
<b>PRESBYTERY</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
Mariental	Minister	Rev Dawid Petrus Mouton	<i>Dawid Mouton</i>
	Church Council	Eld. Andre Diergaardt	<i>Andre Diergaardt</i>
Oshakati	Church council	Eld. Reinoldt Hashetu Nghikofa	<i>Reinoldt Hashetu Nghikofa</i>
Takwasa	Minister Deacon	Rev Matthias Sitarara Sikanga IZABEL N. Mendis-Nayana	<i>Matthias Sitarara Sikanga</i> <i>Izabel Mendis-Nayana</i>
Windhoek	Minister	Rev. Jan Johannes Nel	<i>Jan Johannes Nel</i>
	Church council	Eld. Florida Cisseline Beukes	<i>Florida Cisseline Beukes</i>
ORUMANA	Church Council	Eld. ELTON-John Hepuranga	<i>Elton-John Hepuranga</i>
<b>NORTHERN SYNOD</b>			
Moderator	Rev Dr RE Moraka		<i>RE Moraka</i>
Assessor	Rev Morwameno Hendrik Moima		<i>Morwameno Hendrik Moima</i>
Scribe	Dr Winnifred Motsei Moime		<i>DR Winnifred Motsei Moime</i>
Actuary	Rev Prof Christina Landman		<i>Christina Landman</i>
<b>PRESBYTERY</b>	<b>PRIMARIUS</b>	<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
	Church council	Eld MPM Maboea	<i>MPM Maboea</i>
Barberton	Minister	Rev JP Kriel	<i>JP Kriel</i>
	Church council	Eld PR Mathenjwa	<i>PR Mathenjwa</i>
Bethesda	Minister	Rev MT Xaba	<i>MT Xaba</i>
	Church council	Eld RW Segoa	<i>RW Segoa</i>
Brits	Minister	Rev LT Motaung	<i>LT Motaung</i>
	Church council	Eld. MK Kgasi	<i>MK Kgasi</i>
Burger	Minister	Rev. MJ Moroaswi	<i>MJ Moroaswi</i>
	Church council	Eld. SS Maesela	<i>SS Maesela</i>
Ga-Rankuwa	Minister	Rev. JR Rakoma	<i>JR Rakoma</i>



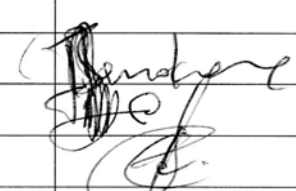
	Church council	Eld. E Ngwenya	<i>E. Ngwenya</i>
Hammanskraal	Minister	Rev. EMK Maphike	<i>[Signature]</i>
	Church council	Eld. Z Thibedi	<i>[Signature]</i>
Kranspoort	Minister	Rev. MA Magwira	<i>[Signature]</i>
	Church council	Eld. SA Maputla	
Letaba	Minister	Rev. MRC Mokhele	<i>mokhele</i>
	Church council	Eld. MW Mdungazi	<i>[Signature]</i>
Lydenburg	Minister	Rev. SS Mokoena	<i>[Signature]</i>
	Church council	Eld. DP Mnisi	<i>[Signature]</i>
Mamelodi	Minister	Rev Makulubele	
	Church council	Eld. Matuludi	
Middelburg	Minister	Rev. PP Molehe	<i>Molehe</i>
	Church council	Eld. AM Segone	<i>[Signature]</i>
Polokwane	Minister	Rev. VD Mabuza	<i>[Signature]</i>
	Church council	Eld. MA Rasegala	<i>[Signature]</i>
Saulspoort	Minister	Rev. OE Ditshwene	<i>[Signature]</i>
	Church council	Eld. KT Masisi	<i>[Signature]</i>
Tshwane	Minister	Rev. MJ Molawa	<i>[Signature]</i>
	Church council	Eld. GEM Ngwenya	<i>[Signature]</i>
Warmbad	Minister	Rev. JB Maluleka	
	Church council	Eld. MJ Mabusela	<i>[Signature]</i>
Zeerust	Minister	Rev. ML Foko / Rev VA Mogogah	<i>[Signature]</i>
	Church council	Eld. OE Mokotedi	<i>[Signature]</i>
Mokopane	Minister	Rev. L.J. NTHOESANE	<i>[Signature]</i>
	Church council	Eld K.P. Mocheko	<i>[Signature]</i>



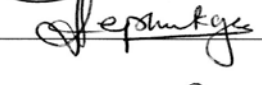
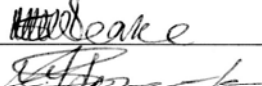

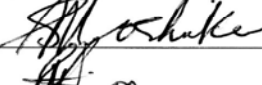
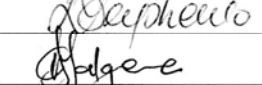

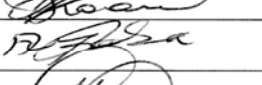




**PHORORO**

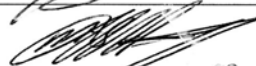
Moderator	Rev MG Betha		
Assessor	Rev DS Willemse		
Scribe	Rev J Julies		
Actuary	Rev CJ Cornelissen		
<b>PRESBYTERY</b>		<b>PRIMARIUS</b>	
<b>Kimberley</b>	Minister	Rev PB Makoko	
	Church council	Eld. N Snyders	
<b>Kuruman</b>	Minister	Eld. E Mokwena	
	Church council	Eld. OJ Mokgweetsi	
<b>Prieska</b>	Minister	Rev SM Terhart	
	Church council	Eld. RA Simon	
<b>Upington</b>	Minister	Rev ER Julius	
	Church council	Deac. A Willemse	

**SOUTHERN SYNOD**

Moderator	Rev. Prof. LJ Modise		
Assessor	Rev. BB Senokoane		
Scribe	Rev. KS Mabelane		
Actuary	Rev. L Kekana		
<b>PRESBYTERY</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>

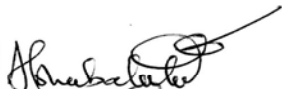
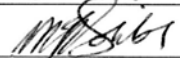


East Rand	Minister	Rev. Dr. M.T Masuku	
	Church council	Eld. S Thage	
Ennerdale	Minister	Rev V. Lutchman	
Evaton	Minister	Rev. Dr. T Lephakga	
	Church council	Eld. Ntshala	
Far East Rand	Minister	Rev. TI Leputla	
	Church council	Eld. MD Ruiters	
Johannesburg	Minister	Rev. MD Shai	
	Church council	Eld. Maake	
Lichtenburg	Minister	Rev. Mpembe	
	Church council	Eld. Sewedi	
Meadowlands	Minister	Rev. ME Kanyane	
	Church council	Eld. Makobonyane	
Ottosdal	Minister	Ev. Moshele	
	Church council	Eld. Lolwane	
Potchefstroom	Minister	Rev. DJ Taiwe	
	Church council	Eld. DC Seiphehlo	
Sharpeville	Minister	Rev. MD Makgene	
	Church Council	Elder P. Segele	
Standerton	Minister	Rev. Lenkoana	
Wes Rand <i>west-rand</i>	Minister	Rev. AM Foba	
	Church Council	Eld. TD Tholwana	
Witwatersrand	Minister	Rev Z. Mokgoebo	

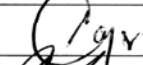
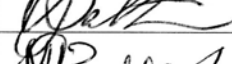


*Standerton Church Council O.S. Highway* 





	Church council	Eld. Tshabalala	
Wolmaranstad	Minister	Rev. J Bodibe	

**CAPE SYNOD**

PRESBYTERY	POSITION	MEMBERS PRESENT	SIGNATURE
Caledon	Church council	Sr. Gladys Cryer	
Carnavon	Minister	Rev. Deon Scharneck	
Ebenezer	Minister	Rev Vivaldo Jacques Valentine	
	Church council	Eld. Millicent Valda Pockpas-Jolay	
Malmesbury	Minister	Rev. Lysander Leonardo Prins	



**UNITING REFORMED CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA**

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**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD 2016**

**BENONI**

**3-9 October 2016**

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**2. MINUTES DAY TWO**

**4 OCTOBER 2016**

**OPENING**

The Cape Synod leads the opening under the guidance of Rev P Grove according to Article 1 of the Belhar Confession.

**NEW DELEGATES**

Northern Synod

<b>Tshwane</b>	<b>Primarius</b>	<b>Secundus</b>
Minister	<b>Rev. M J Molawa</b>	

**Southern Synod**

Standerton: New delegate. Referred to Temp **SMJM**

**Total number of Delegates during constituting was 148**

**ANOUNCEMENTS**

Sleeping arrangements: A request of the Scribe to adhere to the sleeping arrangements

**ELECTION COMMISSION**

Rev Ngqozela explains again the process.

Ruling: Elections wait until the temporary **SMJM** report is available

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OF URCSA TO THE GENERAL SYNODMEETINGS OF EXECUTIVE**

*Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 1: Meetings: To be notedThe GS take note of the meetings of the Moderamen*



## ISSUES REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE BY GS 2012

### 2.1 GSC Meetings

#### GS 2016 Decision 14 GSC Meetings

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 2: GSC Meetings 2013-15: **Approved.**

The GS approves the arrangements for the GSC meetings.

### 2.3 URCSA Strategic plan (stand over)

### 2.4 General Secretary

The report is discussed and about 10 of the delegates take part in the discussion of the report.

#### GS 2016 Decision 15

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 4: General Secretary appointment.

The GS takes note of the process followed since GS 2012: **Approved**

The GS give guidance on the implementation of GS 2008 and GS 2012 decisions regarding the appointment of a General Secretary: **Approved**

*Amendment:*

*Decision: The GS refer the recommendation to the Temp Commission for Finance and Administration to assist with a financial report before a final decision can be made.*

### 2.5 Homosexuality (GS 2012: Decision 20 Recommendation 10). **Noted**

### 2.6 General Synod 2016: 1-8 October 2016

#### GS 2016 Decision 16

Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 5: General Synod 2016: **Approved**

The GSC: Approves the arrangements for GS 2016.

## ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

### 3.1 World Council of Churches: **WCC**

#### GS 2016 Decision 17

**Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 6: WCC: Religious leaders from Africa region on preventing incitement that could lead to atrocity crimes**



1. The General Synod of URCSA affirms based on the Belhar Confession the human dignity of all notwithstanding race, class, culture and affirms resistance to hate speech, incitement, institutional racism, state-sanctioned violence in all of its forms.  
**Noted**
2. The General Synod of URCSA takes note of the upsurge of racism worldwide as well as in South Africa. **Noted**
3. The General Synod of URCSA takes note of the Blacks lives Matter movement.  
**Noted**
4. The General Synod of URCSA takes note of the Plan of Action for Religious Leaders from Africa to Prevent Incitement to Violence that could lead to Atrocity Crimes. **Noted**
5. The General Synod of URCSA affirms to protect and to promote universal human rights and human dignity. **Approved**
6. The General Synod of URCSA affirms to prevent and counter incitement to discrimination, hostility and violence. **Approved**
7. The General Synod of URCSA affirms to reinforce interfaith alliances and networks and, when necessary, release joint press statements and carry out joint missions.  
**Approved**
8. The General Synod of URCSA affirms to confront any ideology that promotes violent extremism. **Approved**
9. The General Synod of URCSA affirms to prevent and counter incitement to gender-based violence. **Approved**
10. General Synod of URCSA affirms that religious leaders and actors should work to ensure that government demonstrate respect for all religions and do not discriminate against any religion, or the practitioners of any religion. **Approved**

**2. Regional Workshop on Birth Registration and Gender Discriminatory Nationality Laws in Africa Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, 11-13 May 2016 (See WCC addendum 2)**

**GS 2016 Decision 18**

**Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 7: WCC: Birth Registration and Gender Discriminatory Nationality Laws in Africa**



1. The General Synod of URCSA takes note of the problem of statelessness in the continent. **Approved**
  2. The General Synod of URCSA urge congregation to raise awareness of statelessness, gender equality and birth registration. **Approved**
  3. The General Synod of URCSA take note of the awareness-raising event on 4 November (the anniversary of the #IBelong Campaign) (ALL + Bread for the World) **Noted**
  4. The General Synod of URCSA take note of the **UNHCR #IBelong** website, including the help page, where stateless individuals can receive assistance from relevant organizations in their country. **Noted**
  5. The General Synod of URCSA urges local congregations to welcome, based on the principles embedded in the Belhar Confession, stateless people in the local congregations and to create support for them. **Approved**
- 3. Peacebuilding and Reconciliation Consultation: The Place of the Church” Soweto, South Africa – June 8-10, 2016 (See WCC addendum 3)**

**GS 2016 Decision 19: Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 8: WCC Peacebuilding and Reconciliation Consultation: The Place of the Church”**

1. The General Synod of URCSA takes with appreciation note of the Peace-Building and Reconciliation Consultation held in Soweto. **Approved**
2. The General Synod of URCSA takes cognisance of the following ways indicated at the Consultation to help the churches engage in peacebuilding in the context of justice and peace, namely, **Approved**
  - i. Solidarity and witnessing together (accompaniment) at national, regional and international levels, such as Program to Combat Racism (**PCR**), the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel (**EAPPI**), International Center for Inter-faith Peace and Harmony (**ICP**), the **WCC**’s Ecumenical Office to the United Nations (**EUNO**).
  - ii. Theological reflection and teaching, such as Kairos South Africa and Kairos Palestine, and the Palestinian and Israeli Ecumenical Forum (**PIEF**).
  - iii. Capacity-building for peacebuilding, such as the Ecumenical Framework for Advocacy for Peace, the Ecumenical Peace Advocacy Network (**EPAN**), and



the Arms Trade Treaty campaign.

3. The URCSA commit her based on the principles embedded in the Confession of Belhar, namely, unity, reconciliation and justice, to promote peace-building and reconciliation in church and society. **Approved**

#### **4. Central Committee of the WCC, Trondheim, Norway 22-28 June 2016**

##### **4.1. Statement/comment on outcome of UK referendum on EU membership ('Brexit')**

(see WCC addendum 4)

##### **GS 2016 Decision 20: Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 9: WCC UK referendum on EU membership ('Brexit')**

1. The General Synod of URCSA takes with appreciation note of the statement of the WCC Central Committee on Brexit. **Noted**
2. The General Synod of URCSA invites members to pray for God's guidance and wisdom for religious, political and community leaders in the UK, in Europe and around the world. **Approved**

##### **4.2. Statement on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Peace Process (see WCC addendum 5 and 6)**

##### **GS 2016 Decision 21**

##### **Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 10: WCC Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Peace Process.**

1. The General Synod of URCSA takes note of the **Statement on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Peace Process of the WCC. Noted**
2. Based on the principles of the Belhar Confession, unity, reconciliation and justice the General Synod of URCSA calls on all Congregations and Regional Synods
  - a) To recognize the danger of using scripture in any way justify occupation, and to recognize Christian Zionism as a form of Christian fundamentalism endangering especially indigenous Palestinian Christian communities. **Approved**
  - b) To listen to and respond to the voices of Palestinian Christians (including those expressed through the 'Kairos Palestine' document); **Approved**



- c) To promote and support all non-violent efforts to end the occupation (including considering appropriate economic and other measures); **Approved**
- d) To promote inter-faith dialogue and cooperation with Jewish and Muslim partners on the pilgrimage of justice and peace in South Africa. **Approved**
- e) The General Synod of URCSA invites congregations to join together annually the World Week for Peace in Palestine/Israel of advocacy and action in support of an end to the illegal occupation of Palestine and a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. **Approved**
- f) The General Synod of URCSA requests the Scribe Synodi of the General Synod and/or General Secretary to forward information concerning the World Week for Peace in Palestine/Israel on an annual basis to Regional Synods which on their account will ensure to furnish information to the local congregations. **Approved**

#### **GS 2016 Decision 22**

1. GS decides that URCSA encourages Bible studies that unpack issues of Christian Zionism, anti-Semitism, to make sure we as Christians in URCSA are not unknowingly or unintentionally support an ideology that resemble the nature and features of apartheid.
2. GS decides that URCSA on the basis of the Belhar Confession critically condemns any justification of Christian Zionism or religious/theological/biblically interpretations that equates the present Israel with the Old Testament Israel and preaches it.

Proposed by Rev. P Grove

Seconded: Rev. SM Lekoana

#### **4.3. Leadership of the Consultative Bodies. Noted**

#### **4.4. The re-admittance of the DRC to the WCC**

Stand over when the report on the DRC is tabled



## **3.2 WORLD COMMUNION OF REFORMED CHURCHES: WCRC**

### **3.2.1 2-4 February 2014 Grand Rapids Faith Confessions in the Life of WCRC Member Denominations**

#### **Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 12: Faith Confessions in the Life of WCRC Member Denominations**

1. The GS takes note of the consultation and ask Regional Synods also to create opportunities where the state of and function of Confessions in URCSA can be discussed. **Noted**

### **3.2.2 4 – 7 Feb 2014: Consultation on communion in Grand Rapids**

#### **GS 2016 Decision 23**

##### **Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 13: Consultation on communion**

1. The GS takes note of the consultation and asks Regional Synods to create opportunities where the report can be discussed. **Approved**

### **3.2.3 Churches addressing Racism in Southern Africa: A programme of WCRC (Exec Addendum 7)**

#### **GS 2016 Decision 24**

##### **Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 14: Churches addressing Racism in Southern Africa: A programme of WCRC**

1. The GS approves the programme for Churches addressing Racism in Southern Africa. **Approved**

### **3.2.4 25 – 29 September 2014 Abuja, Nigeria: Invitation to ACRC consultation on celebration of the 10th anniversary of the ACCRA confession.**

#### **GS 2016 Decision 25**

##### **Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 15: ACRC consultation on celebration of the 10th anniversary of the ACCRA confession. 25 – 29 September 2014**

1. The GS tasks the CMPW to arrange events to celebrate the ACCRA confession. **Approved**





### **3.2.5 WCRC General Council 2017: Hanover Germany**

#### **GS 2016 Decision 26**

##### **Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 16: WCRC General Council. For approval**

1. The GS approves that the Executive make the necessary arrangements for a delegation to attend the WCRC General Council in 2017. **Approved**

### **3.3 ALL AFRICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES: AACC**

#### **GS 2016 Decision 27**

##### **Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 17: AACC Approved**

1. The GS approves the continued involvement with AACC

### **3.4 SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES: SACC**

#### **GS 2016 Decision 28**

##### **Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 18: SACC**

1. The GS takes note of URCSA's membership in the SACC. **Noted**
2. The GS request that URCSA on local level must assist that the provincial structures of SACC can become functional again. **Approved**
3. The GS takes note of the numerous statements issued by the SACC. **Noted**
4. The GS supports the programmes of SACC for 2016. **Approved.**

### **3.5 NATIONAL CHURCH LEADERS CONSULTATION/INITIATIVE**

#### **GS 2016 Decision 29**

##### **Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 19: NCLF**

1. The GS endorses the involvement of the Executive in the NCLF: **Approved**

### **3.6 REPORT ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, (CRRF)**

#### **GS 2016 Decision 30**

##### **Executive Report 2016 Recommendation 20: THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, (CRRF)**

1. The General Synod takes note of the involvement of the URCSA in the discussion of meetings and discussions regarding religion and education and the upcoming court case.



2. The General Synod affirms that Religious Instruction, namely programme of instruction (catechism, Sunday school, Bible classes) which is aimed at providing information regarding a particular set of religious beliefs with a view to promoting adherence thereto is primarily the responsibility of the home, the family and the religious community and is not the primary responsibility of the public schools.

**Approved**

3. The General Synod takes with gratitude note that the School Policy makes provision for Religion Education which enable pupils to engage with a variety of religious traditions in a way that encourages them to grow in their inner spiritual and moral dimensions and will lead them to an informed understanding of the religious identities of others. **Approved**
4. The General Synod takes with gratitude note that the School Policy makes provision that Religious Observances is permissible during the school day. Religious observance is those activities and behaviours during a school day which recognise and express the views, beliefs and commitments of a particular religion, and may include gatherings of adherents, prayer times, dress and diets. The term “religious observance” includes acts of formal worship within a particular faith tradition, such as Mass in Roman Catholic schools and Christmas carol services in non-denominational schools, as well as any activity that is specific to a particular religion and would not be practised by members of other faith communities. Examples of these include Jewish pupils eating kosher food, wearing a turban, Muslim pupils fasting during Ramadan, and Christian pupils singing Christmas and Easter hymns. Religious observance – faith specific worship, dietary rules, and dress code. A school day includes the contact time between teachers and learners but includes also breaks and compulsory activities, including assemblies, designated extra-mural activities. **Approved**
5. The General Synod affirms that the rights of all learners to hold the religious beliefs and values that they or their parents choose should be protected in the public schools. **Approved**
6. The General Synod affirms that a school, or any other public institution, teachers, school boards may not impose specific beliefs and values on students or on others that it serves. Once a school allows the display of one religion's symbols or the singing of



holiday songs associated with a specific religion, it must allow the display of any religion's symbols and have a variety of holiday songs from different religious traditions. **Approved**

7. The General Synod affirms that compulsory participation in other faiths' observance is unacceptable, and pupils and parents from minority faith communities must not be pressurised to participate in faith-specific worship. The URCSA do not have any objection to Christian assemblies in schools, provided that pupils of other faiths and of no faith are catered for sensitively and separately, and parents are fully informed about the alternative arrangements. **Approved**
8. The URCSA affirms that educational institutions, especially public schools, must promote a spirit of openness in which there would be no overt or covert attempt to indoctrinate pupils into any particular belief or religion. Confessional or sectarian forms of religious instruction in public schools are therefore inappropriate for a religiously diverse and democratic society. Public schools should therefore avoid adopting a particular religion, or a limited set of religions, that advances sectarian or particular interests. The General Synod cautions against a confessional, sectarian approach to religion or any effort to proselytise learners at public schools. **Approved**

**Decision (GS 2016 Decision 31):** On point 1 amends to read:

The General Synod takes note that URCSA's participation in the discussion of meetings regarding religion in schools and the upcoming court case is based and inspired by the Belhar Confession.

Proposed: by Rev. Z Mokgoboe

Seconded: Dr. T Lephakga

**TEA**

Announcements

Northern Synod: Mokopane Presbytery

Rev. L J Nthoesane

Eld. KP Mocheke

Southern Synod

Rev. Kanyane

