



URCSA

NEWS • NUUS

MARCH 2026

GENERAL SYNOD COMMUNIQUE

NOTICE OF GENERAL SYNOD SITTING 2026 Hosted by the Free State & Lesotho Regional Synod

Date: 28 September – 4 October 2026
Venue: Avani Maseru Hotel, Lesotho
Commencement Time: 14h00



Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church. We wish to bring to your attention several important matters relating to the upcoming General Synod 2026.

1. DATE AND PLACE OF THE SYNOD

1.1 The General Synod 2022 resolved that the Ninth General Synod of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA) be hosted by the Free State & Lesotho Regional Synod. The General Synod Order Commission has accordingly set the dates for the General Synod 2026 as 28 September – 4 October 2026 in Lesotho.

1.2 In collaboration with the leadership of the Free State & Lesotho Regional Synod, the Order Commission has secured the Avani Maseru Hotel as the official venue, after exploring several alternative options.

1.3 Arrival and registration will take place on Monday, 28 September 2026. The Synod sitting will commence at 14h00 and will conclude on Sunday, 4 October 2026, with the celebration of the Holy Communion service.

2. COST PER DELEGATE

2.1 The cost per delegate will be R16 000.00 / N\$16 000.00 (Sixteen Thousand Rand/ Namibian Dollars). This amount includes accommodation, meals, transport, and the cost of the official Synod agenda.

2.2 The Presbyteries must send their monies (delegate fees) to the Regional Synods who will then make the direct payment to

the General Synod. The due date for payment is 01 July 2026.

2.3 Payment to the hotel must be finalized as soon as possible to secure and confirm the booking.

3. OFFICIAL NOTICE OF MEETING

The official notification of the Ninth General Synod was announced at the GSC 2025 and subsequently communicated through the Minutes of GSC 2025 to all delegates, Ministries, Scribes, and Moderators of the Regional Synods. The formal notice will further be published in the official URCSA Newsletter.

4. DUE DATES FOR REPORTS FROM REGIONS AND MINISTRIES

4.1 In order for the Scriba Synodi to prepare, print, and dispatch the Agenda, all reports must reach him no later than 22 June 2026. Ministries and Regional Synods are requested to plan timeously to ensure that their reports are submitted on time. Reports must cover the period October 2022 to May/June 2026.

4.2 In accordance with the Church Order, all proposals seeking amendments to the Church Order and Regulations must reach the Scriba Synodi at least three months prior to the General Synod. The due date for such proposals is 28 June 2026, allowing the Permanent Support Ministry for Judicial Matters sufficient time to process them and submit them to the Scriba Synodi for inclusion in the Agenda.

4.3 The Church Order further stipulates that the Agenda must be distributed to delegates at least one month in advance. Delegates will therefore receive the Agenda by 24 August 2026. Each delegate will receive a hard copy, and a soft copy will also be made available.

4.4 Provision will be made for second reports and, where necessary, late submissions. These must, however, be communicated timeously to the GS Scriba Synodi.

5. DELEGATES AND CREDENTIALS

5.1 Each Presbytery is required to elect two delegates: one minister and one church council member. Each delegate must also have a Secundus. Presbyteries are requested to take into consideration the decision of the General Synod (2005) regarding the inclusion of female and young representatives among the delegates. All delegates must possess a valid passport for travel.

5.2 Credential letters from the Regional Synods must reach the Scribe no later than 1 June 2026, to enable the Permanent Order Commission to prepare its report for inclusion in the General Synod Agenda.

6. ELECTIONS

It was decided, in accordance with the GS2022 decision, that each Regional Synod forward three (3) names to the General Synod for election (GS 2022, Decision 191). The Actuarius will issue a formal circular to facilitate and guide this process.

Rev Dr EM Monhla (GS SCRIBE)

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SYNOD ACTUARIUS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION: LOSS OF MINISTERIAL STATUS

The Office of the General Synod Actuarium of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA) hereby officially announces the final forfeiture of ministerial status for the following individuals.

Forfeiture of Status: Affected Individuals

1. Mr. Simon Raky Kwape
Former Congregation : URCSA Mabodisa
Saulspoort Presbytery
Northern Regional Synod
2. Mr. David Tukisi
Former Congregation: URCSA Tlhabane
Saulspoort Presbytery
Northern Regional Synod
3. Mr. Eddie Leeuw
Former Congregation: URCSA Steinkopf
Steinkopf Presbytery
Cape Regional Synod

Reasons for Forfeiture: In accordance with the mandates of the General Synodical Commission (GSC) 2025 and the Church Order and Regulations, the ministerial status of these individuals has been terminated for the following reasons:

The GSC has formally noted and ratified the final dismissal and loss of status as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament.

This follows the exhaustion of all relevant disciplinary processes and the confirmation of decisions rendered by the respective Regional Synods (Northern and Cape Synods) and the Presbyteries (Saulspoort and Steinkopf).

Consequently, all three individuals are officially unfrocked and have forfeited all rights, privileges, and titles associated with the office of Minister within URCSA.

Implications for the Church: No congregation or church structure may invite, host, or allow Mr. Kwape, Mr. Tukisi, or Mr. Leeuw to preside over the Sacraments, occupy the pulpit, represent the church, or wear ministerial attire and perform any official function within URCSA.

ISSUED BY: Rev Motlalentwa Godfrey Betha (Actuarium: URCSA General Synod)

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URCSA NEWS TEAM

EDITOR

REV LYSANDER PRINS
REV HENDRY TROMP

JOURNALIST

MRS KEFILOE FOKASE
fokasek@gmail.com

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Rev Dr KK Mokoena

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Office Contact details

General Synod Admin

Ms Marydith Buys

Tel: 067 166 5928

admin.gs@urcsa.org.za