
UNITING REFORMED CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

GENERAL SYNOD

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21 September 2026

TO ALL REGIONAL SYNOD SCRIBES

GS 2026 COMMUNICATION 11 – FINAL COMMUNICATION TO ALL DELEGATES

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As we approach the **9th General Synod of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA)**, to be held from **28 September to 04 October 2026 at Avani Maseru Hotel, Maseru, Lesotho**, all delegates are kindly requested to take note of the following important information and to make the necessary preparations.

1. DAY OF PRAYER FOR GENERAL SYNOD 2026

- 1.1** All Regional Synods, Presbyteries, congregations, ministers, church councils and members are kindly reminded that **Sunday, 27 September 2026**, will be observed as a Day of Prayer for General Synod 2026.
- 1.2** Congregations and members are encouraged to light a candle on this day as we unite in prayer for the upcoming General Synod.
- 1.3** A **special collection for General Synod 2026** is requested on this day. The collection should be paid directly into the General Synod account, using the appropriate payment reference.
- 1.4** Congregations are encouraged to take photographs of their Day of Prayer activities and post them on Facebook and other social media platforms using the official hashtag: **#URCSAGS2026**

2. WEATHER

- 2.1** Delegates are advised to prepare for cold mornings and evenings and mild to warm daytime temperatures in Maseru during the General Synod period.
- 2.2** Delegates are encouraged to bring:
 - A warm jacket, cardigan or coat;
 - Comfortable clothing suitable for changing weather conditions; and
 - Comfortable footwear.
- 2.3** Weather conditions may change, and delegates are therefore encouraged to check the latest weather forecast before travelling.

3. CURRENCY

- 3.1** The official currency of Lesotho is the **Lesotho Loti/Maloti (LSL)**.
- 3.2** The Lesotho Loti is pegged to the **South African Rand (ZAR)** at a 1:1 rate, and the South African Rand is accepted as legal tender in Lesotho.
- 3.3** Delegates are encouraged to have some **South African Rand** available for smaller expenses. Card facilities are also available at the hotel and at many establishments.

NAMIBIAN DELEGATES

- 3.4** Delegates travelling from Namibia are kindly advised that, although the Namibian Dollar (NAD) is linked to the South African Rand at a 1:1 rate, Namibian Dollar notes should not be relied upon for cash payments in Lesotho.
- 3.5** Namibian delegates are therefore encouraged to obtain **South African Rand (ZAR) before travelling** or make use of their bank cards where international transactions are enabled.
- 3.6** Delegates intending to use their bank cards should confirm with their respective banks, where necessary, that their cards are enabled for use in Lesotho.

4. CELLPHONE / TELEPHONE CONNECTION

- 4.1** Delegates travelling from outside Lesotho are advised to ensure that **international roaming is activated** on their mobile phones before travelling.
- 4.2** Delegates should confirm roaming and data charges with their respective mobile service providers before departure.
- 4.3** Delegates are encouraged to make use of the hotel Wi-Fi where available to avoid unnecessary international roaming and data costs.

5. ENTERING LESOTHO BY VEHICLE

- 5.1** Delegates travelling by road are reminded that a **vehicle entry fee of R100.00 per vehicle only** is payable when entering Lesotho.
- 5.2** This is a **vehicle fee and not an individual fee**. Passengers travelling together in one vehicle are therefore not each required to pay R100.00.

6. TRAVEL AND BORDER REQUIREMENTS

- 6.1** Delegates travelling by road are requested to ensure that they have all the necessary travel and vehicle documentation, including:
- **A valid passport;**
 - **A valid driver's licence;**
 - **Vehicle registration documents;**
 - **A letter from the bank or financial institution authorising the vehicle to cross the border,** where the vehicle is financed;
 - **Where the driver is not the registered owner of the vehicle, a letter of authorisation from the registered owner;** and
 - **Delegates must be in possession of a letter of authority from their insurance to cross the border or travel documentation that may be requested by border officials.**

6.2 Delegates are strongly encouraged to check their passports and all travel and vehicle documentation before departure to avoid unnecessary delays at the border.

7. TRAVELLING ARRANGEMENTS / TRANSPORT

7.1 Delegates travelling by air are requested to email their full flight itinerary/details to the General Synod Office as soon as possible if not done yet at: admin.gs@urcsa.org.za This is important to enable the General Synod Office and hosting team to finalise the necessary arrival and transport arrangements.

7.2 Delegates for whom transport arrangements have been confirmed will be assisted with the necessary shuttle arrangements from Moshoeshoe I International Airport (MSU) to Avani Maseru Hotel.

7.3 Delegates will be welcomed at the designated arrival points. Please look out for representatives carrying clearly visible **URCSA name boards/signage**.

8. REGISTRATION

8.1 Registration will take place on **Monday, 28 September 2026**, at **09h00** upon arrival at Avani Maseru Hotel.

8.2 Delegates are requested to look out for the clearly marked **URCSA banners and registration area**.

8.3 All delegates must **first register officially** before proceeding with the General Synod arrangements.

8.4 At registration, delegates will receive the relevant General Synod material.

8.5 Delegates are kindly requested to cooperate with the registration team to ensure a smooth and efficient registration process.

9. MEMORABILIA

9.1 As part of the General Synod's ongoing fundraising initiatives, delegates and visitors will have an opportunity to purchase a selection of **URCSA-branded memorabilia** during the General Synod.

9.2 Items available will include URCSA-branded clothing and other merchandise.

9.3 Details regarding the available items, packages and prices will be communicated/displayed at the General Synod.

9.4 A Speedpoint facility will be available for electronic payments.

Delegates and visitors are encouraged to support the General Synod fundraising initiatives.

10. EXHIBITIONS

10.1 Exhibition areas will be available during the General Synod and may be visited during the designated breaks.

10.2 Exhibitors will include: **Belhar Confession Trust**

Delegates are encouraged to visit and support the exhibition during the General Synod.

11. DRESS CODE

11.1 OPENING DAY – MONDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2026

Delegates are requested to wear **official/formal attire** for the opening of the 9th General Synod.

11.2 GENERAL SYNOD WORKING SESSIONS

The general dress code during the working sessions of the General Synod will be smart casual, unless otherwise indicated in the official programme.

11.3 OFFICIAL OCCASIONS

Official/formal attire will be required for:

- The Opening Service;
- The official General Synod photo session;
- The Closing Service; and
- Any other occasion specifically indicated in the official programme.

Delegates to dress comfortably while maintaining the dignity and decorum appropriate to a General Synod sitting.

12. BELHAR LECTURE AND GALA EVENING – WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

12.1 Delegates are kindly advised that the Belhar Lecture, originally scheduled for the morning, has been moved to the evening of Wednesday, 30 September 2026, as reflected in the Second Report of the Order Commission.

12.2 The Belhar Lecture will form part of the Gala Evening programme.

12.3 Time: As indicated in the official General Synod programme.

12.4 Dress Code: Cultural Attire for Belhar Gala dinner.

Delegates are requested to bring their Cultural Attire to celebrate the rich cultural diversity for the Belhar Lecture Gala dinner event.

12.5 Delegates are encouraged to take photographs during the event and share appropriate moments on social media using the official General Synod hashtag: **#URCSAGS2026**

13. CLOSING SERVICE – SUNDAY, 04 OCTOBER 2026

13.1 The Closing Service with Holy Communion will take place at Avani Maseru Hotel on Sunday, 04 October 2026.

13.2 Delegates are requested to **check out** of their hotel rooms on Sunday morning before the Closing Service.

13.3 Delegates should bring their luggage to the designated luggage storage area, where bags will be stored as indicated by the organising team.

13.4 Delegates are kindly requested to follow the instructions of the hotel and organising team to facilitate an orderly check-out and departure process.

14. DAY VISITORS

14.1 Each Regional Synod is responsible for ensuring that its day visitors are registered in advance.

14.2 A Day Visitor Booking Form must be completed for all visitors. The booking form will be available from the General Synod Office, and a link to the online form will also be made available via the official URCSA Facebook page and website.

14.3 Day visitors are responsible for arranging and covering the cost of their own meals and accommodation, where required.

14.4 Visitors who require assistance with identifying or arranging meals and/or accommodation may indicate this on the booking form. The General Synod Office staff will assist as far as reasonably possible.

14.5 Regional Synods are kindly requested to ensure that their visitors are informed of these arrangements before travelling to Maseru.

Please note: Due to the limited capacity of the auditorium, attendance by day visitors will be subject to available space and the registration arrangements of the General Synod.

15. VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION

15.1 NAMETAGS

All delegates must **wear their official General Synod nametags at all times** during the General Synod for identification and access purposes.

15.2 MEAL TICKETS

Delegates are requested to use the supplied **meal tickets** when entering the restaurant during designated mealtimes.

Please keep your meal tickets safe for the duration of the General Synod.

15.3 GENERAL SYNOD UPDATES

Delegates are encouraged to follow the official **URCSA Facebook page and website** for daily updates, notices, photographs and other General Synod information.

15.4 QR CODE

Delegates are encouraged to **scan the QR Code provided on their nametag**, which will provide direct access to the URCSA website and relevant General Synod information.

15.5 SOCIAL MEDIA

When sharing photographs and General Synod-related posts on social media, delegates are encouraged to use the official hashtag: **#URCSAGS2026**

16. FINAL REMINDER

All delegates are kindly requested to ensure that their travel arrangements, passports, border documentation, vehicle documentation, bank authorisation letters where applicable, flight information, transport arrangements and other necessary preparations are finalised before departure.

We look forward to welcoming all delegates, ecumenical partners, guests and visitors to Maseru, Lesotho, for the 9th General Synod of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa.

May the Lord grant travelling mercies to all delegates and bless our gathering as we come together under the theme:

“Be the salt and the light of the world: 40 years of Belhar Confession as prophetic witness.”

We pray that the General Synod will be guided by the Holy Spirit in all its deliberations and decisions.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EM Monhla', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rev Dr EM Monhla
GS Scribe