DAY 1

28 SEPTEMBER 2026

GENERAL SYNOD



The 9th General Synod of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA) officially began on Monday, 28 September 2026 at the Avani Maseru Hotel in the Kingdom of Lesotho.

With delegates from the seven (7) Regional Synods gathered together, the opening day marked the beginning of an important season of worship, discernment, deliberation and decision-making for the Church. The gathering also takes place as URCSA commemorates 40 years of the Confession of Belhar, a significant milestone in the journey of a Church called to witness to unity, reconciliation and justice.





#URCSAGS2026

The Synod Opening

The opening of the 9th General Synod was grounded in prayer and reflection. The Assessor, Rev. E. Vinqi, led the opening reflection and prayer, setting a spiritual tone for the proceedings that would follow. The Moderator of the General Synod, Rev. Prof. L. Modise, welcomed the delegates and invited the Moderator of the Free-State and Lesotho Regional Synod, Rev. Dr. L. Fokase, to extend a welcome on behalf of the host Regional Synod. The delegates were warmly welcomed to Lesotho as the Church began its work in the context of fellowship and shared responsibility.

Following the opening the attention turned to the formal constitution of the Synod. The General Synod Assembly considered the credential letters submitted by the seven (7) Regional Synods. Questions arising from a number of credentials were referred to the Temporary Support Ministry for Judicial Matters (SMJM) for consideration and reporting. Therefore, the 9th General Synod Assembly was duly constituted. The total amount of voting delegates are 158. Several national and international ecumenical partners and guests are present at the meeting including representatives from the different specialised ministries.

Proclamation and Worship

The formal proceedings of the day were complemented by the spiritual life of the gathering. The Core Ministry for Proclamation and Worship (CMPW) led the official opening service, with Rev. T. T. Hlalele opening the service with prayer.

The Moderator, Rev. Prof. L. Modise, read the Word of God from Matthew 5:13–16, focusing on Jesus' calling of His disciples to be “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world.” The message placed the work of the General Synod within the broader calling of the Church. Delegates gathered not only to deliberate and make decisions, but also to consider how the Church continues to fulfil its calling and witness within the regions and communities in which God has placed it. The service concluded with prayer by Rev. L. Prins.

The end of Day One (1)

The first day of the 9th General Synod concluded at 22h10.

As URCSA enters this 9th General Synod and commemorates 40 years of the Confession of Belhar, the journey ahead carries both the weight of the Church's history and the responsibility of discerning its future. The opening day has set the foundation.

The 9th General Synod has begun. The General Synod Assembly continues.