

# UCCSA 34th Assembly



Daily Assembly Digest – Friday 21st

40th  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF  
SERVICE  
AND  
WITNESS

## Assembly begins with worship

The 34th Assembly of the United Congregational Church, meeting at the Bridgton High School in Oudtshoorn, began its proceedings with worship and Bible Study on Friday morning.

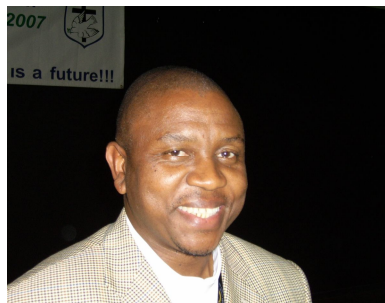
The Assembly, which also marks the fortieth anniversary of the formation of the denomination, is being hosted by the Outeniqua Region.

The Assembly Chaplain, Rev Chris Saaiman, minister of the Pacaltsdorp Church in the Outeniqua Region brought a short message at the opening session, based on the words of Jeremiah 29.11: “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

On behalf of the host region Mr Simon Swiegelaar, Chairperson of the Local Organising Committee welcomed delegates to the “Ostrich Capital of the World” and invited them to “*geniet die gasvryheid van ons klein plattelandse dorpie* (enjoy the hospitality of our small rural town).

The Chairman of the Outeniqua Region, Dr Aubrey Douglas, also welcomed the delegates, and was particularly appreciated for his fluent welcome, in Portuguese, of the delegates from the Mozambique Synod.

Rev Roy Brink, Chairperson of the South African Synod, also welcomed the delegates and invited them to enjoy the beauty and variety of the country.



Our President, Rev Siman Zazaza

During the second business session the General Secretary, Dr Prince Dibeela introduced the fraternal delegates who were in attendance:

- Rev Edward Matuvhunye of the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe;
  - Dr Vuyani Vellem, General Secretary of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa;
  - Mr David Modiega, General Secretary of the Botswana Council of Churches;
  - Rev Motlalepula Chabaku, who will preach at United Act of Worship;
  - Bishop Adam of the Roman Catholic Church;
  - Mr Ryno Simpson of Metropolitan Insurance;
  - Pastor Stuurman of the Lutheran Church;
  - Rev Noel Pietersen, representing the municipality of Oudtshoorn;
- He also welcomed former Chairmen and Presidents, termed our Living Ancestors, who were present:
- Rev Felix Mogobi of Botswana;
  - Rev Peter Lamoela of Namibia and South Africa;
  - Rev Arao Litsure of Mozambique;
  - Rev Margaret Constable of South Africa.

Mr Modiega said that the theme of the Assembly was cause for hope.

## People to know

**All delegates need to know who is who in helping to ensure the smooth running of Assembly.**

In addition to the denominational President (*see below*) the person usually sitting next to him on the podium is the General Secretary, the Rev Dr Prince Dibeela.

- ◆ During the planning for the meeting, Rev Chris Saaiman was appointed as Chaplain;
- ◆ Dr Aubrey Douglas and Rev Sifiso Mpofo were appointed as Minute Secretaries;
- ◆ Rev DZ Sibanda, Secretary of the Zimbabwe Synod, was appointed as Chief Scrutineer. He will be assisted by youth delegates who have been nominated by the Synods;
- ◆ Revs Martin van Wyk, Grant Peers, M Moya and M Makoma and L Adonis were appointed to the Listening Team. Their job is to seek out the opinions of delegates on all aspects of the meeting, and report their findings to Assembly;
- ◆ Revs Sello Colane and Corrin Magielies were appointed as Greetings Convenors.
- ◆ More appointments follow.

## The President will chair Assembly sessions

The Rev Simon Zazaza, who is coming to the end of his two-year term as President of the denomination, will chair the business sessions of the Assembly and preside at most of the services of worship.

At the closing service, he will induct the incoming President, Mr Andre September of the Namibia Synod.

Rev Zazaza served the Krugersdorp Church for seven years and, since 2003, has been the minister of the Yeoville Church in Gauteng.

Prior to entering the ministry, he studied for ministry at worked in the insurance industry. He is married to Dorothy and they have three children.

During the past eighteen months, Rev Zazaza has had a particular concern to mobilize support for the Nkulumane Church in Matabeleland, which he visited with other delegates to the March 2006 Executive. They found the congregation worshipping in the open, with only a flimsy plastic sheet to shield them from the sun. A building has now been erected.

He told *Assembly Digest* that his two years in leadership had been a privileged, and had broadened his understanding of the church's diversity.

## Helping to make the Assembly work smoothly.....



The Minute Secretaries



Our Assembly preacher



The General Secretary

### Delegates are Invited to Sunday morning worship

The following local churches will welcome Assembly delegates:

- **Great Brak Church**  
Preacher: Rev Anneline Brandt
- **Parkdene Church, George**  
Preacher: Rev Roy Brink
- **Pacaltsdorp Church, George**  
Preacher: Rev Malebogo Mothibi
- **George Church** Preacher:  
Rev Armstrong Makhanya
- **Calitzdorp Church**  
Preacher: Rev Arao Litsure
- **Weyers Memorial**  
Preacher: Rev Dr Prince Dibeela
- **Bongalethu Church, George**  
Preacher: Rev Peter Briggs
- **Toekomsrus, Oudtshoorn**  
Preacher: Rev Dumu Mmualefe
- **Dysselsdorp Church**  
Preacher: Rev Philip Strydom

At 4.00pm on Sunday, members of local churches will join with Assembly delegates for the United Act of Worship in the Bridgton School Hall.

### From the General Secretary's report

This is an exciting moment for us to celebrate, deliberate and experience the beautiful hospitality of the people of the Outeniqua.

We have committed ourselves to a process of prayer, mission activity and renewal, which we call the Vision Plan. It is about creating an impetus, something to enthuse us and spur us into missional action.

At this Assembly, we will recognize and honour all our past Chairpersons. We give thanks for our founding fathers and mothers.

I have a passion for a world where there could be justice and equality for all. We need to develop a justice consciousness. We should recognize the great moral challenge of our time, which is economic injustice. There is enough for everybody in the world to have the basic necessities.

One area where we have often taken pride is in the inclusion of women. But we have not done enough to include women in the leadership of the church. I will continue to raise this matter until we reach gender parity.

This year marks the end of 200 years of slavery. We forget that many people of the Eastern and Western Cape of South Africa are descendants of the people of Malaysia and Madagascar who were forced into slavery. Sadly, the slave trade continues today, through people trafficking, sex slavery and child labour. How do we make this evil practice go away forever?

The problem of Zimbabwe continues. We have released statements, written to political leaders and made recommendations for action by others. We as Church have a unique responsibility to allow spaces that are 'galvanizing sites' where we can imagine an alternative reality where there is faith instead of fear, where people can sharpen their skills to confront 'goliath' instead of running away.

I wish to thank our President for his able leadership in the last two years. He has led us with candidness, commitment and demonstrated a love for the service of the Lord. *Ndiyabulela Nyaoza, iNkosii iku sikelele!*



Convenor of Scrutineers



The Greetings Convenor



The Assembly Chaplain

In Christ, there is a future