

UCCSA 34th Assembly



Daily Assembly Digest – Wednesday 26th

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Founding mothers and fathers are still here

To have been at the founding Assembly of the UCCSA in the Full Gospel Church in Durban and still be up to attending an Assembly at Oudtshoorn forty years later is quite some feat.

But for the seven people pictured at right, service to the UCCSA has been filled with joy. They are, from left, Rev Margaret Constable, Rev Peter Lamoela, Mrs Maggie Naidoo, Rev Monare Petso, Mrs Patricia Ryan, Rev Armstrong Makhanya and Rev Neels Beukes.

In an address to the Assembly, Rev Constable recalled two of the highlights of her term of office in 1983. These were having to appear before the South African Eloff Commission to explain why the UCCSA was giving money to the World Council of Churches (in fact it was not); and being part of a delegation of church leaders who met with Cabinet Ministers Pik Botha and Piet Koornhof to express the churches' anger at the forced removal of people of colour under the Group Areas Act.

Their deputation to the Union Buildings was preceded by a day of fasting, and an all night prayer vigil. Mrs Constable said: "I hope this was just one small act which helped bring about the end of apartheid."

In another short address, past Chairman Rev Felix Mokobi of the Botswana Synod thanked the Assembly for including some "Living Ancestors" in this Assembly.



Youth Presentation brings the house to its feet in appreciation

A dramatized presentation by the young people present at the Assembly, portraying the history of the formation of the UCCSA, as well as some of the political and theological struggles since 1967, made the meeting come alive on Tuesday afternoon.

Using music, drama, and a good helping of humour, the Assembly was challenged to see what it thought it knew from beginning to end in a new and dynamic way. Whether, as they suggested, the UCCSA will ever be renamed as the "Kairos Document Church" is in doubt, but we were certainly challenged to realize the need to live out the document's commitments in our church life.

A DVD of the play will be made in due course.

New President to be inducted



Mrs Rose September with her husband, Andre

The man who has been "waiting in the wings" for the past two years, President-Elect Mr Andre September of the Namibia Synod, will be inducted into office by the retiring President, the Rev Simon Zazaza at the closing act of worship.

He was born in Bellville, South Africa and grew up in Upington where he matriculated. He received his tertiary education at the University of the Western Cape; the National Law School of India University; Columbia University; the University of Stellenbosch; Pondicherry University; and the University of Cape Town. Previously, he served in the Namibian Diplomatic Service and was stationed in India and at the United Nations in New York.

Mr September is currently Pulpit Supply at Kalkveld Church, and serves on the World of Council Churches Commission on International Affairs.

New IMB officers inducted and their gift is given



On Tuesday morning Mrs Eunah Ndhlovu the outgoing President of the organization (pictured below with the President, Rev Simon Zazaza) handed over the Isililo/Manyano/Bomme gift to the church.

During the past year, the women raised ZAR20 000, which was given to the church for training of ministers.

In a further action during the meeting of the women on Saturday morning. Ms Nothula Shangase (Secretary) and Mrs Snowy Hlengwa (President) (pictured at left) were inducted to lead the Isililo/Manyano/Bomme organization.

In an interview with *Digest*, Mrs Hlengwa expressed her delight at the decision to establish a Women's Desk, which she hoped would bring all the women's organization of the UCCSA closer together.

She indicated that, during her term of office, her priorities would include HIV/Aids and land reform for women.

Second Joe Wing Memorial Lecture given by Professor Bonganjalo Goba

We are pleased to publish below an edited version of the lecture delivered by former UCCSA President Professor Bonganjalo Goba.

I have chosen the topic for this lecture: "The quest for a visionary leadership in the UCCSA today." There is no doubt in my mind that Moruti Wing was a visionary leader. He possessed an amazing personal knowledge of many of our church situations in Southern Africa.

We live in times of great change when there are great expectations about the future of the church leadership, particularly its meaning and relevance in society. Developing the visionary leadership requires or demands discerning God's will for our time.

We are discovering that traditional modes of leadership are becoming obsolete as more and more shared forms of leadership make a difference in organizations. (In the past) we were trained not to share leadership, but for a leadership that was not to be questioned, but to be followed.

Today, if you examine our theological curricula in many of our Seminaries, Colleges and Universities, the focus on leadership is insignificant. On the other hand, we also have lay people who think that leadership is their speciality because they control the resources of the church.

I believe the establishment of the Leadership Academy is a step in the right direction in our church. It is an innovation that has to be supported.

Today, the greatest temptation is to follow the business models of leadership. We have also seen failures of leadership in the political field. As we come to grips with the Vision of the UCCSA, let us be mindful that nothing remains the same. We are challenged to reject the status quo and live in the dynamic presence of God's newness.

One of the new challenges is to move away from the myth of the heroic Leader, and to recognize that visionary leadership is not a one person show, but entails a shared vision.

I believe that there are elements of this visionary Leadership emerging in our local church communities in Southern Africa. During my term as the Secretary of Global Ministries, I sensed a new enthusiasm in the numerous projects and a variety of ministries we supported.

I believe this growing commitment will be deepened as we embrace the new mission statement of the UCCSA. We have a great prophetic task in our different contexts in Southern Africa to understand the calling of the church to the critical spiritual needs of God's people to be caring and inclusive church.

Inclusive in the sense that no one, given the unique experience, cultural, political outlooks, sexual orientation and race will be excluded. This calls for radical openness to embrace, irrespective of our distinction.

To declare that, "In Christ there is a future", we need visionary Leadership that will demonstrate, in no uncertain terms that faith in Christ makes a radical difference.

Stop Press...Stop Press..

- ◆ **Mr Solwyn Elephant was elected the new Treasurer;**
- ◆ **Mrs Florince Norris was elected to Chair the Investments Committee;**



- ◆ **Rev Hendrik Pillay was voted to be President-Elect;**
- ◆ **Rev Dr Ignatius Gasenewe was elected Convenor of the Mission Council;**
- ◆ **The Assembly congratulated Bishop Thabo Makgobo on his election as Anglican Archbishop;**
- ◆ **The Assembly adopted the**



In Christ, there is a future