On Monday September 23, 2013 the UCCSA 37th Assembly by consensus elected Rev Alistair Arends as the incoming and 6th General Secretary of the UCCSA.

Rev. Alistair Arends was born on 27th February 1958 at East London in the Eastern Cape. Rev Arends is the son of Daphne Arends and Rev. Samuel Arends, who served as the second General Secretary of the UCCSA. He is married to Carleen Arends and they are blessed with two children Heather and Kaleb. Rev Alistair has been involved in the church for as long as he can remember. As a child he participated in the Sunday School, Boys Brigade, Church Junior Choir and belonged to the Youth group. It is during his participation and involvement with the Youth that he began to discern his call to ministry. Immediately after completing his schooling he was encouraged by Rev. Bernard Spong and Mrs Lou-Ann Parsons to enter a programme called the National Youth Leadership Training Programme (NYLTP). The NYLTP was an ecumenical programme providing training for young people to become youth workers in their denominations or communities. After completing this programme he began working as a Youth Worker for the UCCSA in the Outeniqua and Algoa Regions for two years (1979 – 1980). During this time he applied for the full-time ministry and started his studies at FEDSEM in 1981 to 1983.

Rev Alistair served his Probation (now called Internship) at the Ennerdale Congregational Church, Johannesburg, from 1984 to 1985. Following his internship he was ordained to the full time ministry of the UCCSA in 1986 at the Bethesda Congregational Church where he was called to serve as Youth Minister.

Over the years Rev. Arends has always enjoyed working in the area of leadership development and he was very instrumental in the formation of the UCCSA Youth Desk in 1980 and the formation of the UCCSA Mission Council in 1996. He was mentored by Mrs. Lou-Ann Parson becoming a facilitator in group Dynamics and Basic Leadership Training. His contribution to the UCCSA in the Local Church Ministry has especially been appreciated in the areas of Youth Leadership training, Sunday School Teacher Training, Deacons training and developing resources to equip confirmation training of newleaders.

Rev Alistair has also served at various levels of the denomination. He served as one of the first UCCSA Youth Conveners together with Rev. Rupert Hambira; and has also served as UCCSA Christian Education Convener and later as UCCSA Mission Council Convener. He served as Secretary of the Algoa Region for 8 years, as well as Chairperson of the Algoa region. After the formation of the South Africa Synod in 2001 he served as Synod Mission Council Convener. Over the years Rev Alistair has represented the UCCSA in various ecumenical and mission forums, including at the World Council of Churches (WCC), Council for World Mission (CWM) Africa Region, South African Council of Churches (SACC) and the Church Unity Commission (CUC) These engagements have allowed him the opportunity to engage with people across cultures and traditions in North America, Europe, Asia, and within the Africa region.

In 2011 he lead a team of young people on an exchange visit to UCCSA’s mission partner-the United Free Church of Scotland.
UCCSA APPOINTS NEW GENERAL SECRETARY- REV ALISTAIR ARENDS (cont’d)

Rev Alistair has a passion to be involved in areas of ministry sharing skills in Programme Planning, Communications and Human Resource Development. Rev Alistair’s passion for Communications is demonstrated in his involvement in the development of the UCCSA’s print and e-mail newsletter the ‘Congregational Chronicle’; and the creation of the first UCCSA website. Prior to his appointment as the incoming General Secretary of the UCCSA Rev Arends has been serving as the UCCSA Mission Secretary and as the acting minister at the North End Congregational Church in Port Elizabeth. At the Synod level he is the current Chairperson of the South Africa Synod.

Rev Arends will be take up responsibility for the general oversight, mission direction and operational leadership of the UCCSA Secretariat and Central Office staff team. Rev Arends will receive the leadership baton of the UCCSA from the outgoing General Secretary Rev Dr. Moisesale Prince Dibeela, who has served as General Secretary for 8 years. Rev Arends will formally take up office and duties in January, 2014. We pray for God’s blessings upon Rev Alistair Arends as he takes up this awesome responsibility of serving as General Secretary of the UCCSA.

THE UCCSA COMMITMENT TO DEEPENING LIFE AFFIRMING RELATIONSHIPS, IDENTITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In this article we conclude the series of articles highlighting the four key objectives of the current UCCSA Mission Programme. In this article we briefly highlight Objective 4. You can see the July- to September, 2013 Newsletter which highlighted Objectives: 1. Enabling Local Churches to be more faithful in their participation in the mission of God; 2. Increasing Commitment to solidarity, prophetic witness and justice; and 3. Training, development and conscientization of the church for God’s mission.

The UCCSA is a Church in five countries. Being a trans-national church with each of the five countries being different economically, politically, and culturally, is in itself a challenge. How do we exercise and maintain authority, discipline and accountability across five independent countries? How does our ecclesiological self-understanding hinder or facilitate our missional task as church? How do we facilitate mission across the five countries and encourage the deepening of relationships across the Synods, Regions and Local Churches?

The Mission Programme identified key activities intended to encourage a deeper and shared relationship among members across the UCCSA. These include a 2 yearly Convocation in a year without an Assembly, encouraging twinning of churches and experience enlargement activities across cultural boundaries. These activities are in response to the issues of congregational identity, autonomy and affirming our covenant relationship which arose during the visioning process. The visioning process also highlighted fundamental questions such as: What does it mean to be a Congregational Church in Southern Africa? What is the difference between a Congregational Church in Southern Africa in the 21st century versus a classical Victorian understanding of Congregationalism? How do we deepen our engagement for mission with our partners around the world?

The UCCSA is rich in its diversity as a pan-African church as well as a multi-cultural and multi-racial church. However, the church’s brokenness through racial divisions, gender imbalances and the exclusion of marginalized groups such as people with disabilities is a fact that is present each time the church meets. The issue of institutional racism and inequities within the church requires serious introspection, recognition, and acceptance as fact as a starting point towards healing and collective repentance.

These are questions and issues that challenge and call for us to assess our commitment to truly live the values of just to share the covenantal vision for the church. It must also include discussing with sensitivity and frankness the issues that inhibit us from building an inclusive and caring church community. The UCCSA must continue to look to the future and envision what kind of church community it wishes to become.

“Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”
Ecclesiastes 4:12
The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) held its 37th Assembly from the 18th to the 24th September 2013 at St Joseph’s Pastoral Centre in Mahikeng, South Africa, under the leadership of Rev Basil Manning as the UCCSA President and the Rev Dr Prince Dibeela as the General Secretary. The Assembly commenced with the Opening Service on Thursday September 19, 2013 which renewed of the UCCSA Covenant to worship, work and witness together as a united church spread across the five countries. The Assembly brought together about 300 delegates from the five countries namely, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The Assembly was warmly received to the North West Region by the Local Churches, Ministers and leadership within the Region. The Assembly was also welcomed to the North West Province by Premier Hon. Ms. Thandie Modise. Members of the Assembly appreciated the hospitality of the North West Region and their tireless efforts to make the Assembly a success. The UCCSA 37th Assembly deliberated on a number of mission and ministry issues guided by the Theme: “Christ is Calling Us: Participating in Suffering and Struggle.”

Celebrations:

- We celebrate our commitment to church unity demonstrated by the presence of members of the Kukhany’ Okusha Zion Christian Church in Swaziland and fraternal greetings from our church and ecumenical partners including the All Africa Conference of Churches, the Council for World Mission, the World Council of Churches, Global Ministries among many others, who offered their prayers for the Assembly.
- We celebrate the increase of representation of people with disability and young people to the UCCSA Assembly.
- We celebrate the rich legacy of the UCCSA through the continuation of Joseph Wing Lecture as a reminder of the tradition and values of unity, respect for human diversity and justice.
- We celebrate the increase of members added to the vocation of Ordained Ministry and in particular the increase in the number of women entering the vocation of Ministry.
REFLECTIONS ON THE UCCSA 37th ASSEMBLY 2013

Concerns
- We are concerned about the financial sustainability of our mission programmes and activities. The Church is rich in resources but there continues to be a struggle to meet assessment and other financial obligations for the work of the ministry and growth of the mission of the church.
- We are concerned that there is an urgent need to listen to each other more at every level of the Church life. It has been observed that we don’t listen to each other throughout the various courts of the Church. Some of issues and conflicts we deal with reveal that we need to encourage better listening.

Challenges
- We have been challenged through Worship, Workshops, Bible Studies and Theological Reflections at the assembly to remember our prophetic role as Church in Society; and our call to be part of the building of a just community.
- We are challenged to develop a spirituality of giving that will dramatically shift and change the financial future of the UCCSA from lack to plenty; that will also make a visible contribution to the quality of life for God’s people and provide care for God’s creation.

Commitment
- We commit to preserve the unity and covenant relationship of the UCCSA as we work together to change and transform lives the lives of women and men across Southern Africa.
- We are committed that that the UCCSA Assembly will continue to be a platform for constructive deliberations, theological reflection and spiritual direction for the mission of the Church.
- We are committed to be a Justice Church, to participate in the sufferings and struggle of God’s people by putting to maximum use our diaconal resources for the cause of justice.

Commissioning
- The UCCSA Assembly ended with a Closing Service on Tuesday 24th September, 2013 commissioning of the Church to remain faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Assembly commissioned women and men as Officers and leaders of the various ministries and units of the church to carry out the vision and mission of the UCCSA which are achieved through the decisions of the Assembly and related courts, the UCCSA policies and Mission Programs.
- The 37th Assembly has commissioned the Officers Group which comprises: Rev Phillip Strydom (President) together with Rev MosweuSimane (President-Elect), Mrs Florince Norris (Treasurer), Ms. Madeline Aiken, Rev DojiweMasuku and Mrs KgmotsoNxumalo lead the Church during the next two years. The 37th Assembly inducted Rev Alistair Arends to lead the UCCSA as General Secretary for a 4 period, starting January 2014 and to oversee the administration of the UCCSA Central Office and Secretariat.

We move forward and face the future united in prayer:

“May the presence of God the Creator give us strength;  
May the presence of God the Redeemer give us peace;  
May the presence of God the Sustainer give us comfort.”
REFLECTIONS ON THE UCCSA 37th ASSEMBLY 2013

“The first Assembly I attended was held in Paaltsdorp, Outeniqua Region in 1977. I was subsequently received as a newly ordained minister at the UCCSA Assembly hosted by the Founders Memorial Congregational Church, Johannesburg in 1979. I cannot help but comparing the 37th Assembly of our denomination with the first Assemblies I attended; the contrast is huge. To start with the fact that there were no Youth delegates those days and a small percentage of women, mainly minister’s wives). Discussions centered on ‘maintenance’ issues. I thank God for the privilege to participate in a transformed Assembly of the UCCSA in 2013. All the glory to God for the creativity and innovation that was so evident in every aspect of the Assembly. The gender balance, inclusion of persons with disability and the overall youthful look of the Assembly are giant steps for the UCCSA. It was a blessed opportunity to ‘connect’ and interact with the local people at the Assembly Opening and Closing Services and the united Act of Worship and Sunday Morning Services. The worship was lively and vibrant.

Rev Phillip Strydom, UCCSA President

It was also a joy to receive at least ten newly ordained ministers plus new churches and extension charges. This is indeed a sign of growth. The Workshops at the Assembly offered an opportunity for awareness raising but also an empowerment tool for action at Synod, Regional and Local levels. The Workshops were done with professionalism. It was in the Workshops that meaningful interaction and deliberation took place. My challenge to the Synods and Regions is that they do follow-up and make sure that Action Plans are put in place. The key areas are: Human Trafficking and the role of the Church, The Place of People with Disability in the Church, Land Issues in Southern Africa, Advocacy and Social Media and Mission and Ministry Fund. Let us put these issues on our agendas so that the discussions continue. The Report of the UCCSA General Secretary, Rev Dr Moiseraele Dibeela was once again comprehensive and insightful. Through his report the General Secretary once again challenged us to be a Missional, Justice and Caring Church. As Church we thank him for his prophetic and visionary leadership. All delegates made sure they attend the Farewell Dinner for the Outgoing General Secretary which was their way of acknowledging the distinguished service by Rev Dr Dibeela to the UCCSA. I would like to put on record our sincere appreciation towards the General Secretary for representing the UCCSA with distinction at the Council for World Mission and the World Council of Churches. Now that we are back at home and in our local churches it cannot be ‘life as usual’ because “Christ is calling us: Participating in Suffering and Struggle”.

Sergio Bento Pascal, UCCSA Youth Convenor

“It was my first time to participate in a UCCSA Assembly. What I could witness was a joyful meeting, where the UCCSA members met to analyze the actual life of the Church and share their point of view on how the church should be in the following years. It was also an event where we could get to know new people as friends and brothers/sisters, strengthen relationship among us, and above all renew our covenant with one another to keep on growing together spiritually. A “wonderful celebration” is how I can describe the 37th UCCSA Assembly. And I believe and I could witness that the Holy Spirit was present. Now I look forward for the accomplishment of what has been “Agreed”, and that we all answer to Christ’s Call.”
Life begins at 30! This was a common refrain at the 30th Conference and Anniversary celebrations of the Young Women's Association of the Central Region of the South Africa Synod. The Conference and Anniversary celebrations were held during 4-6 October, 2013 in Olifantsvle, Johannesburg at the Fun Valley Resort. The conference discussed and received reports of the business of the YWA and inducted a new Executive Committee. The celebrations also included a Gospel Concert with performance by Nomvula Nhlapo. YWA concluded the conference with a vibrant worship service on Oct October 6 which coincided with the celebration of UCCSA Day. The Closing and Communion service honored past members and leaders of the YWA including Ms. Ann Mthiya, the first President of the YWA Central Region. The incoming President of the YWA Central Region Ms. Nomhle Mthiya expressed thanks to the IMB, Soldiers of Christ, circuits and leadership of the Central Region that for their support of the YWA.

* At its inception the Young Women’s Association (YWA) was known as Young Women’s Manyano until the change to its current name. The Isililo Manyano Bomme (IMB) women’s organization of the UCCSA recognized the significance of establishing a movement for young women in the church. Realising that many young women who entered the adolescent stage were no longer interested in attending Sunday school, the church and in particular Mrs. L.D. Langa of the Transvaal Region who was then serving as IMB President (1974-1979) mooted an idea of establishing a movement for young women. However, the idea was initially met with lack of support from the circuits in the Region. In 1980 Mrs. Zenthe Makhanya was elected President of the IMB Central Region. She revisited the idea of a movement for young women at the conference in Benoni. The matter was placed on the agenda again in 1983 and was successfully debated. It was agreed to form the YWA. The Association was established with the sole purpose of building characters and bring young women together.

The first conference of the YWA in the Central Region was held in 1984 on October 10 at Soweto United (Orlando East) and the following people were elected as members of the Executive Committee: President- Mrs Ann Mythiya; Vice President- Mrs Matilda Mweba; Secretary- Mrs Edith Nguza; Vice Secretary- Mrs Lesmali Mpui; Treasurer Mrs Twala and additional members Mrs Kadiaka and Mrs. Priscilla Molefe. Mrs D. Langa was also instrumental in motivating young women to join the YWA. The YWA consisted of confirmed and full members of the UCCSA.

Tracing the full history of the YWA remains on the inspiring challenge. Most of the information has been transferred orally from one generation to the next with minimal manuscripts. There are no archives, historical records or files that can tell of the success and challenges of the YWA. An additional challenge is that while space has been made for associations in the governing structure of the UCCSA, the YWA is still to find a seat in the denomination and Region’s Mission Council structures. In the Central Region the voice of the YWA is heard through the IMB. In order to build the capacity and confidence of the young women the YWA still needs to establish its presence and relevance in the church.

*(Adapted from the History of the YWA compiled by Mrs Skhosana for the 30th Anniversary celebrations).
BIBLE STUDY REFLECTION

ESTUDO BÍBLICO SOBRE MEIO AMBIENTE Por Rev. Maria Guirrengane*

Quando vejo os teus céus, obra dos teus dedos, a lua e as estrelas que preparaste, que é o homem para que te lembres dele e o filho do homem terreno para que tomes conta dele? Também passaste a faze-lo um pouco menor que os semelhantes a Deus, então o coroastes de gloria e esplendor. Tu o fazes dominar sobre os trabalhos das tuas mãos; Puseste tudo debaixo de seus pés. SALMOS 8: 3-6.

O slogan da UCCSA, talvez desde 2011, consiste em convidar todos os membros da denominação a participar com Cristo no sofrimento e luta pela causa da humanidade.

Agradeço a Deus porque os cristãos e não cristãos estão engajados na preservação do meio ambiente e das espécies existentes nele, incluindo a espécie humana. De acordo com Salmos, Deus criou o universo e deu ao homem para governar, cuidar e protegê-lo. Como podemos imaginar, a grande responsabilidade dada ao homem para cuidar e proteger o universo, não pode ser tomado como uma mera tarefa. Isso significa que o homem tem agora o poder de salvar, bem como de destruir tudo o que está sob seu domínio, eu estou a falar da vida na superfície deste planeta.


No entanto, lembre-se que "a terra e nós " deixou de ser apenas um assunto para a curiosidade humana, a imaginação artística, pesquisas científicas, ou de conquista técnica. Tornou-se uma questão de profunda preocupação humana e ansiedade. Fazemos tentativas desesperadas para escapar a sua gravidade. Mas quando olharmos profundamente na mente de todos os contemporâneos, especialmente aqueles da geração mais jovem, descobrimos um medo que permeia todo o seu ser. Este temor estava ausente há algumas décadas e é difícil de descrever. É a sensação de viver sob a ameaça constante, e embora possa ter muitas causas, a maior delas é o perigo eminente de um universo e uma catástrofe total.

Pode ser que estejamos a viver um momento e que a relação do homem com a terra e o universo, por um longo tempo venha a tornar-se um objectivo.

A principal preocupação para pessoas sensíveis e atenciosas. Nós, como cristãos e membros da família UCCSA, devemos levar a sério a questão da protecção do meio ambiente, incluindo este tema em nossos ensinos e pregações. Lembre-te que tu também fazes parte da humanidade e também podes desempenhar um papel importante na mudança de mentalidade daqueles que estão a destruir a camada de ozónio e, desta forma, a colocar muitas vidas em risco no planeta. Jesus Cristo entregou sua vida para a humanidade. Somos seus seguidores, os discípulos fiéis comprometidos com a justiça social, económica e política. E, agora, trago outro novo conceito – justiça ambiental. Que Deus possa nos fortalecer por meio da orientação do Espírito Santo, agora e sempre, até termos sucesso nesta luta pelo bem-estar de toda a humanidade.

*Rev. Maria Guirrengane (pictured above) is the Synod Secretary of the Mozambique Synod of the UCCSA and an ordained Minister of the UCCSA. This Bible Study was presented at the 37th UCCSA Assembly 2013.
BIBLE STUDY REFLECTION

BIBLE STUDY ON ENVIRONMENT
Por Rev. Maria Guirrengane*

[Translation]
“When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thon hast established what is man that thon dost care for him? Yet thon hast made him that the less than God, and does crown him with Glory and honor. Thou hast given him dominion over the works of thy hands; thon hast put all things under his feet. “PSALMS 8: 3-6.

The slogan of the UCCSA maybe since 2011, consists of calling every member of the denomination to be participate with Christ in the suffering and struggle for the cause of mankind.

I thank God because Christians and non-Christians are committed to preserving the environment and species including the human race as such. According to Psalms, God made the universe and gave it to man to rule over to care and protect it. As we can imagine the higher responsibility given to man to care and protect the universe, is not to be taken like a mere task. It means that man has now the power to save as well as to destroy whatever is under his dominion; I’m talking about the lives on the surface of this planet.

How does man react to this new situation? How do we react? How should we react?

Such questions have been rarely asked in Christian teachings and preaching.

For the central themes of Christianity have been the dramas of the creation and fall, of salvation and fulfillment.

However, remember that “the earth and we” has ceased to be merely a subject for human curiosity, artistic imagination, scientific study, or technical conquest. It has become a question of profound human concern and tormenting anxiety. We make desperate attempts to escape its seriousness. But when we look deep into the minds of all contemporaries, especially those all of the younger generation we discover a dread that permeates their whole being. This dread was absent a few decades ago and is hard to describe. It is the sense of living under a continuous threat; and although it may have many causes, the greatest of these is the eminent danger of a universe in total catastrophe.

It may well be that we are living in such a moment, and that man’s relation to the earth and the universe will, for a long time become the point.

This must be primary concern for sensitive and thoughtful people. We, as Christians and members of the UCCSA family, must take seriously this issue of environment protection by including in our teaching and preaching this theme. Remember that you, too, are part of mankind and you can also play an important role in changing minds of those who are destroying the ozone putting this way many lives to risk in the planet. Jesus Christ surrendered his life for mankind; we are his followers, the faithful disciples committed to social, economic and political justice. Now, I bring another concept – environmental justice. May God strengthen us through the guidance of the Holy Spirit now and forever more until we succeed in this struggle for welfare of the whole humanity.

Rev. Maria Guirrengane is the Synod Secretary of the Mozambique Synod of the UCCSA and an ordained
Celebrations of UCCSA Day 2013

UCCSA Day is the day to remember the birth of the church - UCCSA. The Inaugural Assembly of the UCCSA was held in Durban on October 3, 1967, under the leadership of its first Chairman Rev J K Main. The Assembly united three Congregational bodies: The London Missionary Society (LMS), American Board Mission (ABM) which had become the Bantu Congregational Church and the Congregational Union of South Africa (CUSA). In 1972, the South Africa Association of the Disciples of Christ entered into union with the UCCSA. UCCSA Day is celebrated on the Sunday following October 3 to remember the diversity and unity that defines the UCCSA as a church spanning five countries. UCCSA Day is marked and celebrated throughout the UCCSA in Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

This year UCCSA Day was marked on October 6, 2013 and there were celebrations throughout the UCCSA. We highlight a few of this year’s celebrations. In Mozambique every year the UCCSA local churches in Maputo celebrate this day with thanksgiving. This year was not different as the Local Church celebrated the church and gave thanks. At the UCC of Bairro 25 de Junho Local Church the youth were tasked organize the joyful event. It was held under the theme “Give thanks to God for protecting you and providing for you”. The different age choirs sang hymns of gratitude, and some would even forget their health struggle and danced joyfully. People were given time to give thanks individually, or with family. “I thank God for putting me under his wings allowing me to go to work and return from there safely, and also for pouring rain so that I grow food in my field and feed my family”, said one of the elders as she was offering what she grows. In Zimbabwe Loreen Dlada writes that the Bulawayo Region visited the Ekuphumelenki Old People’s Home, which was founded by the UCCSA, and delivered groceries to the elderly. In South Africa the Central Region hosted a Mega Revival on Saturday 5 and Sunday October 6, 2013. The featured guest speaker was Rev Margaret Constable. The South Africa Synod Office celebrated on Friday October 3 with full UCCSA gear. The day was also marked in UCCSA Local Churches across Botswana and Namibia.

How did you celebrate UCCSA Day?
NEWS BRIEFS

ANGLICANS WELCOME WOMEN BISHOPS AND WRESTLE WITH GENDER JUSTICE WITHIN THE CHURCH

While the Anglican Church of Southern Africa had two women Bishops at its Provincial Synod for the first time, it also passed a motion pressing for better gender balance in its meetings and structures.

The RtRevdEllinahWamukoya was consecrated Bishop of Swaziland in November 2012 and the RtRevd Margaret Vertue in January 2013, and were among eight new bishops at the Synod, which has been meeting this week [October 1-4, 2013] in Benoni, South Africa.

At left: Rt Revd Maraaret Vertue and The Rt Revd Ellinah Wamukoya (Photo credit: ACNS)

The RtRevdEllinahWamukoya was consecrated Bishop of Swaziland in November 2012 and the RtRevd Margaret Vertue in January 2013, and were among eight new bishops at the Synod, which has been meeting this week [October 1-4, 2013] in Benoni, South Africa.

In his address to the opening session of the Synod, Archbishop Makgoba recalled his words at the previous meeting of Synod, ‘Those of you who were here three years ago will remember me admitting I dreamed of consecrating a woman bishop for our Province – by the grace of God, we now have two!’

Nonetheless, participants in the meeting noted that among Synod members, men outnumbered women by more than three to one, and so a motion was passed calling on steps to be taken to work towards a more equal balance particularly in key bodies of the Church.

WCC 10th Assembly: hopes and aspirations
10th October 2013

The 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) begins at the end of October and promises to be one of the most diverse gatherings of Christians in the world.
The assembly will be an opportunity for renewing the worldwide ecumenical movement – infusing it with honesty, humility and hope, according to the WCC general secretary.

At left WCC General Secretary, Rev. Dr Olav FykseTveit

As to why this is the case, the Rev. Dr Olav FykseTveit, WCC general secretary, and a Lutheran pastor from the Church of Norway, says, it is “through humility, honesty and hope that we can live together as humanity and as church in a world where justice and peace are fundamental initiatives and not mere words.”

The theme of the WCC assembly is a prayer “God of life, lead us to justice and peace”. The assembly will take place from 30 October to 8 November, 2013 in Busan, Republic of Korea. It will bring around 3,000 participants from Asia and the Pacific region, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North and Latin America and the Caribbean, including a large number of young people and several thousand Korean Christians. See the full news release here. For the latest news and information updates from the WCC 10th Assembly visit The Official website of WCC 10th Assembly.
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“Father, thou art the God of love. When we look at the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ we see that love poured out for us. What remarkable love that is, love that will not let us go, love that pursues us despite our rebuffs, love that never gives up, relentless in its pursuit until we yield, broken, melted by thy love. Lord, this is the nature and character of the love that is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us. It is this remarkable thing that the world waits to see in Christian people. It is the absence of this, Father, that makes them turn away from our doors, uninterested, disappointed. Lord, teach us then to love one another. Whatever this may mean in terms of our personal circumstances, teach us, Father, to love one another. We pray in Christ’s name, Amen.”

Remember to pray for:

- Give thanks for the UCCSA 37th Assembly and the hospitality of the North West Region hosts
- Pray for the mission and ministry work of the Local Churches, Regions and Synods of Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe
- Pray for the new Officers Group and leadership of the UCCSA

If you would like to submit a prayer request for publication please write to us at UCCSA P.O. Box 96014, Brixton, 2019, Johannesburg, South Africa or send us an e-mail at tellus.uccsa@gmail.com.

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” James 5:16.
Prayer changes things!

Have you resolved to read and study your Bible more this year? We encourage you to search the scriptures daily. Daily devotionals, Bible reading and even a daily dose of laughter can enrich your spiritual practices and nourish your soul.
Here are the Sunday Lectionary readings that you can use:

**Friday, November 01, 2013:**
- Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
- Psalm 149
- Ephesians 1:11-23

**Sunday, November 03, 2013:**
- Isaiah 1:10-18 and Psalm 32:1-7
- 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
- Luke 19:1-10

**Sunday, November 10, 2013:**
- Haggai 1:15b-2:9Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

**Sunday, November 17, 2013:**
- Isaiah 65:17-25 and Isaiah 12
- Malachi 4:1-2a and Psalm 98
- 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

**Sunday, November 24, 2013:**
- Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Psalm 46
- Colossians 1:11-20
Welcome to the UCCSA Covenanting for Change movement and thank you for the contribution you have made to this fundraising campaign! Through this programme we are all invited to join hands and build a church that celebrates and rewards those who serve us as Ministers. As a justice church we are committed to rewarding our Ministers to have a just wage hence the decision to start a Central Fund. Further, through this programme we hope to diversify our Ministry to include other areas beyond pastoral ministry. Once again, we thank you for your contribution.

To make your contribution of R100 or any amount please make debit payment to the details below or contact the Central Office Secretariat at 1 837 9997 for Debit payment instructions form.

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EVENTS To Remember and Pray For:
31 Oct- 8 Nov WCC 10th Assembly
2 Nov Investments Committee Meeting
12-14 Nov South Africa Synodical Meeting
14-16 Nov Botswana Synodical Meeting
23 Nov Leadership Academy Graduation
23 Nov Zimbabwe Synodical Meeting

Thank you 1000 times! On September 3 we asked Our Friends on Facebook to help Congregationalists reach 1000 likes by UCCSA Day on October 6, 2013. YOU DID IT!
Keep spreading the word and wherever you are across the UCCSA countries continue to affirm the unity and diversity of worship, witness, fellowship and service to God.

20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. John 17:20-23