



THE UNITING
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA

Mission & Discipleship Committee

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Dear Friends

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Warm greetings to all God's people who call themselves "Presbyterian"

The Mission and Discipleship Committee sends greetings to all of you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We have just finished a two day meeting, considering the outcomes of our report to Executive Commission (July 2015) and looking at our ongoing work on behalf of the UPCSA. This letter comes with lots of news, mostly generated out of ExCom but also some exciting opportunities going forward.

Please find attached to this letter:

1. A **visual summary** of the decisions of Executive Commission in the area of Mission and Discipleship;
2. A pamphlet drawing your attention to the **Order of Lay Ministries**;
3. An advert for the upcoming **INSPIRE Conference** being held from 23 to 25 September 2015;
4. A series of sermon ideas (and other suggestions) for **Mission month**, October 2015; and
5. An **article** we wrote (the first in a series) to stimulate the imaginations of Sessions about becoming a "**Future Church**".

Remember to apply for Grants in aid of Stipend

Presbyteries are reminded to send applications for grants in aid of Stipend to Mrs Sheila Hunt as soon as possible. The deadline is past but we still have limited resources available to assist congregations who struggle to make the minimum Stipends. Remember that **any churches that have received grants over past years must REAPPLY** every year. Also **report back forms** – to tell the M&D Committee how the grant receiving churches are doing – **must be filled in and returned every six months**.

Please note that the Mission & Discipleship Committee CANNOT pay grants in aid of Stipend for Probationers. Churches who employ Probationers should apply to the Secretary of the Ministry Committee in the Central Office for financial assistance.

Church Development Evangelists

Grants in support of recognised UPCSA Church Development Evangelists are also available. Interested parties can inquire from Mrs Sheila Hunt (Contact details above).

Partners in Mission programme

The Council for World Mission, of which the UPCSA is a proud partner has a programme called “Partners in Mission”. It involves the sharing of people between the 32 denominations of CWM which are situated in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific.

A Partner-in-Mission is really a missionary but the person (or family) is not sent out only from Europe as in the “old days”, it is multi-directional. Every church has something to offer and something to receive. Partners in Mission go from North to South, South to North, South to South, and North to North. This multi-directional sharing should be “person-oriented”, and not merely “task-oriented”. There is an emphasis on personal character, spirituality and vocation. Each sharing of a partner in mission should strengthen the mutual relationship between the churches involved.

The sharing of people is fundamental to who CWM (and its constituent denominations) are and how we work together. A mission from everywhere to everywhere is made possible by the significant number of individuals who have offered themselves to serve on the mission field, locally and abroad; and the support of churches, willing to send and receive them. There is a good history of people in the field; the extent to which learning and growth are taking place among the partners in mission; and the significant ways in which the ministry and mission of churches are being enriched and expanded is very.

So – the UPCSA M&D Committee wants to get you involved! Are there any opportunities for sending people? Are there any for receiving people. See the CWM website (<http://www.cwmission.org/partners-in-mission>) for details and feel free to contact this convener for discussion.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours in Christ Jesus

Dr. George Marchinkowski
Convener