



WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE 2026

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"We would see Jesus and be transformed into His Likeness"

Dear Friends,

On Sunday we addressed, in part, the current tension in South Africa and perhaps Southern Africa. We made mention of the statement by the South African Council of Churches which met "to discern the mind of Christ on the aggression and attacks against foreign nationals, many of whom are Africans," and made an appeal for a compassionate heart. The statement addresses some of the real challenges, encouraging dialogue while urging that we seek peace and compassion. If you have not read the letter, I encourage you to do so.

The General Assembly Executive Commission of the UPCSA sent out statement addressing the tension from a Southern Africa perspective. I have included it below for ease of access. I want to highlight and encourage participation in *a Day of Prayer, on Friday, 26 June 2026, for Healing, Justice, Peace, and Social Cohesion* throughout the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa across the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The appeal is to set aside this day for prayer, fasting, reflection, and acts of reconciliation.

We invite the Church to pray:

- For peace and protection in communities experiencing unrest.
- For wisdom, integrity, and compassion among government leaders and public officials.
- For unemployed and struggling citizens.
- For migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and undocumented persons living in fear and uncertainty.
- For an end to exclusion, violence, and division.
- For economic justice, social transformation, and ethical governance.
- For healing and reconciliation throughout Southern Africa.

If anyone would like to pray at the church, we have the prayer room which will be accessible between 8:30 and 16:00.

With love,

Iain



Statement of the General Assembly Executive Commission of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa on Social Cohesion, Human Dignity, and a Day of Prayer

Issued at the Meeting of the General Assembly Executive Commission of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa held in Kempton Park, Johannesburg, South Africa, from 13–17 June 2026.

“For Christ himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.” — Ephesians 2:14

The General Assembly Executive Commission of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA), meeting in Kempton Park from 13–17 June 2026, has reflected prayerfully and with deep concern on the recent protests, violence, and growing hostility directed toward undocumented, documented, and irregular migrants in various communities across South Africa.

We recognise that Southern Africa's migration challenges cannot be understood apart from the enduring legacies of colonialism, empire, and apartheid. Artificial borders, extractive economic systems, and patterns of labour migration established during these periods continue to shape our societies, contributing to persistent inequality, economic exclusion, and competition for limited opportunities.

For generations, people across our region have crossed borders in search of safety, work, education, and opportunity. Yet the structural inequalities inherited from the past remain deeply entrenched. We therefore affirm that current tensions surrounding migration are rooted not simply in the presence of foreign nationals, but in broader historical injustices and ongoing socio-economic failures.

We recognise the pain, frustration, and anxiety experienced by many South Africans who face unemployment, poverty, inequality, inadequate service delivery, crime, and economic exclusion. These challenges demand urgent, ethical, and effective responses from government, business, civil society organisations, and faith communities.

However, no social crisis can justify violence, intimidation, or the denial of human dignity. As a Church rooted in the Reformed tradition and guided by the lordship of Jesus Christ, we affirm that every person bears the image of God and possesses inherent worth and dignity, regardless of nationality, citizenship, ethnicity, economic status, or documentation.

The biblical narrative reminds us that the people of God have repeatedly experienced migration, displacement, exile, and the vulnerability of being strangers in foreign lands. Israel was called to remember its own history: *“The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt”* (Leviticus 19:34).

The UPCSA rejects all forms of vigilantism, scapegoating, hate speech, and violence directed at migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and foreign nationals, irrespective of their legal status. Such actions undermine the Gospel of reconciliation and the vision of a society founded on justice, peace, and the common good.

We recognise the legitimate responsibility of the state to manage migration effectively, maintain secure borders, combat corruption within immigration systems, and uphold the rule of law with fairness, transparency, and compassion.

At the same time, we call upon the Government of South Africa to strengthen diplomatic engagement and regional cooperation with governments whose citizens are affected by migration-related tensions and violence. The realities of migration in Southern Africa cannot be addressed by any one nation acting alone. We therefore encourage closer collaboration through regional bodies, including the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union, to promote safe, orderly, and humane migration policies, address the root causes of displacement, and advance sustainable development across the region.

We call upon all spheres of government to address the structural causes of social unrest, including poverty, unemployment, inequality, corruption, and failures in public administration. We urge political leaders and public representatives to refrain from rhetoric that exploits fear and division for political gain.

We call upon congregations of the UPCSA and all churches in Southern Africa to become communities of hospitality, dialogue, healing, and peacebuilding. The Church is called to stand alongside all who suffer while advocating for justice that embraces both citizens and migrants.

Our shared future as nations and as a region cannot be built upon exclusion and hostility. It must be founded upon the biblical vision of justice flowing like a river and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream (*Amos 5:24*).

Accordingly, the General Assembly Executive Commission hereby declares *Friday, 26 June 2026, a Day of Prayer for Healing, Justice, Peace, and Social Cohesion* throughout the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa across the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

We call upon all presbyteries, congregations, ministers, elders, fellowships, and members of the Church to set aside this day for prayer, fasting, reflection, and acts of reconciliation.

We invite the Church to pray:

- For peace and protection in communities experiencing unrest.
- For wisdom, integrity, and compassion among government leaders and public officials.
- For unemployed and struggling citizens.
- For migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and undocumented persons living in fear and uncertainty.
- For an end to exclusion, violence, and division.
- For economic justice, social transformation, and ethical governance.

- For healing and reconciliation throughout Southern Africa.

May our prayers lead us beyond words into faithful action. May the Holy Spirit empower us to build bridges where others erect walls and to embody the reconciling love of Christ in a wounded world.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” — Matthew 5:9

Issued by the General Assembly Executive Commission of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa, meeting in Kempton Park, Johannesburg, South Africa, from 13–17 June 2026.

Signed: Rev Vusi Mkhungo – Clerk of Assembly

Signed: Rt Rev Dr Amon Kasambala – Moderator of General Assembly

Date: 17th June 2026



(Iain Kemp)

We have sung this song, written by a South African artist, a few times in worship. I felt that it is relevant for the current situation in South Africa. We pray that the Lord will heal our land and people.

“Sikelela - Lord Heal Our Land” – With Joy – <https://youtu.be/GaNyI00r9pA?si=VUIQcplKvpSdfMiJ>

Mission and Discipleship
INSPIRE 2026
 Wed 24 June 2026
SAVE THE DATE!
 Four Significant talks will be circulated ten days before and then on 24 June we'll meet online to reflect and respond.

- Habits of Growing and Declining Congregations.
- Spiritual Formation in Congregations.
- Bereavement: Helping people cope with loss.
- From the Spiritual Desert to Missional Renewal.

COMFORT ZONE
GOD'S PURPOSES
Reaching Up, In and Out
JOIN US FOR OUR WINTER SCHOOL

The Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa
 A time for Growth 2023-2033
 We're Sowing, Growing and Reaping!

All are invited to participate in **the Mission and Discipleship Inspire Conference**. You can watch the videos in your own time. You can participate in the discussion online on the 24th of June at various times throughout the day.

Visit the website below to get the videos, watch them and then join us on Wed 24 for conversations with the presenters and fellow Presbyterians.

<https://www.upcsa-mad.org.za/news/inspire-conf-2026-2/>

Links to the Videos:

1. **Spiritual Formation in Congregations.**

Interviews with three innovative ministers who have thought hard about Spiritual Formation in the Local Congregation.

Click here -> <https://youtu.be/FPGPI2pQxdE>

2. **From the Spiritual Desert to Missional Renewal.**

A prophetic word to the Church from Rev Suzanne Matala.

Click here -> <https://youtu.be/OD4hBJDuXBc>

3. **Habits of Growing and Declining Congregations.**

Habits are the things we do without thinking about them, but they can shape our lives and congregations. What are some of the habits we see in congregations that are growing/healthy and those that are declining.

Click here -> <https://youtu.be/YQOmv8hlmeY>

4. **Bereavement – Helping People cope with Loss.**

Braam Kloppe has years of experience journeying with people who have been bereaved. He shares

important insights with us.

Click here -> <https://youtu.be/RuXee7l9T-8>



A poster for the Superhero Holiday Club 2026. The top section features five superhero silhouettes in colored boxes: Batman (grey), Superman (blue), Spider-Man (red), Green Lantern (green), and Wonder Woman (yellow). Below them, the text "SUPERHERO" is written in large, bold, black letters, with "holiday club 2026" in a smaller, cursive font underneath. The date "DATE: 29 JUNE-3 JULY DAILY FROM 8AM-1PM" and the venue "VENUE: TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH" are listed in bold, black capital letters. The bottom section shows a city skyline with several buildings in red, blue, and yellow, and a starburst graphic containing the text "Daily tea time included".

SUPERHERO
holiday club 2026

DATE: 29 JUNE-3 JULY DAILY FROM 8AM-1PM

VENUE: TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Daily tea time included



A poster for the Holiday Club, divided into two columns. The top section features the text "HOLIDAY CLUB" in large, bold, orange letters with a black outline, set against a background of superhero silhouettes. Below this, the text "food/craft needs" is written in a cursive font. The left column lists the following items: "cupcakes/mix", "jolly jams", "wafer biscuits", "art/craft needs", "baby food jars", "newspaper", and "larger glass jars". The right column lists: "Help daily", "Sandwiches", "Tea time serving", "Leader lunches", and "juice and biscuits". The background of the bottom section shows a city skyline with buildings in red, blue, and yellow.

HOLIDAY CLUB
food/craft needs

cupcakes/mix
jolly jams
wafer biscuits
art/craft needs
baby food jars
newspaper
larger glass jars

HOLIDAY CLUB
Help daily

Sandwiches
Tea time serving
Leader lunches
juice and biscuits

Save the date!



Chop and chat and maintenance projects

Date: Saturday, 18 July
Time: from 8am
Venue: Trinity Presbyterian Church
Come and join in the fun!

Giving

Please take note:

EFT Payments

We would like to ensure that the payments made to Trinity towards tithing, retiring offerings, food bags etc are allocated correctly. In order to do this, please would you ensure that the reference shown on your payment has the correct beneficiary.

For Tithing, please use the following methods:

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
STANDARD BANK
CURRENT ACCOUNT
NUMBER: 42 448 2088,
BRANCH: 016 342

Zapper QR Code



In line with the POPI Act, if you do not wish for your photo or information to be shared on church platforms, please contact Felicity at office@trinitychurch.co.za or 011 453 7729