

UNITING REFORMED CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

DECISION REGISTER

OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CAPE REGIONAL SYNOD HELD AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE - ALICE
24 June 2018 - 30 June 2018

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A. MODERAMEN AND SYNODICAL COMMISSION

DECISION	COMMISSION
<p><u>Decision 6: Integrated Ministry Model</u> Synod affirms Decision 23 of SC2015 regarding Integrated Ministries: The Moderamen propose the thorough evaluation and revision of the Integrated Ministries model and delegate a task group including the Actuaris, Rev Prof MA Plaatjies van Huffel, Rev LL Plaatjie, Rev N Fingo, and Rev F Ayford to undertake this task and report back to the Moderamen and next SC. Rev Prof MA Plaatjies-Van Huffel is appointed as convenor. The Task group may co-opt other persons as deemed necessary. The report should be tabled at the next SC Meeting in 2019.</p>	Moderamen
<p><u>Decision 8 – Promotion of Internal Unity in URCSA Cape Synod</u> Synod initiates a research and creates and facilitates safe spaces through the Congregational Ministries to unpack the notion of internal unity and identifies concrete strategies to assist the church to grow into deeper unity. The recess of 2018 – 2022 must be dedicated to growing in unity. The Congregational Ministries must report on the process and progress at annual meetings of Presbyteries and the Synodical Commission.</p>	Moderamen Congregational ministry
<p><u>Decision 9 – Internal Unity</u> Experts will be consulted to draft a fully-fledged report on internal church unity taking account of research being done by the URCSA regarding multi-cultural and multi-ethnic churches to guide the Regional Synod.</p>	Moderamen
<p><u>Decision 11 - United Evangelical Mission (UEM)</u> Synod receives with gratitude the news of cooperation with UEM and encourages interested Ministries and congregations to grab these study opportunities.</p>	Moderamen Congregations Ministries
<p><u>Decision 12 – SACC</u> Synod endorses the SACC initiative regarding the SA we pray for and the subsequent mobilisation of a National Convention.</p>	Moderamen
<p><u>Decision 13 - Freedom of Religion Bill</u> Synod rejects any attempt to limit the free practice of religion in South Africa and call on the South African government to resist any attempt to restrict people’s fundamental right to religious expression. Synod also calls on the government to deal vigorously through existing law with people that abuse religious freedom by physical and financial abuse.</p>	Moderamen
<p><u>Decision 14 – Establishment of a Belhar Centre at UWC</u> Synod strongly endorses the initiative to establish a Belhar Centre or Chair for Theology at UWC and urges the Moderamen to work energetically towards accomplishing this goal, in partnership with the various theological institutes in our church.</p>	Moderamen
<p><u>Decision 15 – Belhar Centre</u> Synod recommends naming the Belhar Centre: The Belhar Centre for Unity, Reconciliation and Justice.</p>	Moderamen

<p><u>Decision 18 – Ill Discipline</u> Synod devises a strategy e.g. workshops to equip Church Councils and Presbyteries in methods of instilling discipline in the church.</p>	<p>Moderamen</p>
<p><u>Decision 19 – Leadership Training</u> With regards to recommendations 13.1 and 13.2, Synod decides that the workshops for Presbyteries and Church Councils on methods of instilling discipline must run concurrently with leadership training.</p>	<p>Moderamen</p>
<p><u>Decision 32 – Advice Given</u> i. The Synod takes note of the advice given. ii. Synod encourages the newly elected Ministries to have a training Workshop on their Regulation (s) to promote effective leadership. See section 11.3 of Regulation 1. iii. Synod encourages each ministry to work together with another Ministry when there is overlapping of duties and responsibilities.</p>	<p>Moderamen All Commissions</p>
<p><u>Decision 34: Emailing reports and minutes</u> Synod decides that any reports, minutes etc. electronically be sent to those delegates with internet access. This will save time, many trees and will be more convenient for a lot of delegates. Those who want to can submit their emails to the assistant scribes.</p>	<p>Moderamen</p>
<p><u>Decision 35 - Post-Synod Evaluation</u> In the light of all the lament Synod decides that the SC evaluates Synod 2018 thoroughly at its first meeting and start to do pro-active planning for Synod 2022.</p>	<p>Moderamen SC</p>
<p><u>Decision 37 - Implementing Decisions</u> Synod takes note: 1. Our sad reality is that we struggle to implement our very necessary and profound decisions. The decisions often reflect our hopes and dreams and intends to facilitate guidance and direction. 2. Because we can't afford to implement our decisions, we confirm and resolve again that: a) Ministries collaborate and develop strategies and partnerships for implementation. b) SMFA co-ordinates this process c) And if necessary facilitate changes in our church order Regulations.</p>	<p>Moderamen SMFA</p>
<p><u>Decision 41 - Changing of the Trust deed</u> Synod requests SC to do continuous follow up with CET with regards to the changing of the trust deed to meet different empowerment & development needs in the Cape Synod (Decision 30 of 2017)</p>	<p>SC CET</p>

<p><u>Decision 44 - Racial Tension</u> Synod decides that space should be created where members of synod speak about the serious issue of racial tension with special regard to the internal unity of the URCSA. The Synod lament the fact that the issues of racial mistrust and uncertainty about the mistrust and about the 50/50 ruling are causing growing frustrations within Synod.</p>	<p>Moderamen</p>
<p><u>Decision 94: Mini-Synods</u> That due to the amount of time that was spent on the SMFA report, that for future Synods the purpose of the Mini-Synods should be revisited. This must be done to avoid duplication of work and to use Synod's time optimally.</p>	<p>Moderamen Commission for Order</p>
<p><u>Decision 96: Day of Prayer</u> Synod requests the Moderamen to announce a Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving for the blessing of rain. A possible date could be 2 September 2018.</p>	<p>Moderamen</p>
<p><u>Decision 118 – Intervention by the Moderamen</u> Synod takes cognizance of the challenges which the Support Ministry of Judicial Matters encounters, due to the involvement of the Moderamen with disputes. Therefore, Synod instructs the incoming Moderamen to adhere to the church judicial provision in the church order of URCSA.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Synod decides that the Moderamen may only enter when the Moderamen has written or proven facts that the Presbytery indeed neglected its supervision. 2. Synod decides that a member of a Moderamen who has family in the Congregation/Presbytery where the disputes/conflict are must excuse himself/herself and must not get involved in the dispute/conflict. 3. Synod decides that Presbytery Support Ministry for Judicial Matters must make use of Regional Synod Stipulation 37 when circumstances get out of hand. 4. Synod decides that church members may not unfairly bypass the authority of the Church Council or the authority of the Presbytery. 	<p>Moderamen SMJM Presbytery</p>
<p><u>Decision 125 - Internal Unity</u> Die sinode verwys die belangrike saak van interne kerkeenheid na die nuutverkose Moderatuur en die Sinodale kommissie en Gemeentebediening as 'n prioriteit waaraan aandag gegee moet word in die komende reses. <i>ISinodi iwudlulisela lomba ubaluleke kangaka wobunye ngaphakathi kuba Hlalingaphambili abatsha kwakunye ne Komiti yeSinodi (Synodical Commission) nakuLungiselelo lweBandla okokuba inike ingqwalasela eyiyo kwixesha elizayo.</i></p>	<p>Moderamen SC Congregational Ministry</p>
<p><u>Decision 132 – Uniting two Congregations</u> Synod decides that no congregation of URCSA can unite with another church without the approval of the Presbytery and the Moderamen according to the Provisional Church Order.</p>	<p>Moderamen Presbytery</p>
<p><u>Decision 134 – URCSA and DRC Convention</u> Synod decide that we suspend the convention for church unity with the DRC until our next Synod in 2022. The funds can be used to strengthen our internal unity.</p>	<p>Moderamen</p>

<p><u>Decision 135 – Restructuring of Synod (Moderamen Report)</u> Synod decides to reject recommendation 21 of the Moderamen about the two Synods idea for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A strategic planning workshop can't table such a recommendation straight to Synod. 2. It's not conducive to our internal unity. 3. There were no consultations within congregations and Presbyteries within the Cape Synod. <p>Therefore, Synod decides that we will focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Strengthening our internal unity first and on the development of leadership capacity on Congregational and Presbyterial levels b. The economic sustainability of the Eastern Cape before even considering the establishment of two Synods. <p>This focus will be the responsibility of the Moderamen and two core Ministries: Service and Witness (Diakonia) Ministries and Congregational Ministry.</p>	<p>Moderamen Service&Witness Congregational Ministry</p>
<p><u>Decision 160 - SKLAS</u> Synod takes note of the conference held with the BNC with the recess. Synod expresses a word of thanks to Kerk in Actie for their generous funding during the recess which put the regional Synod in place to hold these conferences. Synod urges the SC and Moderamen to forward all social justice issues to the SKLAS and request them to table the research to the SC during the recess (General Synod Stipulation 32.4) for example expropriation of land without compensation and the regulation of religion.</p>	<p>Moderamen SKLAS/SMDCA</p>
<p><u>Decision 171 – Land Reform Hearings</u> Synod decides that a relevant Synodical Commission must be delegated to attend the upcoming public hearings on the land reform done by the government more especially in the areas where our church is directly affected.</p>	<p>Moderamen</p>
<p><u>Decision 173 – The Calvin Protestant Church</u> That in the light of the Cape Synod 2018 theme and the three pillars of the confession of Belhar that the URCSA Cape region not only makes internal unity a priority but also engage into a discussion with the Calvin protestant church with regards to unity taking into consideration our shared history.</p>	<p>Moderamen</p>
<p><u>Decision 179 - Arbitration Structure</u> This Synod decides to approve a process of establishing a Tribunal that will deal with all serious charges against church officers. The Moderamen in consultation with the affected parties appoints three members from neighbouring presbyteries to act as a Tribunal which can process and finalize the charges. If any party feels aggrieved afterwards, an appeal is made to the Synodical Commission (SC) or Synod. The Synod entrusts the SMJM to draw up the necessary Regulation with submission of a progress report to the first SC.</p>	

<p><u>Decision 180 - Differently abled</u></p> <p>Synod decides to further grow URCSA as a church open for differently abled and make sure that our church gatherings and meetings include all differently abled people in our faith community. Therefore, we commit ourselves to establish and grow a church environment that is inclusive and excludes nobody.</p> <p>The following practical tips are proposed for our church gatherings and conferences:</p> <p>Visualize our conferences by making use of multimedia projectors and powerpoint presentations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get interpreters and people that understand the differently abled member to accompany them. 2. Make hard copies available of reports and speeches for interpreters beforehand. 3. Keep contributions short and stick to the point on the agenda. Going back to points dealt with is very confusing for the deaf. 4. Engage with the deaf and differently abled member in building relationships and fellowships. 5. Make sure venues (toilets as well) are accessible for wheelchairs. 6. The blind must also be accommodated. <p>God has created us the body of Christ to be a body to those we are differently abled and to be in unity with them.</p> <p>In the language of the Belhar Confession “that this unity can be established only in are by freedom and not under constraint that the variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, backgrounds, convictions as well as the various languages and cultures are by virtue of reconciliation in Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment within one visible people.</p>	<p>Moderamen All Commissions Presbyteries Congregations</p>
<p><u>Decision 181 - Proposal on Gender-based violence</u></p> <p>Synod urges the congregations to embrace the Thursdays in black campaign.</p> <p>Synod urges members of URCSA to wear a pin on Thursdays to declare that you are part of the global movement resisting attitudes and practises that permit rape and violence against women and children.</p> <p>Motivation:</p> <p>In every, gender-based violence is a tragic reality.</p> <p>In South Africa thousands of women, children are being raped on an annual basis.</p> <p>The violence is frequently hidden and victims are left silent, fearing stigma.</p> <p>We all have a responsibility to speak out against gender-based violence, to ensure that women and men, boys and girls are safe from rape and violence in the home, work, schools in all places of society. Thursdays in black grew out of the WCC’s program, the Ecumenical decade in solidarity of women. (1988 – 1998)</p>	

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<p><u>Decision 183- Elections</u> Synod refers paragraphs 1 - 4 to the elected Moderamen to consolidate these points to one proposal with a progress report to the next SC.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Synod proposes when elections for Moderamen are done, Synod will adopt a spirit of inclusion, taking care to apply the existing 50-50 rule throughout the 8-part membership, not only to language but also to gender, furthermore to elect ministers and Church Council members and to make sure that membership is intergenerational. 2. Synod decides that 50-50 be applied to females as well and that 4 of 8 should be female of which 2 Afrikaans and 2 Xhosa females. 3. Synod decides that we tap in on the speech of the General Synod Moderator regarding 50-50 that we change the term to “inclusivity” which also means exactly what we mean by 50-50. Inclusivity is more neutral and Christian language. This will help our church to move away from divisive sounding language. 4. Synod decides that we have to eradicate all manifestations of domination; no specific position in Moderamen will be set aside for Afrikaans or Xhosa speaking. If a candidate's name appears on the voter's list, knowing that the next candidate should be Xhosa or Afrikaans, such a candidate must withdraw or delete the name. The authority of this assembly eliminates 3 critical positions: Moderator, Scribe, Actuaries. Our unity is the absolute priority within this whole debacle. The 50-50 principle is an absolute priority for the health of our unity. We therefore advise this gathering to revisit this process of elections NOW! If the right result is to surface, by resigning. 	<p>Moderamen</p>
<p><u>Decision 184 - Inclusion of a URCSA Hymn</u> <i>A letter was written by Elder W Mettler regarding a hymn written by Br Appollis Prins. He asked Synod to consider making this hymn the official hymn of URCSA. Synod refers this to the Proclamation and Worship Ministry of the General Synod.</i></p>	<p>Scriba Synodi GS Proclamation and Worship</p>

<p><u>Decision 190 – Internal Church unity</u> Synod tasks the Moderamen (one or two of the additional members) with the portfolio: Internal Unity and reports to the next SC the progress of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The responses that the Moderamen received on the table discussions in this Synod 2. Research on internal church unity in conjunction with the Commission: Doctrine and Current Affairs 3. A framework for reflection and desired outcomes. 	<p>Moderamen</p>
<p><u>Decision 191 – Meeting with Eastern and Western Cape DRC Synods</u> The Cape Synod of URCSA should meet the Synods of Eastern and Western Cape to discuss and facilitate the process of reconciliation and truth between these two churches. This should start with presbyteries and local congregations of these two churches. We need to face our past openly with our brothers and sisters to have the unity that Jesus requires of His church.</p>	<p>Moderamen Presbyteries Congregations</p>
<p><u>Decision 192 - Homosexuality</u> Synod refers the discussion on homosexuality to the SC to communicate the two proposals, one amendment and one original, to the presbyteries for discussion and feedback to the SC, in time to formulate a recommendation to the General Synod.</p>	<p>SC Moderamen GSC</p>

B. PROCLAMATION AND WORSHIP

REGIONAL MINISTERIAL FORMATION TASK TEAM (RMFTT)

<p><u>Decision 28 – Proponent Andrew Roland Oliphant</u> The Cape Synod requests the GSC to mandate the Cape MFTT to allow Proponent Andrew Roland Oliphant to be ordained. This will allow him to function fully as a minister.</p>	<p>RMFTT GSC</p>
<p><u>Decision 32 – Advice Given</u> i. The Synod takes note of the advice given. ii. Synod encourages the newly elected Ministries to have a training Workshop on their Regulation (s) to promote effective leadership. See section 11.3 of Regulation 1. iii. Synod encourages each ministry to work together with another Ministry when there is overlapping of duties and responsibilities.</p>	<p>All Ministries</p>
<p><u>Decision 138 - Assessment Commission (Admission)</u> The newly Regional Ministerial Formation Task Team (RMFTT) will elect their own Executive and Assessment Commission (Admission).</p>	<p>RMFTT</p>
<p><u>Decision 139 - Assessment Commission (Examination)</u> The newly Regional Ministerial Formation Task Team (RMFTT) will elect their own Assessment Commission (Examination).</p>	<p>RMFTT</p>
<p><u>Decision 140 - The Student Chaplain, Rev Dr NC Philander</u> Synod refers the appointment of the new Student Chaplain to the newly elected Regional Ministerial Formation Task Team (RMFTT). The appointment process must be done strictly according to the stipulations of the Church Order.</p>	<p>RMFTT</p>
<p><u>Decision 141 – Trial Sermons</u> (a) Synod decides that from 2019 Trial sermons will be held in a congregation within a 250km radius from Stellenbosch due to the financial constraints of the RMFTT. (b) A student who lives further than the 250km radius and request to have his/her trial sermon at home, the following ruling will be brought into account: (1) The RMFTT will cover the 250km radius travelling cost. (2) The student and the office of the Student Chaplain will engage with his/her home congregation and Church Council to help with the balance of the cost in hosting such a trial sermon. (3) These costs include the cost of the promoter and the paranymp, etc.</p>	<p>RMFTT</p>
<p><u>Decision 142– Adapted Curriculum for mature members</u> Synod deems it necessary to propose amendments to the General Synod regarding the Adapted curriculum for mature members. Changes are indicated in bold.</p> <p><i>Mature URCSA members who are over fifty years of age and have proven themselves as leaders in the church and community over many years may be licensed after following an adapted curriculum. When a URCSA member applies to a Regional Ministerial Formation Task Team (RMFTT) to be considered for this adapted curriculum, the following steps will be taken:</i></p> <p>Motivation: change forty years of age to fifty years of age. <i>The Regional Synod’s MFTT request the approval of the General Synod’s MFTT in determining whether a mature candidate in this category will be required to obtain the formal qualifications</i></p>	<p>RMFTT</p>

<p><i>of Greek 1, Hebrew 1 and a first level course in an African language (as required in the general curriculum) before being enrolled in a program.</i></p> <p><i>What will guide the General Synod's MFTT in this decision is the ability of the applicant to interpret Scripture faithfully and creatively in a context, a functional acquaintance with Greek and Hebrew that allows her/him to consult commentaries based on the original languages; her/his communication and multilingual skills. 11. General Synod Decisions: See addendum.</i></p> <p>Motivation: <i>Approval for deviation of the standard requirements for theological training should reside in the General Synod's MFTT upon approval of the General Synodical Commission.</i></p>	
<p><u>Decision 143 – Mentors and Training Congregations</u></p> <p>To strengthen the level of cooperation between the Seminary and Training Congregations the Seminary-Board finds it necessary to communicate to all in this manner. The role of the Training Congregation in the Ministerial Formation of our Ministry students should never be underestimated. It plays a crucial part in the exposure to and gaining of experience of the more practical side of congregational ministry. We are truly grateful for the part you have played up till now in this regard. In view of the continuation of our relationship, we need a commitment from your congregation (by way of an official decision of the Church Council) to act as a Training Congregation for the 2018 academic year.</p> <p>Ministers who avail themselves to be mentors of theological students should be evaluated to see whether they are able to mentor students in the required 500 practical hours.</p>	RMFTT
<p><u>Decision 144 – RMFTT Golf Day</u></p> <p>Synod takes note with gratitude of the abovementioned sponsors that contributed to the success of the Golf Day.</p>	RMFTT
<p><u>Decision 145 - Seminarium</u></p> <p>The Regional Formation Task Team (RMFTT) referred decision 24 & 25 to the Seminarium-Board.</p>	RMFTT
<p><u>Decision 146 - Theological and Social Challenges</u></p> <p>The Regional Formation Task Team (RMFTT) and the Faculty of Theology, University of Stellenbosch availed herself to be part of the process.</p>	RMFTT
<p><u>Decision 147 – VBO (Voortgesette Bedieningsontwikkeling) Courses</u> <i>(Continuous Ministerial Formation-CMF)</i></p> <p>Synod decides that Regional Formation Task Team (RMFTT) should also be part of the developing of VBO (CMF) -courses to address the needs and challenges in the Eastern Cape.</p>	RMFTT
<p><u>Decision 148 - Necessity to reintroduce Greek 3 and Hebrew 2 in the Curriculum</u></p> <p>Regional Synod commissions the newly elected Commission of the RMFTT to investigate this matter and report to the Synodical Commission of 2019 of its findings.</p>	RMFTT

<p><u>Decision 149 - Continuity of Members of RMFTT</u> 1.If synod finds it necessary to elect new members to the RMFTT (which is good), they must insure continuity of the work of the RMFTT. 2.Seniority of ministers should also be taken into account when electing the RMFTT.</p>	<p>RMFTT</p>
<p><u>Decision 150 – Uniformity in Theological Studies of URCSA Students at Tertiary institutions</u> Synod refers this matter to the GSMFTT to investigate this matter and seek to bring about a unified theological curriculum for all URCSA Theological students studying to become ministers of the Word, irrespective of place of study. Secondly, the newly elected RMFTT report to the Cape Regional Synodical Commission 2019. its progress in this matter.</p>	<p>RMFTT GSMFTT</p>
<p><u>Decision 151 – Eighteen Years of study at the University of Stellenbosch (US)</u> Synod takes note of the strides made during the past eighteen years but also acknowledge that the journey towards equality between all is a continuous journey in which we must not leave one another. Synod encourages the RMFTT and URCSA students to take their rightful place at US. Therefore, Synod decides that members of previous, but also current and incoming MFTT with the Board of URCSA Lecturers, alumni and students at SU, initiate a process of research and reflection towards 2020, which may include writing retreats, publications, conferences and other events commemorating our journey together, but also discerning our common future.</p>	<p>RMFTT</p>
<p><u>Decision 153 - Age of Theological Students (second-career students)</u> Synod refers the issue of mature candidates for ministry who have already reached the age of 65 at the completion of their studies to the GSC (for example Oliphant) to be considered as exceptional cases. Synod requests the GSC to approve legitimation with full status as candidates for ministry intended for these mature students.</p>	<p>RMFTT GSC</p>
<p><u>Decision 154 – New MTh for Ministerial Practice</u> 8.1. Synod takes note of the need for an MTh programme for second career students. 8.2. Synod approves that the participation of the Cape Regional MFTT in the development of a new MTh programme that will address the ministerial formation needs of theology students on a part-time basis. 8.3. Synod- directs the URCSA members of the task team to ensure that a section of the current M.Div program which enhances the Reformed identity of partner churches should be included in the new MTh Program as a minimal. 8.4. Synod- instructs the Cape Regional MFTT to forward the new MTh Program to the General Synod MFTT and the General Synod Commission for approval before implementation. See Addendum</p>	<p>RMFTT GSMFTT GSC</p>

<p><u>Decision 155: Theological Formation URCSA (500-hour practical ministry experience)</u> Synod takes note of the 500 hours of Practical ministry experience as approved by the General Synod of the URCSA. Synod urges the incoming Cape Regional MFTT to ensure that all theology students under their care gain at least 100 hours of ministry experience (i.e. an average of 2 hours per week) during each year of study, under the guidance of an approved URCSA mentor.</p>	<p>RMFTT</p>
<p><u>Decision 156: VBO points</u> Synod mandates the Curatorium to investigate the practice of earning VBO (CMF) points that give credits towards obtaining postgraduate qualifications e.g. M.TH for Ministers of the Word with report to the SC.</p>	<p>RMFTT</p>

DOCTRINE AND CURRENT AFFAIRS (SMDCA/SKLAS)

<p><u>Decision 22 - Ministers who also practice as sangomas</u> Synod decides that the matter captured under 13.4, i.e. ministers practising as sangomas be referred to SKLAS for study, consideration and recommendations to the next Synodical Commission meeting.</p>	<p>SMDCA</p>
<p><u>Decision 32 – Advice Given</u> i. The Synod takes note of the advice given. ii. Synod encourages the newly elected Ministries to have a training Workshop on their Regulation (s) to promote effective leadership. See section 11.3 of Regulation 1. iii. Synod encourages each ministry to work together with another Ministry when there is overlapping of duties and responsibilities.</p>	<p>All Commission</p>
<p><u>Decision 45: Diversity program – Approved and Referred to SKLAS</u> Synod decides to request “SKLAS” to work out a program through which congregations can be guided to improve/enhance the diversity of the congregation.</p>	<p>SMDCA</p>
<p><u>Decision 157 - Recommendations</u> a. That Synod pleads with the delegates to cooperate with the SMDCA. They should undertake a commitment in this process and help Synod to finalise this matter. They should be requested to go and motivate their congregations to fill out these questionnaires and return them to the scribe of the SKLAS. b. That Synod allows SMDCA to continue to harness the skills of biblical researchers for a development of a working paper on "A Reformed Understanding of Anointing". c. That Synod approves the intended conference on an Alternative Economic Model that will involve ministers and the budget thereof. d. That Synod express sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology for fruitful cooperation between the Centre and SMDCA and for financial support from Kerk in Actie to ensure the progress of the Congregations and Public Life conferences.</p>	<p>SMDCA</p>

<p>Decision 158, SKLAS-BNC Conferences</p> <p>Synod decides that the new SMDCA test the attendees during the conferences of 2019 and make the option to rotate part of the evaluation questionnaire, and act accordingly.</p> <p><i>(Point 1, Recommendation 2 – Approved)</i></p> <p>Synod reiterates that there is still a need for the initial reason for the SKLAS-BNS Conferences, which is to conscientise, mobilize and empower URCSA ministers about Congregations and Public life and give them an opportunity to engage each other and the praxis of congregational ministry in order to be more responsive to current and new challenges for the ministry.</p> <p>Synod takes note with gratitude that these conferences are a blessing and make a positive impact on the ministers and their congregations who attended the conferences.</p> <p>Synod also takes note that the conferences are also not attended well by a lot of ministers of URCSA Cape Synod, especially the Western and Southern Cape Conferences and that the conferences have been opened up to colleagues from other denominations and the Dutch Reformed Church. It has become ecumenical and more inclusive and reaches a broader group of influence. Synod also takes note that there is a progressive need that the Church Council and congregation members should also become part of and involved in these important engagements. Synod approves the decision of the previous SMDCA to do more to encourage and empower Presbyteries to have their own Conference as a follow-up on the three SMDCA-BNC Conferences. These Conferences should target the members of the church. Synod requests the new SMDCA to, in co-operation with the Beyers Naudé Centre (BNC), help Presbyteries with networking and availing their data-basis and information about Presenters and other logistical matters.</p>	<p>SMDCA Presbyteries</p>
<p>Decision 159 – Anointing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Synod reiterates the need for further research and to formulate a Reformed stance on Anointment and thanks to the SMDCA for the work that has already been done on this topic. 2. That the paper on Anointing prepared by Rev Dr N Cezula and the Addendum 10 about Confirmation Baptism from the Agenda of NGS Kerk 20 September 1990 again be circulated for comment from the Ministers, Church Councils and members of the URCSA Cape Synod Congregations. 3. These documents will also be posted on the URCSA Cape Website under the name of SMDCA and on the URCSA Cape Facebook Page. Ministers and Members will be requested to comment either on the website and/or Facebook Page, or send their comments or responses to the Scribe of SMDCA. 4. Synod tasks the new SMDCA to take the process further with the following guidelines <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) to take note of the comments and responses that have been received already, b) to engage with the BEM (Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry) document (1982) of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and other relevant documents that can enlighten the process 	<p>SMDCA</p>

<p>Decision 160 - SKLAS</p> <p>Synod takes note of the conference held with the BNC with the recess. Synod expresses a word of thanks to Kerk in Actie for their generous funding during the recess which put the regional Synod in place to hold these conferences.</p> <p>Synod urges the SC and Moderamen to forward all social justice issues to the SKLAS and request them to table the research to the SC during the recess (General Synod Stipulation 32.4) for example expropriation of land without compensation and the regulation of religion.</p>	<p>Moderamen SC SMDCA</p>
<p>Decision 182: Gender-based Exclusion</p> <p>Synod has taken note with concern of the experience of women delegates, experiences of exclusion, being ignored and subtle marginalization during the sitting of this Synod because of their gender, disabilities and or thought. As Synod, we express our deepest pain and solidarity but sincere remorse at this injustice. Synod discerns the hegemony of patriarchy in our midst and in our institutional culture and practises.</p> <p>We therefore commit ourselves on the basis of our Confession of Belhar to take a stand where God stands namely against injustice and with the wronged. We believe that following Christ, the Church must witness against all powerful and privileged, who satisfy in such their own interest and this control and harm others.</p> <p>Therefore, we request the Ministry for Doctrine and Current Affairs to draft in the recess the policy and procedure for identification and dialogue, effectively with various events as well as intervention forms of gender-based exclusion and even subtle violence in our own midst.</p> <p>We task support Ministry for Service and Witness to initiate training workshops and other support services to equip all leaders in the church to be informed and equipped with the necessary attributes and skills. We initiate a process of organisational review in order to address the reality of patriarchy in our institutional culture and praxis.</p>	<p>SMDCA Service&Witness</p>

C. CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY

<p><u>Decision 8 – Promotion of Internal Unity in URCSA Cape Synod</u> Synod initiates a research and creates and facilitates safe spaces through the Congregational Ministries to unpack the notion of internal unity and identifies concrete strategies to assist the church to grow into deeper unity. The recess of 2018 – 2022 must be dedicated to growing in unity. The Congregational Ministries must report on the process and progress at annual meetings of Presbyteries and the Synodical Commission.</p>	Congregational Ministry Moderamen
<p><u>Decision 32 – Advice Given</u> i. The Synod takes note of the advice given. ii. Synod encourages the newly elected Ministries to have a training Workshop on their Regulation (s) to promote effective leadership. See section 11.3 of Regulation 1. iii. Synod encourages each ministry to work together with another Ministry when there is overlapping of duties and responsibilities.</p>	All Ministries
<p><u>Decision 46: Proponents and ministers waiting for a call</u> Proponents and ministers that are waiting for a call and have not yet been put in service in a congregation find themselves in an extremely difficult position. 1. The three core ministries are requested to design a program to alleviate the problem. 2. Service and Witness should take the lead. 3. A database must be put together of them and made known on the media platforms of the Synod. 4. Vacant congregations are encouraged to call proponents/ministers waiting. 5. The three Ministries must look at a program of internships for those awaiting a call. It can run for one or two years whereby a congregation is supported with a monthly subsidy to take the proponents in service for the fixed period. 6. The three Ministries will establish a fund for this purpose.</p>	Service and Witness Proclamation and Worship Congregational Ministry
<p><u>Decision 120 - Vacant Congregations</u> Die sinode dra dit aan Gemeente bedieninge op om in die komende reses: a. verdere navorsing oor vakante gemeentes te onderneem. b. ringe te besoek om verdere gesprekke tussen die rolspelers te fasiliteer ten einde by werkbare oplossings te kom. c. Begeleiers op te lei binne elke ring om verdere gesprekke tussen die rolspelers te fasiliteer ten einde by werkbare oplossings te kom. d. Die moontlikhede wat die interim kerkorde bied vir VGK en NGK gemeentes is om saam te werk, ontgin word as deel van die oplossing om die uitdaging van vakante gemeentes aan te spreek.</p> <p>ISinodi idlulisela kwiQela loLungiselelo lweBandla okokuba lithi kwixesha elizayo: a. Liqhubele phambili ngophando ngamaBandla anezikhewu (vacant) b. ULungiselelo lweBandla malutyelele iziThili luyokuqhuba uthetha thethwano phakathi kwabathabathi nxanxheba ngenjongo yokuba kufunyanwe izisombululo ezizizo c. Luxhobise abaquzeleli kwisiThili ngasinye ukuze bona baqhube uthetha thethwano phakathi kwabathabathi nxaxheba ukuze kufikelelwe kwizisombululo ezisebenzayo</p>	Congregational ministry

<p>d. UMthetho-siseko wexeshana we URC ne DRC unika amathuba okokuba amaBandla asebenzisane, masiwusebenzise njenge nxalenye yesisombululo ekuxazululeni umcelimgeni wamaBandla anezikhewu</p>	
<p><u>Decision 121 – Vacant Congregations</u> i.Synod instructs Congregational Ministries to investigate the possibility of having a student doing a Master’s Degree or PhD regarding vacant congregations. Congregational Ministries assist in finding funding for such a research. ii. This research must include qualitative as well as quantitative research. iii. Synod asked SMFA to investigate the possibility to establish a central fund to support vacant congregations to enable them to call a minister.</p>	<p>Congregational ministry SMFA</p>
<p><u>Decision 122 - The support to ministers</u> Die sinode keur dit goed dat die opsie uitgeoefen word om Ds. Andrew Esterhuizen se kontrak te verleng. Die hooffokus sal wees die opleiding van mentors om die predikante in die verskillende streke te ondersteun en te begelei. <i>ISinodi iyalamkela ilinge lokokuba imvumelwano no Mfu. Andrew Esterhuizen yandiswe. Ugxininiso lwakhe luyakuba sekubeni aqeqeshe abaququzeleli ukuze bakwazi ukuxhasa baxhobise abefundisi kwingingqi abakuzo.</i></p>	<p>Congregational ministry</p>
<p><u>Decision 124 – Mentors</u> Synod decides that Congregational Ministries be tasked to train ministers as mentors to support the ministers and their families.</p>	<p>Congregational ministry</p>
<p><u>Decision 125 - Internal Unity</u> Die sinode verwys die belangrike saak van interne kerkeenheid na die nuutverkose Moderatuur en die Sinodale kommissie en Gemeentebediening as ‘n prioriteit waaraan aandag gegee moet word in die komende reses. <i>ISinodi iwudlulisela lomba ubaluleke kangaka wobunye ngaphakathi kuba Hlalingaphambili abatsha kwakunye ne Komiti yeSinodi (Synodical Commission) nakuLungiselelo lweBandla okokuba inike ingqwalasela eyiyo kwixesha elizayo.</i></p>	<p>Moderamen SC Congregational ministry</p>
<p><u>Decision 126 - Well Being of Ministers and their Families</u> a. Die sinode versoek kerkrade, om as ‘n saak van dringendheid, ‘n omgee-span saam te stel uit kerkrade en lidmate, wat van nature vir ander omgee om ‘n proses aan die gang te sit om vir hul predikant en sy of haar gesin op praktiese wyses om te gee en die gemeente te begelei om ook so te doen. b. Gemeente Bediening kry opdrag van die sinode om gemeentes hierin te begelei. c. Opgeleide begeleiers binne elke ring met die opdrag om gesprekke in die ringe te fasiliteer met betrekking tot die welstand van predikante en hul gesinne. a. ISinodi icela amaQumrhu amaBandla okokuba lo mba awuthabathe njengongxamisekileyo ngokuthi aseke iqelo lokhathalelo eliphuma kwiQumrhu leBandla nakumalungu eBandla abazakuthi baqale inkqubo yokukhathalela umfundisi wabo nosapho lwakhe ngendlela ebonakalayo nokuze ke baxhobise nebandla ukuba nalo lwenze njalo. b. ULungiselelo lweBandla liyalelwa yiSinodi okokuba lixhobise amaBandla kulo mba.</p>	<p>Church councils Congregational ministry</p>

<p>c. Abaququzeleli abaqeqeshiweyo kwisiThili ngasinye bayalelwa okokuba baququzelele uthetha - thethwano eziThilini ngokuphathelele kwimeko yabefundisi nentsapho zabo.</p>	
<p><u>Decision 127: The future of the SCE</u> Synod decides in light of the Integrated Ministry model that the SCE dissolves as its work is in part a duplication of the Congregational Ministries. The office of the SCE will be occupied by the Congregational Ministries.</p>	<p>Congregational Ministry</p>
<p><u>Decision 135 – Restructuring of Synod (Moderamen Report)</u> Synod decides to reject recommendation 21 of the Moderamen about the two Synods idea for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A strategic planning workshop can't table such a recommendation straight to Synod. 2. It's not conducive to our internal unity. 3. There were no consultations within congregations and Presbyteries within the Cape Synod. <p>Therefore, Synod decides that we will focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Strengthening our internal unity first and on the development of leadership capacity on Congregational and Presbyterial levels b. The economic sustainability of the Eastern Cape before even considering the establishment of two Synods. <p>This focus will be the responsibility of the Moderamen and two core Ministries: Service and Witness (Diakonia) Ministries and Congregational Ministry.</p>	<p>Moderamen Service&Witness Congregational Ministry</p>

D. SERVICE AND WITNESS

SYNODICAL COMMISSION FOR DIACONAL SERVICES (SCDS)

<p><u>Decision 32 – Advice Given</u></p> <p>i. The Synod takes note of the advice given.</p> <p>ii. Synod encourages the newly elected Ministries to have a training Workshop on their Regulation (s) to promote effective leadership. See section 11.3 of Regulation 1.</p> <p>iii. Synod encourages each ministry to work together with another Ministry when there is overlapping of duties and responsibilities.</p>	<p>All Ministries</p>
<p><u>Decision 57: Gratitude to Rev C Swart</u></p> <p>The SC extends their gratitude to Rev Carl Swart for his services to the Church and wishes him well in his retirement.</p>	<p>SCDS</p>
<p><u>Decision 46 - Proponents and ministers waiting for a call</u></p> <p>Proponents and ministers that are waiting for a call and have not yet been put in service in a congregation find themselves in an extremely difficult position.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The three core ministries are requested to design a program to alleviate the problem. 2. Service and Witness should take the lead. 3. A database must be put together of them and made known on the media platforms of the Synod. 4. Vacant congregations are encouraged to call proponents/ministers waiting. 5. The three Ministries must look at a program of internships for those awaiting a call. It can run for one or two years whereby a congregation is supported with a monthly subsidy to take the proponents in service for the fixed period. 6. The three Ministries will establish a fund for this purpose. 	<p>Service and Witness Proclamation and Worship Congregational Ministries</p>
<p><u>Decision 58: Nuwe Hoop Centre</u></p> <p>Synod notes with concern the report on Nuwe Hoop Centre for the Hearing Impaired and reaffirms the decisions of Synods 2002 and 2010 regarding implementing financial safeguards to enable the institution to keep fulfilling its founding mandate. Synod therefore instructs the ministries SCDS and SMFA to attend to this matter urgently with report to the next Synodical Commission meeting.</p>	<p>SCDS SMFA</p>
<p><u>Decision 62 - Badisa as preferred service provider</u></p> <p>Synod supports the further strategic positioning of Badisa as preferred service provider.</p>	<p>Badisa</p>
<p><u>Decision 63 - Badisa – vehicle for professional social services</u></p> <p>Synod reaffirms that Badisa, as part of the church's diaconate, is the vehicle for professional social services and that it will be marketed as such within congregations.</p>	<p><u>Badisa</u></p>
<p><u>Decision 64: Supporting Badisa programmes</u></p> <p>Synod commits itself to encourage congregations to support Badisa programmes – financially as well as participation in management structures and voluntary service at Programs.</p>	<p><u>Badisa</u></p>

<p><u>Decision 65: Rev Betty Wanza</u> Synod congratulates Rev B Wanza on her calling as a full-time minister for the hearing impaired and pledges its support and prayers to her ministry.</p>	<p>SCDS</p>
<p><u>Decision 182: Gender-based Exclusion</u> Synod has taken note with concern of the experience of women delegates, experiences of exclusion, being ignored and subtle marginalization during the sitting of this Synod because of their gender, disabilities and or thought. As Synod, we express our deepest pain and solidarity but sincere remorse at this injustice. Synod discerns the hegemony of patriarchy in our midst and in our institutional culture and practises.</p> <p>We therefore commit ourselves on the basis of our Confession of Belhar to take a stand where God stands namely against injustice and with the wronged. We believe that following Christ, the Church must witness against all powerful and privileged, who satisfy in such their own interest and this control and harm others.</p> <p>Therefore, we request the Ministry for Doctrine and Current Affairs to draft in the recess the policy and procedure for identification and dialogue, effectively with various events as well as intervention forms of gender-based exclusion and even subtle violence in our own midst.</p> <p>We task support Ministry for Service and Witness to initiate training workshops and other support services to equip all leaders in the church to be informed and equipped with the necessary attributes and skills. We initiate a process of organisational review in order to address the reality of patriarchy in our institutional culture and praxis.</p>	<p>Service and Witness SKLAS</p>
<p><u>Decision 135 – Restructuring of Synod</u> Synod decides to reject recommendation 21 of the Moderamen about the two Synods idea for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A strategic planning workshop can't table such a recommendation straight to Synod. 2. It's not conducive to our internal unity. 3. There were no consultations within congregations and Presbyteries within the Cape Synod. <p>Therefore, Synod decides that we will focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Strengthening our internal unity first and on the development of leadership capacity on Congregational and Presbyterial levels b. The economic sustainability of the Eastern Cape before even considering the establishment of two Synods. <p>This focus will be the responsibility of the Moderamen and two core Ministries: Service and Witness (Diakonia) Ministries and Congregational Ministry.</p>	<p>Moderamen Service and Witness Congregational Ministry</p>

<p><u>Decision 163 – Ministry to the Deaf</u> That the ministry for the deaf is expanded in URCSA. There is a growing need for ministering to the deaf as there are more than 400 000 deaf people in SA. Synod decides: -Ministry programs should be further developed. -Necessary reassures and human capital needs to be developed and utilised.</p>	<p>SCDS</p>
<p><u>Decision 177 - Regulation for the joint ministry for congregational diaconate- Diaconate of the URCSA Cape Region and the DRCSA (Western Cape)</u> Synod decides that this Regulation must go back to the drawing board to have the composition reduced to 10 persons on each side between URCSA and DRCSA. The rest must be adjusted accordingly.</p>	<p>SCDS</p>

WITNESS MINISTRY

<p><u>Decision 32 – Advice Given</u> i. The Synod takes note of the advice given. ii. Synod encourages the newly elected Ministries to have a training Workshop on their Regulation (s) to promote effective leadership. See section 11.3 of Regulation 1. iii. Synod encourages each ministry to work together with another Ministry when there is overlapping of duties and responsibilities.</p>	<p>All Ministries</p>
<p><u>Decision 46: Proponents and ministers waiting for a call</u> Proponents and ministers that are waiting for a call and have not yet been put in service in a congregation find themselves in an extremely difficult position. 1. The three core ministries are requested to design a program to alleviate the problem. 2. Service and Witness should take the lead. 3. A database must be put together of them and made known on the media platforms of the Synod. 4. Vacant congregations are encouraged to call proponents/ministers waiting. 5. The three Ministries must look at a program of internships for those awaiting a call. It can run for one or two years whereby a congregation is supported with a monthly subsidy to take the proponents in service for the fixed period. 6. The three Ministries will establish a fund for this purpose.</p>	<p>Service and Witness Proclamation and Worship Congregational Ministries</p>
<p><u>Decision 66: Rev S Pedro</u> Die sinode wens Ds Steven Pedro geluk met sy aanstelling as Bestuurder: Getuienis in en deur Gemeentes en versoek ringe en gemeentes om hom in sy werksaamhede te ondersteun. <i>The Synod congratulates Rev Steven Pedro with his appointment as Manager: Witness in and through Congregations and requests Presbyteries and congregations to support him in his work.</i></p>	<p>WITNESS</p>

<p><u>Decision 67: The family of Rev Dr. J Botha</u> Die Sinode spreek sy medelye uit met Selma Botha en hul familie met die heengaan van Johan Botha. Die Here word gedank vir die jare diens en bydrae wat hy aan die VGK Kaapland gelewer het. <i>Synod expresses its condolences with Selma Botha and the family with the passing of Rev Dr J Botha. We thank the Lord for his service and contribution to URCSA Cape.</i></p>	<p>WITNESS</p>
<p><u>Decision 135 – Restructuring of Synod (Moderamen Report)</u> Synod decides to reject recommendation 21 of the Moderamen about the two Synods idea for the following reasons: 1. A strategic planning workshop can't table such a recommendation straight to Synod. 2. It's not conducive to our internal unity. 3. There were no consultations within congregations and Presbyteries within the Cape Synod.</p> <p>Therefore, Synod decides that we will focus on: a. Strengthening our internal unity first and on the development of leadership capacity on Congregational and Presbyterial levels b. The economic sustainability of the Eastern Cape before even considering the establishment of two Synods.</p> <p>This focus will be the responsibility of the Moderamen and two core Ministries: Service and Witness (Diakonia) Ministries and Congregational Ministry.</p>	<p>Moderamen Service and Witness Congregational Ministry</p>
<p><u>Decision 182: Gender-based Exclusion</u> Synod has taken note with concern of the experience of women delegates, experiences of exclusion, being ignored and subtle marginalization during the sitting of this Synod because of their gender, disabilities and or thought. As Synod, we express our deepest pain and solidarity but sincere remorse at this injustice. Synod discerns the hegemony of patriarchy in our midst and in our institutional culture and practises.</p> <p>We therefore commit ourselves on the basis of our Confession of Belhar to take a stand where God stands namely against injustice and with the wronged. We believe that following Christ, the Church must witness against all powerful and privileged, who satisfy in such their own interest and this control and harm others.</p> <p>Therefore, we request the Ministry for Doctrine and Current Affairs to draft in the recess the policy and procedure for identification and dialogue, effectively with various events as well as intervention forms of gender-based exclusion and even subtle violence in our own midst.</p> <p>We task support Ministry for Service and Witness to initiate training workshops and other support services to equip all leaders in the church to be informed and equipped with the necessary attributes and skills. We initiate a process of organisational review in order to address the reality of patriarchy in our institutional culture and praxis.</p>	<p>SMDCA Service and Witness</p>

E. SUPPORT MINISTRIES

SUPPORT MINISTRY FOR FINANCES & ADMINISTRATION (SMFA)

<p><u>Decision 37: Implementing Decisions</u> Synod takes note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Our sad reality is that we struggle to implement our very necessary and profound decisions. The decisions often reflect our hopes and dreams and intend to facilitate guidance and direction. 4. Because we cannot afford to implement our decisions, we confirm and resolve again that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> d) Ministries collaborate and develop strategies and partnerships for implementation. e) SMFA co-ordinates this process f) And if necessary facilitate changes in our church order Regulations. 	<p>SMFA All Commissions</p>
<p><u>Decision 58: Nuwe Hoop Centre</u> Synod notes with concern the report on Nuwe Hoop Centre for the Hearing Impaired and reaffirms the decisions of Synods 2002 and 2010 regarding implementing financial safeguards to enable the institution to keep fulfilling its founding mandate. Synod therefore instructs the ministries SCDS and SMFA to attend to this matter urgently with report to the next Synodical Commission meeting.</p>	<p>SMFA SCDS</p>
<p><u>Decision 73: Contract of CEO</u> Synod decides to change the fixed period contract of the CEO to a permanent appointment.</p>	<p>SMFA</p>
<p><u>Decision 74: The position of CFO</u> The SMFA decided to identify one of the current bookkeepers to be trained as a replacement CFO in the place of Mr C Anthony. In the light hereof, Mr C Anthony was requested to assist with such training until 30 March 2019. If the training is successful, that person will take over as the new CFO. It naturally follows that the vacancy for a Senior Bookkeeper should be filled after the necessary process of advertisement, interviews and appointment.</p>	<p>SMFA</p>
<p><u>Decision 77: STAG development</u> Synod instructs SMFA to vigorously continue with the development plan of Decoligny in conjunction with STAG. Synod requests congregations to show solidarity with the people of Decoligny against land invasion by having peaceful picket demonstrations simultaneously on a day to be decided by SMFA to highlight the illegal land invasion of our property.</p>	<p>SMFA</p>
<p><u>Decision 78: Auditors</u> The firm HG Chartered Accountants, previously known as Henry Grove and Associates is appointed as Auditors for URCSA Cape Regional Synod for the recess 2018 to 2022</p>	<p>SMFA</p>
<p><u>Decision 79: Appointment of Attorneys for the Synod</u> The SMFA is authorized to appoint attorneys for URCSA Cape Regional Synod, as and when necessary.</p>	<p>SMFA</p>

<p><u>Decision 81: Lease Agreement with the Western Cape Education Department (WCED)</u> Synod instructs the SMFA to rectify the problem by following the Auditors request to have the income recorded in the books of URCSA Head office.</p>	<p>SMFA</p>
<p><u>Decision 82: SMFA and SKDD</u> Synod decides to have the income of SKDD recorded in the financial statements of Head Office as an accounting principle. SMFA will transfer the money into the Account of SKDD. The Synod refer this matter to the SMJM to change the applicable regulation in the SKDD regulation.</p>	<p>SMFA SKDD/SCDS SMJM</p>
<p><u>Decision 83: Travelling Allowances</u> Travelling allowances for work done for Synodical Commissions be decided by SMFA on an annual basis.</p>	<p>SMFA</p>
<p><u>Decision 84: Flights</u> When members of Commissions miss their flights or change the flights arranged by the Belhar Office, such members must take responsibility for the difference in ticket prices incurred by changed arrangements.</p>	<p>SMFA All Commissions</p>
<p><u>Decision 85: Parking</u> Parking tickets for members traveling by airplane and park their personal vehicles at the airport will be paid for up to 48 hours, after which the cost becomes the responsibility of the members. Members park their vehicles at their own risks.</p>	<p>SMFA All Commissions</p>
<p><u>Decision 86: Claims</u> Chairpersons of Commissions must verify the correctness of claims before signing and submitting. Incorrect claims will be rectified by the CEO.</p>	<p>SMFA All Commissions</p>
<p><u>Decision 87: Motor Loan</u> Those who owe this fund are requested to settle their outstanding debts.</p>	<p>SMFA</p>
<p><u>Decision 88: Motor Loan</u> The office of the CEO should as a matter of urgency contact or consult with people owing the motor loan fund. If there is no response within one year further steps should be taken against such people.</p>	<p>SMFA</p>
<p><u>Decision 89: Exams for Marriage License</u> The Synod urges ministers who apply for this examination to regard this matter in a very serious light and do their utmost best to pass at the first attempt. <i>An amendment from Mini Synod:</i> The office of the CEO write letters to the newly ordained ministers urging them to apply for this examination and regard this matter in a very serious light and do their utmost best to pass at the first attempt.</p>	<p>SMFA All Ministers</p>
<p><u>Decision 90 – Title Deeds</u> Synod instructs congregations to transfer and register their properties in their name. Synod also instructs the SMFA to assist congregations with this process.</p>	<p>SMFA</p>

<p><u>Decision 91 – Thycolaton Property Developer</u> Synod instructs the SMFA to investigate the development possibilities with Thycolaton regarding Betel Farm and Steinthal Estate with regular reports to the Synodical Commission.</p>	<p>SMFA</p>
<p><u>Decision 92 – Minnie Hofmeyer</u> Synod instructs the SMFA to investigate the possibility of transforming the hostel to a Bed and Breakfast or into rental Flats with report to the SC.</p> <p><u>Decision 93 – Steinthal Estate</u> Synod expresses her sincere gratitude towards Rev W Dreyer for his dedicated years of service and ministry and wishes him well after his retirement. Synod tasks the SMFA to assist the Board of Steinthal Estate in the recruitment and appointment of a new CEO in line with the statutes of the Church Order.</p>	<p>SMFA</p> <p>SMFA Steinthal Estate</p>
<p><u>Decision 95: Synodical Offerings</u> Finance (Mini-Synod) that Head Office work hand-in-hand with respective Quaestors to ensure that Synodical Offerings are paid.</p>	<p>SMFA</p>
<p><u>Decision 164 – Special leave for administration staff</u> Synod decides that the head office management (CEO) consider giving special leave for 2 or 3 days to all the administrative staff of the head office, who assisted and made sacrifices in order for Synod to run smoothly administratively.</p>	<p>SMFA CEO</p>
<p><u>Decision 168 – Appreciation to the CYM of Dikeni Congregation</u> Die hoogerwaarde Sinode spreek haar opregte dank en waardering uit teenoor die CYM van die plaaslike gemeente Dikeni wat diens gedoen het tydens die sitting. As blyk van waardering besluit die Sinode om aan elkeen ‘n honorarium te gee wat deur die HUB betaal sal word. <i>The honourable Synod expresses its heartfelt appreciation to the CYM of the Dikeni congregation for the services rendered during the sitting of this Synod. As a token of appreciation Synod decides that each one of them should receive an honorarium that will be paid by the CEO.</i></p>	<p>SMFA CEO</p>
<p><u>Decision 172 – Database</u> Synod decides that SMFA develop/establish a database for all URCSA assets (buildings), all church buildings, all church houses, all church unbuilt land/space. If possible market value, if it is insured.</p>	<p>SMFA</p>
<p><u>Decision 174 – Honorarium vir tolkdienste</u> Die sinode oorweeg ‘n honorarium aan Ds F Ayford, Ds Wabanie en Ds Fingo vir tolkdienste gelewer. <i>Synod considers an honorarium to Rev F Ayford, Rev Wabanie, Rev Fingo for translation services.</i></p>	<p>SMFA</p>

CAPE EMPOWERMENT TRUST

<p><u>Decision 40: Training to Congregations</u> Synod decides that the Cape Empowerment Trust must be approached to offer training to congregations, once per annum since congregation leaders lack the expertise to write well-constructed proposals.</p>	CET
<p><u>Decision 41: Changing of the Trust deed</u> Synod requests SC to do continuous follow up with CET with regards to the changing of the trust deed to meet different empowerment & development needs in the Cape Synod (Decision 30 of 2017)</p>	CET SC
<p><u>Decision 42: Letter of sincere gratitude</u> Synod decides that a letter of our sincere gratitude must be furnished to the donor of the Cape Empowerment Trust, even if he/she wishes to continue to remain anonymous. This is a generous contribution to support local initiatives in improving living conditions in South Africa</p>	CET

SUPPORT MINISTRY FOR JUDICIAL MATTERS (SMJM)

<p><u>Decision 20 – Polity Workshops</u> Synod decides that church polity workshops through the Support Ministry for Judicial Matters with the expert help of the church polity discipline at the Faculty of Theology should be conducted to equip Church Councils and Presbyteries to address the challenges facing the church concerning the poor function relating to a lack of understanding or misinterpreting the church order.</p>	SMJM
<p><u>Decision 31 - Forfeiture of Status</u> Rev Hanzline Davids Rev Denston Plaatjies Rev Petros Mpisana Rev Arion Naidoo Rev Mxolisi W Mamkeli Rev Godfrey D Baartman i. Synod takes note of the forfeiture of status of above-mentioned reverends. ii. Synod takes note that they have also lost the right to be a marriage officer as written in Stipulation 4.6.5</p>	SMJM
<p><u>Decision 32 – Advice Given</u> i. The Synod takes note of the advice given. ii. Synod encourages the newly elected Ministries to have a training Workshop on their Regulation (s) to promote effective leadership. See section 11.3 of Regulation 1. iii. Synod encourages each ministry to work together with another Ministry when there is overlapping of duties and responsibilities.</p>	All Commissions
<p><u>Decision 36: Revisiting Regulation 2, General Synodical Stipulations 15 and 30</u> It is noted that Synod is a meeting that matters and plays a crucial role in the life of the Church. Synods are spaces of diversity where we journey together as God’s people to reflect and add value as part of the life of the church.</p>	SMJM SMPCA

<p>We recognize Regulation 2, General Synod Stipulations 15 and 30, revisits its intentions and in the light of changing context and its challenges as well as the impact of technology, refer this process to SMJM and the Ministry for Communication, Publication and Archive to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effect the necessary church order changes that help with the efficiency of our meeting and 2. Consider space at Synod i.e. one day conference to reflect on burning and relevant issues in the life of, congregations and presbyteries to foster and enhance & vision. 3. To table a draft report on the progress at our SC Meeting in 2020 and the Synod report to be adopted at Synod 2022. 	
<p><u>Decision 48: Registration of Ministers</u> With regards to identification and registration of Ministers: issuing of identification cards with registration number and photo is recommended. Therefore, it must be reviewed on a yearly basis as the database will or need to be reviewed also.</p>	<p>SMJM Actuarius</p>
<p><u>Decision 82: SMFA and SKDD</u> Synod decides to have the income of SKDD recorded in the financial statements of Head Office as an accounting principle. SMFA will transfer the money into the Account of SKDD. The Synod refer this matter to the SMJM to change the applicable regulation in the SKDD regulation.</p>	<p>SMJM SKDD/SCDS</p>
<p><u>Decision 107 – English pdf version of Church Order</u> In future an English pdf version of the Church Order Cape Synod will be available as a link.</p>	<p>SMJM SMPCA</p>
<p><u>Decision 108 – Register Update</u> Synod decides that the Presbyteries must assist the Actuarius to update the Register:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 When a minister retires or dies; 2.2 When a minister moves to another Congregation, Presbytery or Synod; 2.3 When there is suspension or cutting of ties; 2.4 When a minister takes up a Synodical post. 	<p>Actuarius Presbytery</p>
<p><u>Decision 109 – Establishment as a new congregation</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Synod upholds the right of Wards to be established as a congregation if it is in the interest of the Church and the kingdom of Jesus Christ. 2. Synod decides that Wards must follow the procedure mentioned in paragraph 7.3 in the SMJM report. 3. Synod expresses its sympathy with those who have been emotionally hurt in these disputes. </p>	<p>SMJM Presbytery</p>
<p><u>Decision 110 – Mr Willem JB Engelbrecht</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Synod approves the application for re-admission to the ministry by Mr Willem JB Engelbrecht. 2. Synod instructs the new scribe to send this approval with all documents to the Chairperson of the Support Ministry for Judicial Matters of the General Synod. </p>	<p>SMJM</p>

<p><u>Decision 111 – Mr Godfrey Daniël Baartman</u></p> <p>1.The Synod approves the application for re-admission to the ministry by Mr Godfrey Daniël Baartman.</p> <p>2. Synod instructs the new scribe to send this approval with all documents to the Chairperson of the Support Ministry for Judicial Matters of the General Synod.</p>	<p>SMJM</p>
<p><u>Decision 112 – Mr Johannes Gilleon Ferreira</u></p> <p>1. The Synod approves the application for re-admission to the ministry by Mr Johannes Gilleon Ferreira.</p> <p>2. Synod instructs the new scribe to send this approval with all documents to the Chairperson of the Support Ministry for Judicial Matters of the General Synod.</p>	<p>SMJM</p>
<p><u>Decision 113 – Provisional Church Order</u></p> <p>1. Synod takes note with approval that the General Synod 2016 approved the provisional church order, to enhance church re-unification.</p> <p>2. Synod decides that the procedure prescribed in the Provisional Order must be followed when Congregations, Presbyteries, Joint Legal Entities, or the Synodical Commission want to establish joint activities with the DRC.</p> <p>3. Synod approves the provisional church order to be included in the new church order of the Cape Regional Synod.</p>	<p>SMJM</p>
<p><u>Decision 114 – Matters in the CCMA and the Court</u></p> <p>1. Synod affirms Regional Synod stipulation 26.5 that ministers of the word and members cannot have the matters resolved at the same time by the Synod/Presbytery and at the CCMA or court.</p> <p>2. Synod decides that Presbyteries must not delay the investigation of charges and must give all persons a fair, just and speedy hearing.</p> <p>3. Synod reminds ministers, members and Church Councils of their commitment to reconciliation, justice, and unity as declared in the Confession of Belhar.</p>	<p>SMJM Presbytery</p>
<p><u>Decision 115 – Mediation</u></p> <p>1. Synod accepts the decision of General Synod that mediation can be used as an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) method.</p> <p>2. Synod encourages Church Councils, Presbyteries and Ministries to make use of mediation to solve disputes/conflicts.</p>	<p><u>SMJM,</u> <u>Church</u> <u>Councils,</u> <u>Presbytery,</u> <u>Ministries</u></p>
<p><u>Decision 116 – Amendment on the Election of Office Bearers in the Presbytery</u></p> <p>1.Synod takes note that the General Synod 2016 approved the Bi-annual election of the office bearers of Presbyteries.</p> <p>2.Synod accepts that the term for the Office bearers will be two years.</p> <p>3.Synod instructs the new Actuarii to insert this change in the Cape Synod Stipulations.</p>	<p><u>Actuarii</u> Presbytery</p>
<p><u>Decision 117 – Proposed Amendment to General Synod Stipulation 27</u></p> <p>1. Synod reaffirms its 2014 decision in favour of this proposal.</p> <p>2. Synod requests again General Synod to change the age limit of retirement from 65 years to 70 years.</p>	<p>SMJM</p>

<p><u>Decision 178 – Facilitative Mediation</u> The Cape Regional Synod accepts Facilitative Mediation as a first option for the handling of charges, disputes and conflict. Only where mediation fails may the traditional church orderly processes and procedures be followed. These processes and procedures need to be revised thoroughly during the recess to bring it in line with the requirements of administrative justice, healing of dignity violations, restoration of trust, a neutral chairperson, and a speedy hearing.</p> <p>The Synod entrusts the Synodical Ministry for Judicial Matters (SMJM) to include the following in the Stipulations: Congregations should first try to resolve conflict among them, even if it involves the pastor or anyone of the Church Council members. They should first start, by bringing the parties involved together and talk through whatever complaint or grievance there is.</p> <p>If these talks do not have a positive outcome and the Church Council (Presbytery) see that the conflict is much more serious, then the Church Council can call upon a trained Mediator who is a member of the URCSA or the DRC, preferably from another Presbytery, but not known to the parties involved. This independent Mediator then takes the parties involved through the Mediation process. And only if these two processes do not have a positive outcome and the conflict is not resolved, the Church Council/Presbytery will then refer the matter to the applicable church structures for adjudication.</p>	<p>SMJM</p>
<p><u>Decision 179 - Arbitration Structure</u> This Synod decides to approve a process of establishing a Tribunal that will deal with all serious charges against church officers. The Moderamen in consultation with the affected parties appoints three members from neighbouring presbyteries to act as a Tribunal which can process and finalize the charges. If any party feels aggrieved afterwards, an appeal is made to the Synodical Commission (SC) or Synod. The Synod entrusts the SMJM to draw up the necessary Regulation with submission of a progress report to the first SC.</p>	<p>Moderamen SMJM</p>
<p><u>Decision 186 - Church Order</u> That Synod requests the newly appointed Actuarius to speedily attend to the rectification of the second edition of the 2014 Church Order.</p>	<p>Actuarius</p>
<p><u>Decision 187 - Election of Church Council Members</u> New regulation 12.3.1.4 “In the instance where the Church Council have not received enough nominations from the wards after 2 attempts, the Church Council will have the right to nominate from the floor elders and deacons from those congregation members who are in good standing for the vacant wards.”</p>	<p>Actuarius</p>
<p><u>Decision 188 - Brigade Regulation</u> Recommendation 6.1 to 3.5.7.10 is approved (see Brigade Report)</p>	<p>Actuarius</p>
<p><u>Decision 189 - Graaff-Reinet Presbytery to Colesberg Presbytery</u> Synod refers this letter to the SMJM in order to present recommendations to SC.</p>	<p>SMJM</p>

COMMUNICATION, PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVES (SMPCA)

<p><u>Decision 17 – Registration, Constituting and Election processes</u> Synod decides to look afresh at the registration, constituting and election processes of Synod making use of skilled IT specialists within URCSA. The Support Ministry for Communication, Publication and Archives serves the next SC meeting with a proposal for implementation at all synodical meetings.</p>	<p>SMPCA</p>
<p><u>Decision 32 – Advice Given</u> i. The Synod takes note of the advice given. ii. Synod encourages the newly elected Ministries to have a training Workshop on their Regulation (s) to promote effective leadership. See section 11.3 of Regulation 1. iii. Synod encourages each ministry to work together with another Ministry when there is overlapping of duties and responsibilities.</p>	<p>All Commissions</p>
<p><u>Decision 36: Revisiting Regulation 2, General Synodical Stipulations 15 and 30</u> It is noted that Synod is a meeting that matters and plays a crucial role in the life of the Church. Synods are spaces of diversity where we journey together as God’s people to reflect and add value as part of the life of the church. We recognize Regulation 2, General Synod Stipulations 15 and 30, revisits its intentions and in the light of changing context and its challenges as well as the impact of technology, refer this process to SMJM and the Ministry for Communication, Publication and Archive to: 1. Effect the necessary church order changes that help with the efficiency of our meeting and 2. Consider space at Synod i.e. one day conference to reflect on burning and relevant issues in the life of, congregations and presbyteries to foster and enhance & vision. 3.To table a draft report on the progress at our SC Meeting in 2020 and the Synod report to be adopted at Synod 2022.</p>	<p>SMJM SMPCA Moderamen</p>
<p><u>Decision 97: Electronic format of Church order</u> The Church order and the Acts of Synod must also be available in Electronic form (e-books).</p>	<p>SMPCA</p>
<p><u>Decision 98: Church Order</u> The Synod does not reprint the whole Church Order but rather have Addendums for the addendums in the Church Order.</p>	<p>SMPCA</p>
<p><u>Decision 99: Verifying orders</u> The Bookshop should verify the order with either the scribe and or the treasurer for orders made by on behalf of the congregation or Church Council, or the orders be signed by them for future references.</p>	<p>SMPCA</p>
<p><u>Decision 100: Communication link</u> Synod requests congregations to identify people in the congregation to be a link to the Ministry so that the Newsletter can be a true voice of the URCSA.</p>	<p>SMPCA</p>

<p><u>Decision 102: Social Media Policy</u> Synod mandates the SMCPA to develop a policy for social media usage. The policy should be given to Judicial Commission (for comments) before it is tabled at the next SC (2019) meeting.</p>	<p>SMPCA SMJM</p>
<p><u>Decision 103: Communication Policy</u> Synod requests SMCPA to implement its communication policy. The policy was approved in 2014.</p>	<p>SMPCA</p>
<p><u>Decision 104: Archives</u> Synod calls on Presbyteries and Church Councils to inform and empower Scribes and leaders of Core Ministries about the value and importance of the Archives material.</p>	<p>SMPCA Presbytery</p>
<p><u>Decision 105: Acquisition of Instruments</u> In the light of the big task that this Commission has, we propose that the Synod provides us (Translation Commission) with instruments such as iPads and dictionaries.</p>	<p>SMFA SMPCA</p>
<p><u>Decision 130 - CYM</u> CYM be included in the church website but allowed to administer the information flow A Proper social media policy be put in place by the Publication Commission. A news/information article and or column from the region executive be included in every URCSA Newspaper quarterly to communicate any sort of announcements. That on Presbytery level more work be done to celebrate our diversity. Church councils be asked to see to it that the treasurer of the CYM of their respective congregations pay their levies annually.</p>	<p>SMPCA Congregations</p>
<p><u>MOTION – REFERRED TO SMPCA</u> Synod takes note that: 1. CLF print the Catechism books: God’s Children 1 and 2 for us. 2. LUS Bookshop buys the books from Bible Media. 3. The price of the books, when congregations must buy the books, have been double marked up 4. The books can be bought directly from CLF cheaper without paying postage money. 5. Congregations can buy directly from CLF Synod hence refers this point to the new ministry for follow-up and implementation</p>	<p>SMPCA</p>
<p>Point 3 – Publication of the Church Order after the ACTA. (See report of SMJM) 3.3 There were mistakes in the first publication and the Moderamen and the Publication Commission must check the correctness of the Church Order before publication. Approved</p>	<p>Moderamen SMPCA</p>

F. PRESBYTERIES

Decision 21 – Misuse of Relieving minister

Relieving Ministers should be selected and be placed in an equitable way and ministers should not be placed where they are involved in disputes with the relevant congregation.

Decision 23 - The Regulating of combination congregations

Synod instructs Presbyteries to initiate, monitor and approve such combination agreements.

Decision 24 - Unlawful establishment of Congregations

Synod strongly disapproves the attempt to establish congregations on basis of disputes.

Decision 29 – Registration as Minister of the Word

1. Synod expresses its thanks for the ministers who have registered.
2. Synod decides that the Chairperson of a Presbytery must make sure that a minister has registered before he/she accepts the call.
3. Synod decides that the Presbytery Commission may not approve a tent making contract or a “hulpprediker” contract if that minister is not registered.

Decision 33 – Register for Ministers

The Synod encourages Presbyteries to comply with this Stipulation so that the register for ministers of the Cape Synod can be updated regularly.

Decision 39: Cape Empowerment Trust

Synod encourages Presbyteries, Congregations and Ministries to approach the Trust if they are engaged in community empowerment projects.

Decision 101: Regulation 18 & 19

Presbyteries, Congregations and Ministries must apply church order reg. 18 & 19 (see addendum 1 Pg. 374)

Decision 104: Archives

Synod calls on Presbyteries and Church Councils to inform and empower Scribes and leaders of Core Ministries about the value and importance of the Archives material.

Decision 108 – Register Update

Synod decides that the Presbyteries must assist the Actuarius to update the Register:

- 2.1 When a minister retires or dies;
- 2.2 When a minister moves to another Congregation, Presbytery or Synod;
- 2.3 When there is suspension or cutting of ties;
- 2.4 When a minister takes up a Synodical post.

Decision 109 – Establishment as a new congregation

1. Synod upholds the right of Wards to be established as a congregation if it is in the interest of the Church and the kingdom of Jesus Christ.
2. Synod decides that Wards must follow the procedure mentioned in paragraph 7.3 in the SMJM report.
3. Synod expresses its sympathy with those who have been emotionally hurt in these disputes.

Decision 114 – Matters in the CCMA and the Court

1. Synod affirms Regional Synod stipulation 26.5 that ministers of the word and members cannot have the matters resolved at the same time by the Synod/Presbytery and at the CCMA or court.
2. Synod decides that Presbyteries must not delay the investigation of charges and must give all persons a fair, just and speedy hearing.
3. Synod reminds ministers, members and Church Councils of their commitment to reconciliation, justice, and unity as declared in the Confession of Belhar.

Decision 115 – Mediation

1. Synod accepts the decision of General Synod that mediation can be used as an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) method.
2. Synod encourages Church Councils, Presbyteries and Ministries to make use of mediation to solve disputes/conflicts.

Decision 116 – Amendment on the Election of Office Bearers in the Presbytery

1. Synod takes note that the General Synod 2016 approved the Bi-annual election of the office bearers of Presbyteries.

2. Synod accepts that the term for the Office bearers will be two years.

Synod instructs the new Actuarius to insert this change in the Cape Synod Stipulations

Decision 129 – Representation at CWM General Synod Congress

Die CVB doen 'n beroep op die Sinode, ringsquestors, kerkrade om toe te sien dat ringe wel uitvoering sal gee aan die vereiste soos in punt 10.5.1.1 vervat.

ICWM ihlaba ikhwelo kwiSinodi, kooNondyebo beziThili nakumaQumrhu amaBandla okokuba baqinisekise ukuba iziThili ziyakwenza oko kufunwa ku Mmiselo 10.5.1.1.

Decision 132 – Uniting two Congregations

Synod decides that no congregation of URCSA can unite with another church without the approval of the Presbytery and the Moderamen according to the Provisional Church Order.

Decision 176 - Streeksinode Bepaling/Umthetho Wesinodi 38

Losmaking van band op finansiële gronde/Inkqubo Yokukhululwa Komfundisi ngenxa yemeko yezimali: **Approved as amended**

The Presbytery Commission will directly and timeously act where they realize that the congregation cannot pay the minister in full.

G. CONGREGATIONS AND CHURCH COUNCILS

Decision 1: Day of Prayer

The Honourable Synod took into consideration that several congregations could not timeously arrange a special prayer day and collection for Synod as per Church Order. These congregations will be given an opportunity to make good and pay in this special collection as soon as possible after Synod. Even impoverished congregations should endeavour to commit to this arrangement.

Decision 7 - Incoming/Outgoing correspondence

Individual members, congregations and Presbyteries are urged to try and find solutions internally before elevating their challenges and disputes to Synod.

<p><u>Decision 11 - United Evangelical Mission (UEM)</u> Synod receives with gratitude the news of cooperation with UEM and encourages interested Ministries and congregations to grab these study opportunities.</p>
<p><u>Decision 39: Cape Empowerment Trust</u> Synod encourages Presbyteries, Congregations and Ministries to approach the Trust if they are engaged in community empowerment projects.</p>
<p><u>Decision 52: Prayer and Financial support for Bible Society</u> Synod invites all congregations and members to actively participate in the various programs of the Bible Society through continued prayer and financial support. Every R55 helps the Bible Society to make one Bible affordable and can be set as a target per member per year. The Synod requests congregations to record special collections during Pentecost (for Bible distribution) and on Bible Sunday (for Bible translation)</p>
<p><u>Decision 61: Support for Badisa</u> Synod calls on congregations to support Badisa by contributing financially, by praying regularly for their work and by supporting the staff pastorally.</p>
<p><u>Decision 64: Supporting Badisa programmes</u> Synod commits itself to encourage congregations to support Badisa programmes – financially as well as participation in management structures and voluntary service at Programs.</p>
<p><u>Decision 76: Bet-El Campsite</u> Congregations are requested to make regular use of the Bet-El Camp Site, Mnandi Beach for camps and other recreational programs.</p>
<p><u>Decision 90 – Title Deeds</u> Synod instructs congregations to transfer and register their properties in their name. Synod also instructs the SMFA to assist congregations with this process.</p>
<p><u>Decision 100 – Communication link</u> Synod requests congregations to identify people in the congregation to be a link to the Ministry so that the Newsletter can be a true voice of the URCSA.</p>
<p><u>Decision 101: Submission of Documents to the Archives</u> Presbyteries, Congregations and Ministries must apply church order reg. 18 & 19 (see addendum 1 Pg. 374)</p>
<p><u>Decision 104: Archives</u> Synod calls on Presbyteries and Church Councils to inform and empower Scribes and leaders of Core Ministries about the value and importance of the Archives material.</p>
<p><u>Decision 115 – Mediation</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Synod accepts the decision of General Synod that mediation can be used as an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) method. 2. Synod encourages Church Councils, Presbyteries and Ministries to make use of mediation to solve disputes/conflicts.

Decision 126: Well Being of Ministers and their Families

a. Die sinode versoek kerkrade, om as 'n saak van dringendheid, 'n omgee-span saam te stel uit kerkrade en lidmate, wat van nature vir ander omgee om 'n proses aan die gang te sit om vir hul predikant en sy of haar gesin op praktiese wyses om te gee en die gemeente te begelei om ook so te doen.

b. Gemeente Bediening kry opdrag van die sinode om gemeentes hierin te begelei.

c. Opgeleide begeleiers binne elke ring met die opdrag om gesprekke in die ringe te fasiliteer met betrekking tot die welstand van predikante en hul gesinne.

a. ISinodi icela amaQumrhu amaBandla okokuba lo mba awuthabathe njengongxamisekileyo ngokuthi aseke iqelo lokhathalelo eliphuma kwiQumrhu leBandla nakumalungu eBandla abazakuthi baqale inkqubo yokukhathalela umfundisi wabo nosapho lwakhe ngendlela ebonakalayo nokuze ke baxhobise nebandla ukuba nalo lwenze njalo.

b. ULungiselelo lweBandla liyalelwa yiSinodi okokuba lixhobise amaBandla kulo mba.

c. Abaquzeleli abaqeqeshiweyo kwisiThili ngasinye bayalelwa okokuba baquzelele uthetha - thethwano eziThilini ngokuphathelele kwimeko yabefundisi nentsapho zabo.

Decision 129 - Representation at CWM General Synod Congress

Die CVB doen dus 'n beroep op die sinode, ringsquestors, kerkrade om toe te sien dat ringe wel uitvoering sal gee aan die vereiste soos in punt 10.5.1.1 vervat.

ICWM ihlaba ikhwelo kwiSinodi, kooNondyebo beziThili nakumaQumrhu amaBandla okokuba baqinisekise ukuba iziThili ziyakwenza oko kufunwa ku Mmiselo 10.5.1.1.

Decision 130 - CYM

i.CYM be included in the church website but allowed to administer the information flow

A Proper social media policy be put in place by the Publication Commission.

A news/information article and or column from the region executive be included in every URCSA Newspaper quarterly to communicate any sort of announcements.

That on Presbytery level more work be done to celebrate our diversity.

Church councils be asked to see to it that the treasurer of the CYM of their respective congregations pay their levies annually.

Decision 152 - Student Struggle Continues

Synod calls on congregations, who have the means, to actively involve themselves with the plight of our theological students, and secondly for congregations who have students doing ministerial formation, to involve themselves with such students. Synod approves a separate bank account (fund) for student support and needs which are separate from the normal Curatorium Banking Account.

Decision 165 - Delegates with special needs

The Synod should request church councils to advice in advance so that they are sending a representative with a specialist need to that they can be completely catered for eg. To have reports written in braille for representatives with that need. To have professional sign language interprets etc. Thank you.

Decision 181 - Proposal on Gender-based violence

Synod urges the congregations to embrace the Thursdays in black campaign. Synod urges members of URCSA to wear a pin on Thursdays to declare that you are part of the global movement resisting attitudes and practises that permit rape and violence against women and children.

Motivation:

In every, gender-based violence is a tragic reality.

In South Africa thousands of women, children are being raped on an annual basis.

The violence is frequently hidden and victims are left silent, fearing stigma.

We all have a responsibility to speak out against gender-based violence, to ensure that women and men, boys and girls are safe from rape and violence in the home, work, schools in all places of society. Thursdays in black grew out of the WCC's program, the Ecumenical decade in solidarity of women. (1988 – 1998)

Decision 187 - Election of Church Council Members

New regulation 12.3.1.4 "In the instance where the Church Council have not received enough nominations from the wards after 2 attempts, the Church Council will have the right to nominate from the floor elders and deacons from those congregation members who are in good standing for the vacant wards."

Decision 114 – Matters in the CCMA and the Court

1. Synod affirms Regional Synod stipulation 26.5 that ministers of the word and members cannot have the matters resolved at the same time by the Synod/Presbytery and at the CCMA or court.
2. Synod decides that Presbyteries must not delay the investigation of charges and must give all persons a fair, just and speedy hearing.
3. Synod reminds ministers, members and Church Councils of their commitment to reconciliation, justice, and unity as declared in the Confession of Belhar.

H. GENERAL DECISIONS

Decision 68: Brothers and Sisters with Disabilities

It is highly prudent that our church (URCSA) respects, accommodates and acknowledges our brothers and sisters with disabilities

Decision 27 – Licensing of theological candidates

Synod welcomes all the new Ministers of the Word and Proponents into the active ministry. Synod wishes them a fruitful ministry and prays that those who are still waiting for a call will receive that gracious call.

Decision 75: Decoligny Staff

Synod deeply regrets the retrenchment of the Decoligny staff.

Decision 175 -

Sicela ukuba ngaphambi kokuqala kwengxoxo kwizinga leSinodi kwintlanganiso ezayo, umhlali ngaphambili okanye umgcini-mthetho afunde ngokucacileyo umsebenzi namagunya kaSihlalo, ukuze kubekho ulungelelwano ahlonitshwe uSihlalo.

We request that before the discussion commends in the coming Synodical sitting that the Chairperson or the Actuaris must read the duties of the Chairperson so that the Chairperson can be given the respect that is due.

Decision 47 – Miss Tamryn Green

Synod **congratulates** Miss Tamryn Green, the new Miss South Africa, who is also a URCSA member from the congregation of Immanuel (Paarl). We wish her well on this new chapter of her life.

Decision 167 – The appointment of Prof R Nel

Synod **congratulates** and acknowledges the appointment of Prof. Reginald Nel as Dean of the Faculty of Theology at Stellenbosch University.

Decision 169– Congratulations to Rev Dr LLM MacMaster

Synod **congratulates** Rev Dr Llewelyn MacMaster on his election as the Moderator of our beloved Regional Synod. We note with pride and gratitude that he is a veteran leader of our youth ministry, He is an inspiration to the youth of our church and community. We pray for him and wish all the best for this term of office. This coming from his fellow veterans and members of our youth structures

Decision 51: Bible Society

The Synod notes that the Bible Society of South Africa expresses its **sincere gratitude** to the ministers, congregations, members and academics of the URCSA Cape Synod for their special and sustained support of the Bible Society in prayer, in contributions, in Bible translation and in the distribution of the Bible.

Decision 70: Rev P Bock

Synod expresses her **sincere gratitude** towards Reverend Bock for his 22 years of dedicated service as CEO of Synod, and 32 years of Ministry in the Church.

Decision 71: Rev S Christians

Synod expresses her **sincere gratitude** towards Rev Christians for his dedicated service towards the Church and the SMFA.

Decision 72: Incoming CEO

Synod noted with gratitude the appointment of Mr G Baartman as the new CEO and prayed for his fruitful and blessed service in this position.

Decision 53: Rev Prof MA Plaatjies-Van Huffel

Die sinode betuig dank teenoor Rev Prof Mary-Anne Plaatjies-Van Huffel vir haar wysheid en diensbaarheid aan en liefde vir God en Sy kerk veral in die lig van haar optrede om 'n spanningsvolle oomblik in die Sinode van 2018 te ontloot.

*Synod expresses her **gratitude** to Rev Prof Mary-Anne Plaatjies-Van Huffel for her wisdom, servanthood and love for God and His church especially in light of her actions to defuse a tense moment in Synod 2018.*

Decision 136: Appreciation for The Order Commission

Die Sinode bedank die Kommissie van Orde vir al die reëlings wat getref is om die eet en akkommodasie geriewe te verbeter. Dit word regtig waardeer en bewys dat die Here altyd teenwoordig is.

Synod thanks the Commission for Order for all the arrangements made for food and accommodation. It is appreciated and show how God is always present.

Decision 166 – Appreciation for Medical assistance

Synod expresses her **appreciation** towards the delegates who made themselves available and use their medical expertise and time to assist those who needed medical assistance during the Synod.

Decision 170 – Appreciation to Election Commission

Die Sinode spreek haar dank en waardering uit vir die passievolle wyse waarop die Verkiesings Kommissie onder veeleisende omstandighede hul taak verrig het.

*The Synod expresses her **gratitude** for the passionate way in which the Election Commission has conducted their duties under challenging circumstances.*