

"If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as a Michaelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.'"

— Martin Luther King Jr.

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Prophetic Pastoral Professional

United Congregational Church of Southern Africa
SOUTH AFRICA SYNOD

UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



SOUTH AFRICA SYNOD

Synod Committee Closing Service
and
Induction Service
for



The New Synod Secretary
The Rev. Thulani Ndlezi

Presiding Ministers

The Rev. Alistair Arends
(SA Synod Chairperson)
The Rev. Rumleng Julius Pudule
(SA Synod Chairperson-Elect)

Preacher

The Rev. Dr. Mvume Dandala

Saturday 6th July 2013

Durban
KWAZULU-NATAL REGION

THE REV THULANI NDLAZI

The Rev Thulani Ndlazi was born in Durban, baptized at Groutville United Congregational Church and raised in Durban. He received the following theological training and awards:

EDUCATION

BA in Theology (Honors)

from the former *University of Durban – Westville*, South Africa

Master of Arts in Religion (MA)

from *Lancaster Theological Seminary*, Pennsylvania, USA.

HONORS & AWARDS

The Rev Ndlazi is a recipient of the *Make a Difference International Seminarian Award* awarded by the United Church Board, USA, 1999

PAPERS & ARTICLES

“Leadership and Land”: A Very Contextual Interpretation of Genesis 37-50 in KwaZulu-Natal South Africa”, Athalyer Brenner, Archie Chi Chung Lee and Gale A Tee, editors, Fortress, 2010.

“Unity and Mission Today: Voices and Visions from the Margins”, Global Platform for Theological Reflection, World Council of Churches, Bucharest, 4-10 October 2010.

“Land in Christian Thought and Praxis in Africa”, *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, Daniel Patte, editor, Cambridge University Press, 2007.

“Bridging the Gap between Christianity and African Culture” in *Mission is Crossing Frontiers: Essays in Honour of Bongani A Mazibuko*, Dr Roswith Gerloff, editor, Cluster Publication: Pietermaritzburg, 2003, pp. 103-116

ECUMENICAL INVOLVEMENT & COMMUNITY INTEREST

- (i) Member of the Board of Management – **Center for Constructive Theology (CCT)**
- (ii) Chairperson of the **KwaZulu Regional Christian Council (KRCC)**
- (iii) Vice-Chairperson of the **Pietermaritzburg Association for Christian Social Awareness (PACSA)**

The Rev Ndlazi was, until his appointment as SA Synod Secretary, seconded by the UCCSA to the Church Land Programme where he served as Program Manager. The Rev Ndlazi has served as Fellowship of Vocation Director and Moderator of the KZN Region.

The Rev Ndlazi is married to Thelma Vito-Ndlazi.

BIOGRAPHY of The REV DR MVEMELWANO DANDALA Principal of Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary (SMMS)

The Rev Dr Dandala, the son of the Rev Killion Dandala (a Methodist minister), was born and raised in the small village of Dandalaville (named after his great grandfather), Mount Ayliff, Eastern Cape, the last born of four children.

He was a pupil at Ndamase High School, near Umtata, before attending the Federal Theological Seminary in Alice where he became the local chairman of the South African Students' Organisation (SASO) where he was involved in the exploration of black and liberation theology and developing programmes to assist communities with basic amenities such as dams, schools and clinics.

- 1980s:** The Rev Dr Dandala has an MA in Theology from the University of Cambridge. He became a minister of the MCSA in Empangeni, KwaZulu-Natal in 1978.
- 1983-1985:** Superintendent Minister of the North Circuit of the Methodist Church in Port Elizabeth, at the time the largest Circuit of the MCSA. In Port Elizabeth, he participated in reconciliation ministries among warring political factions. In July 1985 when South Africa declared a State of Emergency, he was detained without trial.
- 1986-1991:** General Mission Secretary of the MCSA
At the Missions Department, The Rev Dr Dandala was instrumental in launching the Malihambe Missions, what was at the time a dangerous policy of sending black and white ministers to work in pairs.
- 1990s:** The Rev Dr Dandala was superintendent minister of the Central Methodist Mission.
- 1992-1996:** At the Central Methodist Mission in Johannesburg, the Rev Dr Dandala's mediation and conflict resolution skills were in great demand during the preparation for the political transition in the late nineties. He found himself having to be at the forefront of helping to reduce violence in order to create an atmosphere where elections could happen peacefully. This led – in the years directly after the elections - to his playing a critical role in the disarmament of the African National Congress' (ANC) Self-Defense Units and the Inkatha Freedom Party's (IFP) Self Protection Units in the eastern Areas of Johannesburg.

- 1996:** Appointed Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa
- 1998:** President of the South African Council of Churches
- 2003:** Honorary Doctorate in Philosophy from University of Transkei
- 2003:** General Secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)
- Awards** Among numerous awards the Rev Dr Dandala has received the following: Silver Order of the Grand Counsellor of the Baobab for excellence (2002). The Order of the Baobab is awarded to South African citizens for distinguished service in the fields of business and the economy, science, medicine and for technological innovation and community service.

*The Rev Dr Mvume Dandala is currently serving as the principal of Seth Mokitimi Seminary in Pietermaritzburg.
The Rev Dr Dandala is married to Phumzile Dandala. His son is former Isidingo star, Hlomla. He has a daughter, Gqibelo, who works as a banker.*

1. **Processional Hymn** *“Just as I Am I come / Nginyeza Nkosi Ngiza Nginje / Net Soos Ek Is”*

2. **We Gather in the Presence of God:**

L. Lord God, creator of all; you created us to be your people; a people free to love and to serve you with all our minds, with all our hearts and with all our strength.

P. SO WE COME TO WORSHIP OUR GOD, LEAVING BEHIND ALL THAT BINDS US: OUR DOUBTS AND OUR FEARS; OUR DARKNESS AND OUR HOPELESSNESS.

L. *Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour of all: you came as a child, gathered into the loving embrace of a family. As an adult, you shared love, laughter and tears with those whom you knew as friends and the love of the Father with all who would receive it.*

P. SO WE COME TO LOVE AND TO HONOUR YOU, CELEBRATING THE COMPANIONSHIP OF THOSE YOU HAVE CALLED TO BE YOUR DISCIPLES.

L. Gracious Spirit, inspirer of all; brooding over us gathered here; eternally breathing life into all of creation; endlessly giving, endlessly comforting.

P. SO WE COME TO BE STILL IN YOUR PRESENCE; TO HEAR IN THE SILENCE THE WHISPER OF GOD BREATHING LIFE INTO OUR SOULS; DEEPENING OUR UNITY IN THE VERY LIFE OF GOD.

3. **Hymn** *“The Church’s One Foundation”*

4. **Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach**

L. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

P. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L. Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God.

P. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

L. Christ is with us.

P. Christ is in our midst.

L. Let us pray.

P. We come in response to your invitation, offering worship, demonstrating commitment and celebrating life. May our discipleship be renewed, our friendship strengthened and our love fulfilled; in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

5. **Opening Prayer**

6. **Hymn** *“Re Rudise Morena!”*

7. **Welcome and Introductions** (local church, regional and synodical representatives)

8. **Hymn of Praise** *“He Lifted Me Up from the Deep Miry Clay”*

9. **Scripture Readings**

10. **Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon**

L. : Let us confess our sin against God and each other.

ALL: Merciful God, we know that you love us and that you call us to fullness of life, but around us and within us we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways. Our successes leave us empty; our progress does not satisfy. Our prosperous land is not the promised land of our longing. Forgive our willful neglect of your word, our insensitivity to the needs of others, and our failure to feed the spirit that is within us; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

L. Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

P. Through Jesus Christ, we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

11. **Offertory and Choir Anthem** (*as the offertory is received*):

12. **Offertory Prayer**

13. Introduction of the Preacher

14. Hymn "Lizalise idinga lakho"

15. Sermon / Charge by the Rev Dr M Dandala (Principal of SMMS):
"Church is a perplex gift from God"

16. Hymn "Jesu Bomi Bami"

17. Litany of Thanks

L. Lord our God, for the vision of those who planned for this South Africa Synod of the UCCSA, and for the commitment and dedication of all who served together at the time of origin

P. We give you thanks, O Lord.

L. For those who have served so faithfully in leadership responsibilities as Officers, Ministers, Deacons, and Leaders of this, your Church

P. We give you thanks, O Lord.

L. For those who have willingly given of their efforts to teach, encourage and counsel

P. We give you thanks, O Lord.

L. For the ways in which we have been able to care for one another, support one another on the journey of life, and give strength to one another

P. We give you thanks, O Lord.

L. For a people that have always desired to worship you faithfully and vibrantly, hearing your Word, singing your praise, and seeking your strength

P. We give you thanks, O Lord.

L. For a commitment to remain true to your Word in a world of confusing and conflicting voices

P. We give you thanks, O Lord.

L. And for all the opportunities to thrive and worship and serve for the sake of your Kingdom

P. We give you thanks, O Lord.

18. Hymn / Chorus "Sinomhlobo ongu Jesu"

19. Induction and Commissioning of the Rev Thulani Ndlazi as the SA Synod Secretary

L. There are diverse gifts

C. but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

L. There are different ways of serving God

C. but it is the same Lord who is served.

L. God works through people in different ways

C. but it is the same God whose purpose is achieved through them all.

L. Each one of us is given a gift by the Spirit

C. and there is no gift without its corresponding service.

L. There is one ministry of Christ

C. and in this ministry we all share.

L. Together we are the body of Christ

C. and individually members of it.

20. Presentation

The presiding minister addresses the people:

The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa Church provides for the exercise by men and women of the gifts God bestows upon them for the building up of the church.

Having sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are now to commission as Secretary of the South Africa Synod of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, the Rev Thulani Ndlazi whom we have elected to this ministry.

On behalf of the people of the South Africa Synod of the UCCSA, I present the Rev Thulani Ndlazi, to be inducted and commissioned to the Office he has been called to.

(the Rev Ndlazi comes forward)

21. Induction of the South African Synod Secretary

Presiding Minister says:

My Brother, Thulani, God has called you to lead the South Africa Synod of the UCCSA as its Secretary and spiritual leader. For this reason we gather to set you apart.

Hear these words from the apostle Paul: "At all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people. Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances". This is what God wants of you, in your life, in Christ Jesus.

Before God and this assembly, we ask you:

Do you confess anew Jesus Christ as Lord?

Synod Secretary: I do.

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to responsibly carry out the duties of your office?

Synod Secretary: I do.

Are you persuaded that God has called you to this ministry of Secretary of the South Africa Synod of the UCCSA and are you ready to enter this ministry, to serve God and His people faithfully according to the abilities vested in you.

Synod Secretary:

I am so persuaded with the help of God and the support of regional councils and members of our local churches within the South Africa Synod.

Presiding Minister:

Members of the South Africa Synod of the UCCSA here representing your regional councils and local churches and all others present; will you rise and affirm your covenant with the Rev Thulani Ndlazi?

Congregation:

The Rev Ndlazi, we receive you as the Secretary of the South Africa Synod of the UCCSA. We promise to labour with you as your sisters and brothers in Christ. We promise to honour and respect you and to always uphold you in our prayers.

Stoling

My brother, Thulani Ndlazi, this stole may it always remind you of the duties that have been entrusted to you and faith and trust that we as Congregationalists in the South Africa Synod have put in you. With every good wish we now hand you this stole as a symbol of continuity in the ministry of the Synod secretariat.

Presiding Minister:

May God give you strength to fulfill these vows, and to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus from generation to generation forever.

Amen.

Induction Prayer: *(Synod Secretary kneels in front of the presiding officers)*

Almighty God, who out of your great love gathered your church through the power of the Holy Spirit to be the light of the world, we thank you for those in and through all ages who have given their lives to tend to it, to lead it, and to serve in whatever way to prosper its ministry, mission and witness.

At this time we especially thank you for our brother and your servant, Thulani Ndlazi, who we today induct in your name to this special ministry you have called him. Guide, inspire and empower Thulani. Keep him faithful so that by and through his life this Synod may continue to be blessed and its mission and ministry be brought closer to the fulfillment you intend.

We pray for his wife, Thelma, who will be sharing his gifts with us. May Thulani find comfort in her midst and may she pray for him and support him as you will guide them. Uphold her during his period in office as she will be sharing in his joys and in his sorrows. Protect them as family from all harm. Hear our prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.

22. Signing of the Covenant and the Right Hand of Fellowship
(choruses: "Calvary")

Presiding Minister:

In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the SA Synod and the UCCSA, I declare you to be the SA Synod Secretary. May God's blessings and favor be upon you in fullest measure.

23. Choir Anthem

24. Communion

L1: We gather now as one body, joined around the table.

L2: Here we celebrate God's presence among us united in Christ's spirit, broken and whole all at once;

All: Nourished and hungry, loved and loving, sinner and forgiven; we make one circle of knowing, believing, rejoicing, being, as God lights and rests among us.

25. Communion Hymn

26. Invitation

L1: This is the table of the heavenly feast, the joyful celebration of the people of God.

L2: Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of life, to drink the cup of the new covenant.

L1: Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. She who comes to me shall never hunger; he who believes in me shall never thirst".

L2: In the beginning, God provided every plant yielding seed and every tree with seed in its fruit for food.

L1: When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God fed them with miraculous food.

L2: When the crowds were hungry, Jesus fed over five thousand with two fish and five loaves of bread.

All: When two were walking towards Emmaus, they recognized the anointed one as they broke bread together.

27. Prayer of Preparation

L1: To God be the glory, great things God has done! To prepare ourselves to partake of this holy meal, let us pray: Healing God, we come before you broken, yet seeking wholeness, isolated, yet seeking community, overwhelmed, yet seeking simplicity, shamed, yet seeking grace.

All: God, we yearn for the healing you promise.

L2: God of justice, we come before you selfish, yet seeking a generous heart, arrogant, yet seeking humility, responsible for injustices, yet seeking forgiveness.

All: God, we yearn for the justice you promise.

L1: God of peace, we come before you afraid, yet seeking assurance, agitated yet seeking serenity, angry, yet seeking a forgiving heart:

All: God, we yearn for the peace you promise.

L2: Knowing that through Christ all things are made new, we come to this communion table to be recreated through the bread and cup, and to be renewed in our faith and commitment.

All: God, we submit ourselves to renewal through you. This we pray through Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

28. Thanksgiving

L1: Loving and gracious God who summons galaxies into being, we give thanks and blessings to you. We bless you for our world. The diversity of our planet amazes us. We give you thanks for the multiplicity of humanity with our complexity of color and culture yet called into oneness-of-being through Christ. With many tongues, yet with one voice, we honor you saying:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

L1: Loving and gracious God who surrounds creation with abundant love, we give thanks and blessings to you. We bless you for your love, made known to us through Jesus, which reassures and reconciles us to you, to ourselves and to one another. As Christ is our light to you, may we be lights to others illuminating the path toward communion with you, the Holy Spirit and Jesus, our friend and brother.

All: Amen.

29. Blessing of the Elements

L2: God, may this bread connect us more closely with you and with our neighbors near and far.

All: Bless this bread, we pray.

L2: May this fruit of the vine remind us of the inter-connectedness of people around the world.

All: Bless this cup, we pray. May this simple meal bring us into union with you, your people and your world united in the one body of Christ.

30. Meal

L1: On the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread and, after giving thanks to God, broke it and said, "This is my body which is for you, do this remembering me".

L2: After supper, Jesus took the cup and said, "This is the cup of the new covenant. Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me".

31. Singing of the Lord's Prayer

32. Distribution and Partaking of the Meal

Bread: The bread of life, shared with you.

Cup: The cup of the new covenant, shared with you.

33. Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

All: God of abundance and mercy, we give joyful thanks for your eternal love and healing presence in our celebration of bread and wine. Bless this body of Christ that we may attend faithfully to our call to be your servants, with each other and throughout the world. Amen.

34. Choir Anthem

35. Offering (all offerings collected today will go to the UCCSA's Ministers' Widow Fund)

36. Greetings

37. Vote of Thanks and Announcements

38. Hymn "O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

39. Closing Declaration

I declare this Synod Committee Meeting of the South Africa Synod of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa dissolved. I charge its Officers, Committees, Regional Councils and Local Churches to discharge the duties assigned to them with all fidelity and trust. May the blessing of Almighty God rest on all that has been done in accordance with God's will and to God's name be all the glory and praise. **Amen.**

40. Benediction

41. Recessional Hymn