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SEASON OF HUMAN DIGNITY IXESHA LESIDIMA SOMNTU SEISOEN VAN MENSWAARDIGHEID NAKO YA SERITI SA BOTHO

A joint process of the four sister churches: URCSA, DRCA, DRC and RCA

The General Synods of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA), Dutch Reformed Church (DRC), Dutch Reformed Church in Africa (DRCA), and Reformed Church in Africa (RCA) are under way to unity together. Our relationships have grown a lot in the past two years, to such an extent that we have decided to launch a Season of Human Dignity together. Together we will reflect and discern how we in South Africa are going to be obedient to Jesus in the coming years. The magnitude to which people's God-given human dignity is denied, stands in stark contrast to the demands of the Gospel. We want to testify together of a life in which these four values function very strongly: **respect, listening, embracing, and selfless love**. We are convinced that practising these values will bring about new habits of human dignity. The Season of Human Dignity will span over several years and will continue until God guides us otherwise. We hope to later also include other churches and start a national movement from within the church. Our goal with this is to testify to the new life in Christ in which the intrinsic value that God gives to each person is guaranteed.

Structures

1. The Season of Human Dignity has a Management Team:

Collin Goeieman and Leepo Modise	URCSA
Tladi Peko and Andries Hoffman	DRCA
Victor Pillay	RCA
Freddie Schoeman and Nelis Janse van Rensburg	DRC

The Management Team receives its mandate from the Synodical Boards of the four General Synods.

The Management Team reports to each of these synods.

2. The Season also has a Task Team. The Synods of the four churches each appoint a synodical representative in the Task Team.
3. The Management Team is responsible for the business matters of the Season and final decision-making lies with them. The Task Team, together with the Management Team, focuses on product development and is responsible for establishing and leading a Season Task Team in each synodical area. Synods with overlapping areas form joint task teams.

Information

1. Please contact your synodical representative if you would like to obtain more information.
2. Our website is a very important source of information: <http://humandignity.co.za> or <http://menswaardigheid.co.za>.
3. **Chris van Wyk** (acv.vanwyk@gmail.com) is the webmaster. Feel free to e-mail any information or contributions you would like to make to the website to him.
4. We also have a Facebook page. At the search function, type in the words "Menswaardigheid/Human Dignity". Please "Like" the page so that you will be able to see all further information posted there. **Hanzline Davids** is responsible for the Facebook page. You can contact him via e-mail at revhanzlinedavids@gmail.com.
5. The administration of the Season is the responsibility of **Salomi Steenkamp**. You can contact her via e-mail at admin@humandignity.co.za or admin@menswaardigheid.co.za.

Process

How does the process of the Season work?

1. Every church council, presbytery, synod and church member should accept responsibility and do as God guides them. You may preach, organise conferences, lead local discussions, establish groups, or reflect on the values of the Season and the implications thereof.



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- The task teams in the different synodical areas will launch initiatives such as conferences, awareness events, and the distribution of products.
- Products:** The Management Team, in collaboration with the Task Team, develops products such as theological books, liturgical suggestions, music, and small-group discussion models. Congregation leaders are requested to use these products in congregations, presbyteries and synods.

Reflections and dialogue

The Season is a space in which reflections and dialogue about human dignity is promoted. There are many issues which require our attention. The Task Team has, however, identified eight themes for now: **gender, sexuality, racism, poverty, disability, health, ecology and education and training.**

For each of these themes, Circles of Discernment will be established for profound reflection on each particular issue. From these reflections “products” could be developed to assist believers to proceed with their own discernment on a particular issue.

If you would like to become part of such a Circle, contact your synodical representative or e-mail your name and chosen theme to our office.

Partners

Bible Media and CLF are our church partners in this process. They publish our products and help us to discern the processes.

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