PRESBYTERIAN EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE (PEA)
FORWARD IN FAITH: A CALL TO GOSPEL RENEWAL

In line with our celebrations on Reformation Day, we would like to make our position clear. This position paper addresses the growing influence of theological liberalism within the UPCSA, offering a constructive path forward rooted in the historic Christian faith. Our goal is not to divide, but to unite our churches around the timeless, unchanging truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. By reaffirming biblical authority, we hope to ignite a strong, loving, Gospel-centred movement inspired by the Holy Spirit. This movement will equip our leaders, revitalize our congregations, and witness to our culture with equal measures of uncompromising truth and Christlike grace.

All ministers and their session clerks who are willing to be part of the PEA by aligning with this Position Paper, must please print, sign and return this page to the PEA steering committee using presby.eva@protonmail.com in Gqeberha, South Africa.

PEA Position Paper: Evangelical, Missional, and Reformed Faith

This position paper outlines the core commitments of the evangelical, missional, and Reformed tradition. It focuses on the authority of Scripture, the design for marriage and family, and the role of theological education.

1. An Orthodox High View of Scripture

The foundational authority for the Christian life and mission is the Word of God. This position stands on the total truthfulness and supremacy of the Bible.

Divine Inspiration and Inerrancy

- **Source**: Scripture originates from God Himself (John 1:1)
- **Process**: Holy Spirit-guided human authors wrote every word (2 Timothy 3:16).
- "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."
- **Perfection**: The original manuscripts are free from error in all they affirm (Psalm 19:7).
- "The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple."
- **Authority and Sufficiency**
- **Rule**: The Bible is the final authority for all faith and practice (Matthew 4:4).
- **Scope**: It contains everything needed for salvation and spiritual growth (2 Peter 1:3).
- "His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."
- **Power**: God's Word actively transforms hearts and convicts sinners (Hebrews 4:12).
- "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."
- **Endurance**: Human cultures change, but Scripture remains true forever (Isaiah 40:8).

Christ Centred Bible Interpretation

- **Focus**: Scripture must interpret scripture (1 Corinthians 2:12–13).
- **Centre**: Every book of the Bible points directly to Jesus Christ (Luke 24:27).
- "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself."
- **Old Testament**: The promises find fulfilment in Jesus (Luke 4:18-19).

- “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
  He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind,
  to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”
- **New Testament**: The Gospels and Epistles reveal His saving work (John 20:31).

2. Marriage, Family, and Human Sexuality

God created human beings with intentional design. The family is the primary building block of human society and church life.

Created Order

- **Image**: Both genders equally reflect the image of God (Genesis 1:26).
  “Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us.”
- **Design**: God created humans uniquely as male and female who are different but complement each other perfectly (Genesis 1:27, 2:23).
  “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”
- **Definition**: Marriage is a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:1-9)
- “Haven’t you read,” he (Jesus) replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Purpose of Marriage

- **Picture**: Marriage displays the relationship between Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:31-32).
  “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.”
- **Leadership**: Husbands are called to sacrificial, loving leadership (Ephesians 5:25).
- **Partnership**: Wives are called to voluntary, respectful submission (Ephesians 5:24)
- **Procreation**: Marriage provides the ideal setting to raise children (Psalm 127:3-5).
  “Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one’s youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.”

Sexual Ethics

- **Boundary**: Sexual intimacy belongs exclusively within the marriage covenant (Hebrews 13:4).
  “Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”
- **restriction**: All sexual activity outside of biblical marriage is sinful (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).
  “Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

3. Guarding Against False Teaching
Theological liberalism alters historic Christian doctrines and teaching to fit modern cultural trends. Faithful training institutions must actively resist this shift to protect the gospel.

Key Historic Doctrines

- **Virgin Birth**: Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20-23).
  "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel."
- **Substitutionary Atonement**: Jesus died on the cross in our place by paying the penalty for our sins (1 Peter 3:18).
- **Bodily Resurrection**: Jesus rose from the dead in a real, physical body (1 Corinthians 15:12-14).
  "But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith."
- **Exclusivity**: Salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ alone (John 14:6).

Strategy for Training in Biblical Integrity

- **Creeds**: Faculty must sign and uphold orthodox evangelical confessional statements of faith.
- **Standards**: Board members must rigorously evaluate professor's teaching and academic practice for doctrinal alignment.
- **Mandate**: Training institutions must train minsters to preach and teach the bible as the word of God (2 Timothy 4:2).
  "Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction."
- **Discernment**: Students must learn to identify and refute false teachings (Titus 1:9).
- "He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it."

Missional Goal

- **Mandate**: Academics must never replace the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).
  "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
- **Context**: Training institutions must train leaders to plant churches and reach people within their cultures (2 Tim 2:1-2).
- **Clarity**: Theological clarity must always produce deep love for lost people (Luke 19:10).
- **Vision**: Sound doctrine fuels global missions for God's glory (Revelation 7:9-10).
  "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands."

- Name of church: St Paul's United Church HfB.
- Name of minister and signature: Rev. Andries Smit
- Name of session clerk and signature: Hanneke Meyer.

Rev Harris

Jan Tonder

1. Lt. Keith Elphinstone

Hattersall Lesley Tattersall

Meeting held at 17h30 on 26 October 2026.

Signed: Rev. H Kruger, on behalf of session

- Name of church: CHRISTCHURCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Name of church: Summerstrand United Church
Name of minister and signature: Murray Stanley Smith
Name of session clerk and signature: Alan Mthokozisi Nyoni

- Name of church: **GreenAcres Presbyterian Church (GAP), Port Elizabeth**
- Name of minister and signature: **Rev D K Bower**
- Name of session clerk and signature: **Mr B du Toit**
- Past Minister Emeritus Rev R.D. Spence

- Name of church: KABEGA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- Name of minister and signature: WARREN MULLER
- Name of session clerk and signature: PETER DUMING

- Name of church: St John's UPCSA (Boksburg)
- Name of minister and signature: GAVIN YAALTYN
- Name of session clerk and signature: ULUNJI MSISKA -

- Name of church: PROTEA VALLEY CHURCH
- Name of minister and signature: BRENT RUSSELL
- Name of session clerk and signature: SEAN CURRIE

Name of church: St John's Presbyterian Church Middelburg MP

Name of Minister and signature: VACANT

Session Clerk and signature: _____
Robert Smit

Elders Names & Signatures:

MARIUS JOUBERT

J. CULLUM.

RUTH NGOMO ZANERO

- Name of church: St George's Presbyterian Church - Wellington
- Name of minister and signature: Rev. Christopher Lawrence
- Name of session clerk and signature: Mr. Marius Kruger

- Name of church: WORCESTER UNITED CHURCH
- Name of minister and signature: GREGORY HOWSE
- Name of session clerk and signature: Sarah Johanna Gooser (Sarina)

On behalf of Pinetown Presbyterian Church

Minister: Rev Jeremy Smith .....

Session Clerk: Grant Hurley .....

- Name of church: The Hill Presbyterian church
- Name of minister and signature: Rev. Lihai Bercovich
- Name of session clerk and signature: ADAM TRAILL

- Name of church: Paarl United Church
- Name of minister and signature: Ewald Moerman
- Name of session clerk and signature: Derek Taylor