38th SYNOD MEETING

The United Church of Zambia held its 28th Synod Meeting at the Diakonia Centre in Kabwe from 5th-10th June 2016 under the theme: “Christ, lead us to fullness of life.” (John 10:10): Running with a vision into a centenary: Fifty years of unity and the Gospel, send our Christian greetings as our nation heads towards the General Elections and Constitutional Referendum on August 11 2016.

The Church elected a new Synod Bishop, Rev Sidney Sichilima and the General Secretary Rev Dr Peggy Mulambya Kabonde was re-elected.

The Meeting noted that the Zambian people would also have the opportunity shortly to choose their government for the next five and urged that the Government and all stakeholders should ensure the elections are free, fair, transparent and peaceful.

The Synod Meeting deplored the recent cases of political violence and appealed to all parties to refrain from both verbal and physical abuse and concentrate on calmly debating the issues of the day. They assured the nation of their continual fervent prayers for peace and that the Church were actively sensitising Zambian citizens on their civic rights and duties. As part of good governance civic education was vital so that information and knowledge are made available to people so that they can participate in the continued development of our nation.

The Synod Meeting also wished to highlight the plight of many of retired civil servants who have worked in the public service for many years but who are still not in receipt of their due government pension and allowances.

The Synod Meeting was satisfied by the progress made by the Government in infrastructure and other areas of the Zambian economy but were uneasy about excessive borrowing which could lead to even greater national impoverishment through international debt.

The Synod Meeting continued to stand by the vulnerable, marginalised and the voiceless in our society and called on the government to protect those most in need. The Church underlined the need to create decent jobs for the Zambian people by both local and international businesses where value is added to our products in Zambia.

The United Church of Zambia believes that human trafficking is an immoral practice and modern day slavery that is dehumanizing, commodifying and stripping of a person’s God-given human dignity It called on religious and political leaders to take appropriate measures to protect vulnerable groups in Zambia whether they were a source, in transit or have reached their destination. Human trafficking was a crime against humanity and needed to be addressed accordingly.