

## **ABSTRACT**

During the apartheid years in South Africa, the church played a very significant role in the life of the community. During this time, there was much concentration on liberation theology and black theology. The Dutch Reformed Mission Church, known today as the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa, was also actively involved in the life of community through sustainable diaconia. But after apartheid, it seems people think that the struggle is over. But the struggle has just began. Apartheid just took another form. There are many struggles that the church faces : poverty, crime, unemployed, deadly protests actions, racisms, HIV/Aids and many more. And people who is experiencing all these, are church members. And it seems that the church has gone silent in addressing these issues. There could be various reasons for this silence and it seems that not much is being done. Not only is the church silent in adressing the issues, it seems that the church has forgotten its calling.

In a post-apartheid South Africa the church needs to move to a transformative diaconia. The church can just rely on providing a charity to people. If the church takes it calling seriously and if the church wants to make a change in society, it will have to start making changes in terms of its diaconia works. During apartheid the church develop many institutions that helped the society. After apartheid, these buildings fell into the hands of government and it seems that the church is not doing much to regain these buildings or to build others to accommodate the need of the communities it find itself in.

Liberation theology was good to practice during apartheid, but in a post-apartheid the church needs to move towards a public theology. By doing this, the church will also be able to become an effective agent of diaconia. Even though there are many URCSA congregations that do diaconia, it is in many instances, not sustainable. There are no development in diaconia work. Handing out food parcels and having soup kitchens might help for immediate relief, but that will not be the answer to the problems in societies.

Through transformative diaconia and effective management, the church can once again be the agent of change in the society. But it needs leadership that's not afraid to make the change and that can encourage especially the church council to have a mind shift.