

## Profile of Pastor: Udo Lütge

### 1. Name and Contact Details

Name: Udo Lütge  
Contact Email: [udo@uelc.org.za](mailto:udo@uelc.org.za)  
Photo:



### 2. Personal History

Date of Birth: 6 February 1975  
Where I grew up: Harburg in the KZN Midlands  
Where I went to school: Harburg (Junior School)  
Wartburg (High School)

### 3. Marital Status – Married:

Spouse: Shirley (née Rabe)  
Children: Philip (18 – born in 2002)  
Mark (13 – born in 2007)

### 4. Studies:

1992: Matric  
1993-1996: Bachelor of Engineering (Industrial)  
1996-2000: Bachelor of Theology part-time at UNISA while working as an Industrial Engineer at the Atomic Energy Corporation at Pelindaba.  
2001: After getting 1½ years' worth of credits towards the Bachelor of Theology (from UNISA) when starting to study Theology full-time at the

University of Natal – Pietermaritzburg, I completed the balance of my second year in 2001 while at the same time completing the 5<sup>th</sup> year under the UELCSA tutor with a group of other UELCSA Theology students.

- 2002: Completed Bachelor of Theology at UN-PMB  
2003: Completed an Honours in Theology at UN-PMB  
2004: Passed First Theological Exam in Pietermaritzburg  
2004-2007: Internship in Harburg while also working as Youth Worker in the congregations Harburg, New Hanover and Wartburg.  
2007-2008: Internship in Bienenbüttel (Hanoverian State Church, Germany) Seminary at Loccum

## **5. Congregations and Positions**

### **5.1 Pastor of a Congregation**

- 2011-2018: Wartburg  
2018-present: United Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Wartburg

### **5.2 Youth Ministry**

- 2001-present: KZN Youth Council member  
2004-2007: Youth Worker in the congregations Harburg, New Hanover and Wartburg  
2009-2020: KZN Youth Pastor (regional post)

### **5.3 Positions in the greater Church**

- 2001-2005: Youth Executive member of the LUCSA region of LWF  
2009-present: Spiritual Counsellor of the NELCSA Choir Association  
2012-2018: Deputy Leader of the Southern Region of the Brass Band Association  
2019-present: Theological Working Group of the NECLSA-FELSISA

## **6. Personal strengths and interests**

In a church context my interests are very broad:

- I love all **church music** and get a lot of enjoyment from making music.
- I have a big interest in the theory and practice of church leadership, management and structures.
- I have a heart for youth and family ministries and have spent much of my time as a pastor involved in these ministries.

I think my greatest personal strengths are the ability to connect with people and to think clearly and systematically about theoretical, theological, structural, strategic and practical issues. I also think I am able to balance both the needs of the church and approaches to being church well, between looking inwards and looking outwards, between the traditional and the new, between structure and freedom.

## **7. Hobbies**

Reading, sport, history, music.

### **8. What do you think makes the Church relevant to people and society today?**

At the heart of the Church's calling lies the gospel. We are called to proclaim the grace, acceptance, love and forgiveness of God to all people. That is at the same time intensely personal and necessarily corporate. That means it should not just be understood and believed, but preached and proclaimed...and not just preached and proclaimed but lived. The Church has so much to contribute to the many problems the world faces at an individual and community level and through that to society at large. The gospel message frees us to make that contribution without fear or favour. To do that, the Church has to:

- i) put **love into action**, by helping those who need help, by living well and pursuing peace, by embodying acceptance;
- ii) raise its **prophetic voice**, by courageously challenging people and speaking to the issues it recognises around it and by working towards all forms of justice; and
- iii) share what it has to **teach** with people in order to equip them to better do all of the above.

Where the church manages to do that, it will always be relevant. Unfortunately, the church – just as the individuals that constitute it – repeatedly falls short of God's glory. It remains the mixed church, having in it right and wrong, good and bad, even belief and unbelief. And so to remain relevant and true to its calling constant self-reflection and reformation is necessary.

All of us together – not just pastors – have these tasks in the church.