

THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
CONNEXIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
26TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
HELD IN EAST LONDON AT THE GREENFIELD METHODIST

RESOLUTION ON THE WORK OF GOD

The 26th Biennial Convention of the Women's Association met in East London between the 5th and 8th July 2012, constituted 62 delegates and 26 observers, representative of the five affiliated districts namely, Queenstown, Grahamstown, Northern, Kimberley, Namibia and Bloemfontein and Cape of Good Hope Districts. We met in wonderful fellowship, worship and praise, and considered the dynamic Theme: "Come and Dine" reflecting on one of the greatest love stories told in the Bible, with the scriptural reference of John 21 : 12 . Many thoughts, challenges and prophetic messages through Bible study and sermons were received from eloquent speakers who represented Connexional, District and Circuit clergy, the Area President of the WFM&UCW, MCSA Unit leaders and sister and brotherhoods who raised points related to;

- the gracious invitation of every type of person to dine at the Masters Table, the "Table of Life"
- the rules at the table and the etiquette to forming partnerships
- our company at the table among all kinds of guests, the well-being of the guests
- the nurturing food served at the table. The responsibility of serving at the table of grace
- the challenge of leaving the table in peace and joy to go out and invite others
- the special privilege placed on us to receive the invitation and our task to bring others to the table.

This Theme of this Connexional Convention was a blessing, and was echoed in our worship and praise throughout.

The spacious Church was adequate for worship, convention discussions and hospitality needs. The use of the venue was indicative of the commitment of Methodist people to share resources, in partnership and to support God's work it created an atmosphere for serious consideration of many challenging subjects.

These subjects which were related to the Ministries of the W.A that were discussed at this Convention included:-

- our commitment to continue to sit at the Masters feet.
- the future structure of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and our role in its transformation
- the challenge of Cancer and commitment to support the campaign to create more awareness
- the protocols of effective organizational management
- the global challenges raised in the Millennium Development Goals and our continued activities to address the needs related to these goals at local level as reflected in the annual reports of our work .

- These relate to the Millennium Development goals to
 - Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
 - Achieve universal primary education
 - Promote gender equality and empower women
 - Reduce child mortality
 - Improve maternal health
 - Combat HIV/Aids, malaria and other diseases
 - Ensure environmental sustainability
 - Development of a global partnership for development

Additional subjects discussed and resolved upon were related to:-

- Information about the units of the WFM&UCW and the election of our Cathy Robyn as our Area Secretary for World Federation a decision to realign our schedules to facilitate that our members increase their financial contributions to further the work of God in the MCSA
- The problems facing our youth in our communities
- The social and justice issues facing women in general and the need to work in partnership with other organizations toward change.
- Our search for a more unified church and the call for a Connexional Women's Consultation in the MCSA.
- Our deep concern and experience of racism in the church and the continued challenges of discrimination
- Our belief in sustaining our Methodist Wesleyan ethos and values as part of our heritage and making these known to generations to come.
- The need to write our Organizational History.

The discussions at the Connexional meetings were reminiscent of a robust dinner conversation and enquiry at a table where resolutions were taken toward a committed way forward for the women of the WA.

We thank God for inviting us to Dine with Him, and for His presence this week-end. He fed our hearts and we have the assurance that our lives are guided by Him. We indeed have a charge to keep and a God to glorify to make a difference in everything we say and do to accelerate transformation in our world. There is no limitation in the great promise made by God to us.

PRESENTED BY THE LISTENING COMMITTEE 2012

Enid Fourie
 Pet van der Straat
 Bridget van der Merwe
 Ellen Lindoor
 Betty Hykes
 Bernice Theron
 Julia Motte

Cynthia Whittaker