



ORGANISATIONS

**METHODIST WOMEN'S PRAYER AND SERVICE UNION
WOMEN'S MANYANO
CONFERENCE REPORT 2016
MRS SEBINA SONIA TLHAKANYE - PRESIDENT**

PREAMBLE

As the focus of the Connexional Women's Manyano is Education. We decry the recent rampant burning of educational facilities, especially the twenty-nine (29) schools destroyed at Vuwani Village in Limpopo. The children are once more deprived of their right to quality education. We condemn all forms of protestation, no matter how justified, that compromises the future of the children.

The Women's Manyano, as an agent of change, commits to nurturing the children and equipping educational institutions in all the member counties of our Connexion.

OVERVIEW OF THE WOMEN'S MANYANO WORK

SPIRITUALITY:

The Connexional Women rallying theme is: "Stretch your arm". Their vision is goal orientated. Thursday, Saturday and Sunday remain the main days for Women's Manyano Prayer days. Women conduct Bible studies, retreats, Prayers cells and conventions to look deeply into discipleship. In pursuing Connexional vision, parenting and co-parenting, women are committed to taking full responsibility of doing exactly that. House to house pastoral visits are done for the bereaved, the elderly, destitute and sick not forgetting their families, church, structure, leaders, congregants, communities, country citizens and community structures.

The Connexional Executive during their term of office, visited the following Districts during their conventions: Limpopo, Clarkebury, KNB, Queenstown, Highveld & Swaziland, NFS&L, and Mozambique

EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH:

- The organisation has members who are Bible Women, Local Preachers and Evangelists and they spread the word of God through revival services, door- to- door campaigns, calling on people to follow Jesus, rather than backsliding which brings about declining of membership.
- World Prayers Services with interdenominational churches are conducted.
- Fundraising of some kind and mission campaigns are organised by all women to fulfil our "weekend of Women of Witness" event.

JUSTICE, SERVICE AND RECONCILIATION:

- Women's Manyano conscientised and motivated members to observe "Thursday in Black" campaign to fight against gender based violence on Women and children.
- During the triennial in 2014, the Women's Manyano marched in the town of Matlosana against women and children abuse.
- Highveld and Swaziland Women's Manyano and the Connexional Executive gave the Presiding Bishop support during the tragedy in Reiger Park, where a child was killed during a car hijacking.
- Inmates in prisons were visited to give them hope and support.
- District donated to orphanages, ECD'S and primary schools.
- Venues of Connexional meetings and CCS workshops (KNB, Natal Coastal, NFS&L, and Central) were given educational toys, food parcels etc. during outreach programmes.
- KNB District "stretched their arm" beyond, by building two houses for disadvantaged families.
- Workshops on HIV/AIDS were conducted and "16 days of activism" against abuse of women and children was observed.
- Protest marches were held against rape, women and children abuse and xenophobia.
- Women help with bereavement to those who cannot and afford and organise ID's and birth certificate for those who do not have them.
- Women are concerned about "Justice and Fairness" especially as they in most cases carry the burden of discrimination at home, church, workplace and in the community.

- The Women's Manyano in the Districts (Queenstown, Central, Cape of Good Hope) were involved in supporting and caring for the students during the #feesmustfall campaign.
- Mothers visit children in schools to impart knowledge based on Life Skills.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT:

Poverty and unemployment is the order of the day in our countries. Mothers share their skills to alleviate hunger and poverty. Mothers make beautiful articles which they exchange in turn for food on their tables.

- Gala dinners are organised by almost all District to fund raise for the organisation.
- ECD Centres are visited and parents taught how to engage in the learning of their children.
- Women are encouraged to produce vegetable gardens and do catering for their financial upliftment.
- Mozambique District has just established a catering project to fundraise towards the church needs
- They are encouraged to do handwork and beadwork, as well as sewing garments and open own business in order to become entrepreneurs.
- Women touch lives by observing 67 minutes of Madiba's birthday on the 18th of July annually.
- Workshops are organised by CCS on marriage problems and single parenting
- We empower treasurers on financial matters and how to manage funds.

EDUCATION:

Our Church is passionate about education; our call is to make sure that learners are taken care of in different ways. During our triennial convention in 2014, Grade 7 learners were taken out on career guidance at the following places: SAPS, Correctional Services and the Hospital.

- Women give support to children in schools by participating in School Governing Bodies.
- Day Care Centres are taken care taken by these women
- Active and retired teachers assist learners in Foundation Phase until Grade 12 during holidays and on Saturday.
- They offer Bursaries to learners for tertiary education throughout the Connexion.
- Educational toys are bought for Early Childhood Development Centres throughout the country.
- A student: Patrick Sifundza benefited from contributions made at the February Connexional Extended Meeting 2016 in Lesotho towards his tuition.
- During October and November months, Circuits hold prayers for learners and their educators, especially the Grade 12 group.
- Cape of Good Hope District launched a Back to School Project in partnership with education. Uniform and stationery are handed over to Heatherdale Children's Home

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Our first beneficiaries of bursary have graduated we thank our Women for the job well done. The next group have started this year.
- Most of the Mothers are attending World Federation in Texas (USA) this year.
- A donation will be given to Women in Ministry for celebrating 40 years, and a letter to congratulate them have also been written and sent to different District during Synods.
- Districts are busy with the Amendment of the constitution
- The Queenstown District changed the vestry into an ECD Centre, bought educational toys, furniture and jungle gyms for the kids
- The Limpopo District is given a site for the ECD Centre
- Kimberley, Namibia & Bloemfontein District cares for the well-being of the children. They have established a sanitary project in all circuits. Their focus is also drawn to physically challenged children so that they feel important in the community.
- Highveld & Swaziland District- Ekujabuleni Day Centre was the proud recipient of the educational toys. The parents were trained on how to use the toys in order to assist their children with homework. They also celebrated the Women in Ministry during their gala dinner at the convention.
- Northern Free State & Lesotho, Natal West and other Districts donated educational toys and offered training for parents to identified Day Care Centres
- A delegation was sent to SMMS on the 24th July 2016 for presentation of a donation.
- The Organisation is continuing with their mission on the beneficiaries': Youth Unit, Mission Unit (Needy Fund), Seth Mokitimi Seminary Fund, Relief Fund and Neighbouring Countries Fund (voluntary Stipend Fund)

FUTURE PLANS:

The Connexional CCS workshop shall be held in Clarkebury on the 28th September to the 1st October 2016, where we will be launching the CCS Guidelines Booklet.

The Cluster CCS retreat (Grahamstown, Clarkebury and Queenstown) will be on the 29th-the 31st of July 2016 in Cape Town.

We are going to hold our Triennial Convention on the 11th – 16th July 2017 in the Queenstown District.

During the Triennial we will be celebrating our Manyano History and our Legends.

CHALLENGES:

Members who cease to meet

High rate of unemployment and poverty

Conclusion:

The Connexional Women's Manyano Executive wishes to express its sincere gratitude to:

- All Mothers and Organisations for their overwhelming support dedication and hard work during the period under review.
- The Presiding Bishop and all the Connexional officials, the Mission Unit for the support they have given to us the past three years.
- To the incoming General President Mrs Gretta Makhwenkwe, we wish you well during your term of office, as you will be continuing with God's work.
- We wish the Presiding Bishop, his Office and Delegates a safe and sound journey to the World Conference.

**CONNEXIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
CONFERENCE REPORT 2016
MRS EUNICE GOMEZ - CONNEXIONAL PRESIDENT**

INTRODUCTION:

“Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation.” Hebrews 1:14. The angels of God will assist the people of God as they do the work of God.

2014-2016 THEME:

The theme for the 2014-2016 term has been “A transforming Discipleship Movement: Drinking Deep from the Fountain of Living Water.”

The theme has been so appropriate in this time of uncertainty, where there are so many empty hands, empty arms, empty hopes and empty hearts. The theme lends itself to Micah 6:8 of what the Lord requires of us to do: to walk justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God.

All Districts and Branches are going about their mission work with much passion, empathy and compassion towards those in need of “Tender Loving Care.”

We are definitely a transforming discipleship movement who seek to transform the plight of our communities by assisting them to drink deep from the fountain of living water.

SPIRITUALITY

A passion for souls, disciplining and teaching our sisters are some of the fundamental doctrines of Methodism to which we must be true to and constantly revisit. Reports from Districts indicate that members are called to a deepened spirituality, which means establishing methods which gives spiritual order. Prayer groups, bible studies, spiritual and evangelism camps were held where ladies received tools to enhance their prayer lives, and seminars were conducted in Districts.

EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH

Throughout the District, Women have participated actively in the life of the church. Special care and attention are given to the down trodden, the bereaved and the bed-ridden.

Women have started to evangelise among the young ladies of the church to encourage them to join the WA. As drug addiction is a challenge in all districts, women are involved in counselling and guiding the youth through outreach programmes which are relevant to the youth.

JUSTICE AND SERVICE

Districts are linking with schools and contributing to the buying of schools uniforms, stationery to under-privileged children. Street kids are being fed and one kid has been adopted and is living in the home of a WA sister. In our Grahamstown District a Women's Association sister, bequeathed her house for the neglected and abused children. It is known as the Mary Coetzee Children's Home – “Jerusalem my Happy Home”.

The Chrissie Charles Cancer fund was established by the Grahamstown District Women's Association. The purpose is to provide support and counselling to cancer sufferers and survivors. To promote awareness of the disease and to provide training to care workers.

A project emanating from a donation received at the previous Biennial Convention from the Women's Auxiliary to continue a blanket making project. A hand knitted blanket was a viable and affordable option. These knitted blankets were handed out to much needed teenage pregnant girls and reported to the Joint Meeting much to the delight of the Presiding Bishop.

In our bigger cities such as Cape Town, Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, Kimberley, sisters assist families who from rural areas have to be hospitalised for extensive periods. Accommodation, transport and meals are provided to such needy families

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

Districts are committed to programs that are enabling our Women to be economically independent. Workshops like baking, coconut ice making, beading etc. were held for the unemployed with the aim of generating funds. Efforts of going back to crop farming to create food gardens were encouraged as this is a means of survival in these tough economic conditions we live in. Women are encouraged to teach young girls to knit and sew as this skill is not part of the school curriculum.

Across Districts Women are knitting blankets, which will be part of the Mandela Day Campaign and will, handed over to our Presiding Bishop's office to deliver on our behalf.

EDUCATION

When the women celebrated Women's World Day of Prayer, it was celebrated with a particular school, interaction at this service, also afforded the Women the opportunity to identify urgent needs of the school.

Women are also involved in the day-care and aftercare of our centres at various churches across the Districts, through this intervention a safe learning environment for children is created.

Unemployed WA women avail themselves to assist at schools where teachers are absent, even if only for supervision purposes.

The absenteeism rate in schools for the girl child is reported to be exceptionally high due to her menstrual cycle. Women are part of the Campaign to keep our girl children in school by donating sanitary pads to schools in their Communities.

APPRECIATION

We thank God that He does not call the equipped, but who equips the called. During the past two years, God's grace was sufficient and God's grace led us. Thank you Lord, that You stayed with us..... (Luke 24:29)

The Connexional Executive of the Women's Association would like to thank Kimberley, Namibia and Bloemfontein District Executive and all Women's Association branches across the country for their unfailing love and support during our term of office.

Our sincere appreciation to Presiding Bishop Siwa and Rev Charmaine Morgan – General Secretary for your patience with the Women's Association.

**WOMEN'S AUXILARY
CONFERENCE REPORT 2016
MRS LINDA GERRAND - GENERAL PRESIDENT**

NO OF BRANCHES AND MEMBERSHIP

Branches	126	Branch Members	2 783
Country & Postal	<u>9</u>	Country & Postal Members	<u>939</u>
Total	<u>135</u>		<u>3 722</u>

In this our Centenary year we celebrate a momentous milestone, but records have been uncovered showing that women have been meeting since 1896, (John Street, Uitenhage) so unofficially they celebrate 120 years of service to the Methodist Church and the community, and so we echo the words of Hymn No 10 in the Methodist Hymn Book:

Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices

Who wondrous things have done, in whom His world rejoices

The theme for the Connexional Executive during these past two years has been "Our Father's Love" which has been our strength and guide. Much has been achieved in extending His Kingdom by willing hands and hearts. Members have stepped out in faith, often in difficult circumstances to continue in service to friend and neighbour. And thus we can say with grateful hearts

All praise and thanks to God, the Father now be given,

The Son and Him who reigns, with Them in highest heaven

CONNEXIONAL MEETINGS

Connexional Meetings held at the Methodist Conference Centre eMseni in Gauteng from 11 – 14 August 2015 was an ideal setting for this annual event. The theme for Connexional Meetings was "Our Father's transforming love – Holy and Righteous". The then District Bishop, Peter Witbooi and Rev Serame Thulo from Randfontein opened the proceedings. Guest Speaker Ann Goodfellow, author of Devotional books and prayer guides, led the three Devotional Sessions. Rev Jane Day brought insight to the workings at the Methodist Gender Desk. The times spent in fellowship, getting to know one another and sharing of ideas with delegates from each District was very informative. It was a pleasure to see some new faces at Connexional Meetings, but faithful delegates were there to support and guide.

SPIRITUALITY

The foundation of our Organization is built on our motto which is "To Know Christ and Make Him Known," and to that end Devotions are a priority before meetings. Ministers have been instrumental in providing guidance and leadership in areas of spirituality. Novel ways have been uncovered in using the Scriptures not only for quizzes, but verses are used as a theme for Branch Meetings. Christian Books too were used to grow members in their daily walk with Christ.

Seeking the Saviour's hand on those suffering bodily and emotionally has been achieved through prayer. Members have prayed for the lonely and frail in hospital or at home, as well as members facing some crises or other, either on visits or at meetings.

EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH

Members have done much in reaching across denominational barriers. They have participated in the Women's World Day of Prayer, as well as reaching out to all women, during Church Unity Week, and the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women services.

Prisons have been visited, sharing God's Word. Bible-women have been given food and clothing as they continue to be agents of God's love reaching out to members in their communities.

Fun days have been organized, involving members of congregations, as well as high teas and spring teas. Sadly we need to report that more branches have closed during the year, mainly due to the age of members. Some members joined a fellowship group others have become County & Postal Branch members.

JUSTICE AND SERVICE

Justice and Service is really what the Women's Auxiliary is all about. So many projects have been undertaken during the year that it leaves one speechless that so much has been achieved by so few, as Sir Winston Churchill once said.

Projects have included providing for Soup Kitchens, Stop Hunger Campaign, blanket and tracksuit projects, catering for babies in maternity wards or behind bars, toys collected for a Motor Cycle Club for distribution at Christmas time. More projects in providing stationery for schools and crèches, food, blankets, jerseys, and it still isn't the end of outreach, as so much more has been achieved for those in need. A novel idea has been placing a Christmas tree in the foyer of a Church and asking members of the congregation to pin an envelope containing money on the tree. The money collected in this way was sufficient to buy new shoes for all the children at a local Children's Home.

HUMAN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT AND EDUCATION

Much has been done to lighten the burden of older members of the poorer communities and others such as:

- Speakers advising the needy on Social Pensions, who qualifies and how to apply
- Bee-keeping, making cheese at home, assisting people in growing their own vegetables
- Alpha course presented in prison
- Education projects to enhance the skill of women, enabling them to earn extra income including how to sew, knit and crochet.
- A church in need was shown how to fundraise
- Providing a minister with furnishings for her home
- Helping a destitute mother with items for her house
- Making puppets to help with story telling
- A District had a first in experiencing a cultural event called 'Marriage of Cultures' noting the differences between Indian, Zulu and European marriages. The sharing of food which highlighted their similarities and differences.

COUNTRY AND POSTAL MEMBERS

The Country & Postal Branch is a vital arm of the Women's Auxiliary. District and Branch Secretaries have kept in regular contact with members, providing them with food for thought in their monthly newsletters. They are informed of what is happening in Branches, and are acknowledged on their birthdays. This service however, comes at a cost, so Country & Postal secretaries wish to express their gratitude for donations of cash and stamps received to support this ministry.

FINANCE

To do any fundraising, time and effort are crucial to help those in need. This has been achieved by holding cake sales, and cake-less sales, revamping Birthday and other cards, having Curry & Rice sales as well jumble sales. All this ensures that we are able to support so many Methodist outreaches. A total of R 2,100,000.00 was generated this year of which R 1,750,000.00 went to help Methodist Church communities, orphanages and Old age Homes.

JUBILEE FUND

Interest from the Investment held at Methodist Connexional Office was used to give two widows of minister's with dependent children a grant of R3 500.00 each. These ladies were from the Kimberley Namibia & Bloemfontein District, who expressed their gratitude to the ladies of the Women's Auxiliary in receiving this generous gift.

THANKS

District Executives have expressed their appreciation to Branch Executives in finding novel ways in making Branch Meetings interesting and meaningful. They have appreciated too, opportunity given them by Ministers of local Churches to advertise the outreach of the Women's Auxiliary during Church Services and Women's Auxiliary Services.

Thanks and appreciation was expressed by District Executives for the General President's visit to their Districts and Branches. Members with 50 or more years of service to the Women's Auxiliary were each given a certificate in acknowledgement of their dedication and commitment.

In closing we express our thanks to our Almighty Father who has given us the opportunity to serve Him by serving His people –

*The One Eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore.
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore!*

**YOUNG WOMEN'S MANYANO
CONFERENCE REPORT 2016
MRS NOMONDE P MOTSWENYANE - GENERAL PRESIDENT**

PREAMBLE:

We, as the Young Women's Manyano members acknowledge as our sole head, Jesus Christ, the Son of God – our Lord, Saviour and Redeemer. We look to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and Power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the World even though we seem to have entered a period where our young children especially girls are indulging themselves in drugs and adults burning schools and other Government Institution buildings. We claim as our own the faith of our Church, our responsibility within the Church to make this faith our own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God.

THE OVERVIEW OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S MANYANO WORK:

Spirituality:

As the Districts we have activities that we participate in to make sure that we grow spiritually, which includes the following:

- Retreats, Chain prayers, prayer clusters and the Washing of Blouses.
- Candle-lighting Memorial services, Revivals, Thanks-giving services as well as Weekend camps for some Districts and Circuits.
- Praise, Worship, Reading and Sharing the Word of God in our weekly, circuit, Districts and General Connectional meetings.
- Organised prayers, where we visit hospitals and hospices giving them hope to trust in God.
- Visiting prisons to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Evangelism and Church Growth:

- Ecumenism is already taking place in some Districts where inter-denominational Young Women gatherings, Revivals, Retreats and Bible Studies are taking place.
- We have a growing number of young women who are joining the Local Preachers, Evangelists and Ministry.
- Equipping and empowering Junior Manyano through our rallies and Convention on how to conduct them. We also engage them in our outreach program so that they can also be exposed on what is happening within our churches.
- As Young Women in the church we join other Organisations and participate in the church projects like Street Revivals, and Hospital visits, and inviting people to Christ. We also reach out to the bereaved families both in the church and in our communities. This is our method of us giving hope to the broken and the vulnerable by showing them God's unending Glory.

Justice, Service and Reconciliation:

- We take care and nurture the members of the Junior Manyano.
- Members from different Circuits/Districts visit mission houses and assist with renovations, replace old furniture where possible, Mandela day observations and peace marching.
- Members go out to the communities and schools to donate clothes, uniform, toiletries especially to young girls and food parcels to the needy children and visiting the adopted Homes, children, crèches and families.
- Thursdays in Black and peaceful marches are still continuing in highlighting our fight against women and children abuse.

Human & Economic Development and Empowerment:

- Workshops at Circuit, Regional and District levels are a source of development to our members, high unemployment rate has remained a big challenge to our members and this has resulting in the lack on economic aspect that tends to demoralise some of our members and their participation in the growth of our Organisation. Our prayer and hope is seeing all young women being able to do things for themselves.
- We encourage members to have vegetable gardens, through the sales from them; they are able to contribute to pledge, membership and other church activities.
- Skills empowerment workshops are held where our members are taught how to do beadwork in order to better their lives as well as of their families.

Education:

- Reading corners are still continuing in all Districts
- When having our regional and district conventions, we invite guest speakers within our church who reminds us of who we are and how should a young woman in a church live and behave.
- We encourage learners within our church to read by supplying them with various kinds of reading materials e.g. books magazines etc.
- Our members take care of Junior Manyano and educate them about our Church and human values.
- We organise guest speakers to do educational workshops on how to empower ourselves as young women in our District and Connectional Conventions.
- HIV/AIDS infected and affected are taken care of by educating them on how to live and deal with the disease.
- KNB District took time and showed solidarity when they were praying at the gates of the University of Free State – condemning the vandalism of institution structures around the country, praying for one body, one spirit and one faith to restore hope.

CHALLENGES:

- Slow increase/decrease of Young Women's Manyano numbers due to natural attrition (death), young women getting married or changing their membership to the Women's Manyano.
- Unemployment, poverty are other challenges facing our members.
- HIV/AIDS is still a huge challenge facing our church at large.
- Starting and maintaining long-term projects within our Districts. Lack of commitment from some of our members.
- Not all District reports are received in time.
- Triennial magazine (Tri-Mag) has not been printed yet for 2016 due to some Districts not paying.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Young Women's Manyano Triennial for 2016 was held in Welkom, Northern Free State and Lesotho District.** Both the Presiding Bishop and the General President in their addresses highlighted for us that this is the time that we as the Young Women's Manyano – we need to “Get up” _ “Young Woman –Arise, Vuka Ntombazana, Tsoha Morwetsana”.
- **“Something inside so strong’** – during the Memorial Service we were also reminded that, it really does not matter what we are going through, as long as there is something that keeps us going, with Jesus the Lord and Saviour living inside us, urging us to carry on continue in life.
- We were also reminded to walk in ways that make God smile upon us and for the Kingdom of God to open up and also that Praise and Worship is not about coming to church every Sunday, it is done anywhere that you will feel you are in God's Presence. As Young Women we are reminded of our Vision and Mission Statement “to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ for healing and transformation and our Vision of “A Christ healed Africa for the healing of nations”.
- The presence of the Mozambique delegation to the 2016 Triennial after a long time we haven't seen them made us to realise how great it becomes to do things together and for one another. It was really touching and emotional when the YOUNG WOMEN'S MANYANO District President from Mozambique highlighted for us how some of them were coming to the Triennial of the Young Women as well as coming to South Africa for the first time. We would like to thank our entire YOUNG WOMEN'S MANYANO Districts for making sure that our sisters together with the District President from Mozambique for seeing to their travelling to and from Mozambique as well as the Conference accommodation and benefits in becoming

part of our 2016 Triennial. We hope and pray to God that this relationship that has been started with them continues.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Natal Coastal District has seen the weddings of 7 YOUNG WOMEN'S MANYANO members. Even though this can be seen as a decrease on our statistics, this is also seen as God's blessing and an increase to the Women Manyano. The Kunene Housing Project done by the Natal Coastal District has been completed and awaiting the invitation of the General Executive for the official hand-over.
- One District, KNB, has the YOUNG WOMEN'S MANYANO magazine, YOUNG WOMEN'S MANYANO Facebook page as well as the YOUNG WOMEN'S MANYANO website.
- Increase in the membership of the Junior Manyano and won the prize of R3000-00 for the best church garden in the Lejweleputswa District, Free State. The prize included the garden tools. A walker was bought for one member who can no longer walk on her own.
- The Lesang Boroko Multi-purpose Primary Co-operative has been registered by three (3) members of the KNB District and has been offered tenders to supply three schools around Thaba 'Nchu with groceries for lunch.
- The first YOUNG WOMEN'S MANYANO District President who is a Young Women's Manyano member – Limpopo District.
- Central District adopted institutions:
 - Chaucer Home in Alexandra.
 - A Bekkersdal crèche.
 - Mzwabantu Orphanage Home.
 - Mofolo Home based care Centre that cares for the HIV/AIDS with financial assistance.
 - Mmatsie Tutu is a 5 years old that has been adopted by the Johannesburg North Circuit. The future plan of the Circuit is to look after her until she finished her studies.
 - In Mathole informal settlement, one YOUNG WOMEN'S MANYANO member and her siblings have been adopted and is being assisted financially together with her siblings.

Objectives of the Implementation plan:

- To empower members of the YOUNG WOMEN'S MANYANO.
- To support and empower Young Women who heads families in a **holistic manner**.
- To empower Young women and Men with life skills. She provided us with information on the Government departments that we can approach.

What happens at the end of three years?

- Every district to show case what they have done – Mission Cameos and exhibition stalls.
- Financial statement and plans.
- Thorough audits that will be done.

Vision: "Self-actualisation of Young Women". Focus Areas are:

- Development of self.
- Socialisation of me and others.
- Socialisation in Church
- Spiritualisation.

- **Envisaged Outcomes:** one or two YOUNG WOMEN'S MANYANO projects that can be done on a continuous basis to empower Young Women's Manyano Members with necessary Skills for Effective Leadership as well as the Growth of the Organization.
- Implementation Plan has been sent to all the Districts for discussion and will be continued during the coming General Meeting that will be held in the Cape of Good Hope next February 2017.

FUTURE PLANS:

- The design of the Pin for the Junior Manyano and the Guidelines.
- Finalise the review of the YOUNG WOMEN'S MANYANO Constitution that the Task Team is busy with.
- To have joint sustainable and continuous Projects with other Organisations within the Church.

CONCLUSION:

Thanks-giving, Honour and Praise always goes to our Lord, Saviour and Redeemer Jesus Christ for calling us, enabling us, empowering us in doing the Discipleship work that we are doing as well as to each and every member of our Organisation for the support and prayers. As the Young Women's Manyano we would like to take this opportunity to wish our Presiding Bishop, the Executive of the Church a blessed and spirit filled 2016 Conference.

**CONNEXIONAL LOCAL PREACHERS ASSOCIATION
CONFERENCE REPORT 2016
REV TANDUXOLO P SIKOTOYI - GENERAL PRESIDENT**

INTRODUCTION

The Local Preachers Association, normally known as LPA is an Organization of Methodist Preachers who have accepted the calling of Jesus Christ to proclaim His Gospel within the holistic Mission of the Church. This organization always promote the fellowship of all Local Preachers of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA) within the context of her progressive unfolding Vision and Mission.

Local preachers are accorded significant authority over the progress of a service, for which they are seen as having overall responsibility, rather than just delivering the sermon.

The Association is guided by the theme articulated at Triennial Convention in 2014; *“Seek, Tend my Flock and Follow me”*. This theme seeks to remind Local Preachers of their primary calling.

As Jesus calls us to follow Him first and then sends us to seek the lost and to care for the found. The word “seek” indicates evangelism – the act of inviting others into a living relationship with Jesus and “tending the flock” – the act of caring for and giving nurture to those who have been sought and found

EXECUTIVE

General President: Rev. P.T Sikotoyi

Ex General President: Mr. J.M Nkosi

General President Elect: Mr. M. Hlatshwayo

Vice General President: Mr. F. Sikweyiya

General Secretary: Ms. FPS Mageleni

Ass. General Secretary: Mr. J.Z Ncinane

General Treasurer: Mr. G. Rulumeni

Committee Members: Rev. O. Rasonti

Mr. N. Kave

LPA OVERVIEW

The records of accredited preachers who have affiliated to LPA come from twelve districts of the MCSA's Connexion. The number has increased from 8020 to 8175 with 436 local preachers called to a higher service. The data revealed a total number of 873 preachers on trial. According to our records, no member of the Association has been called for a disciplinary hearing by his/her church thus establishing good conduct in ministering among the God's people. All the preachers affiliated to LPA are in good standing with their local churches, districts and the Connexion. The following statistic is a true reflection from the 12 districts;

OBJECTIVES FOR PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

The Local Preachers Association has successfully followed actions that respond to the long-term and short-term objectives set in the constitution. These objectives are conserved in the LPA constitution are as follows:

- To encourage all Local Preachers and Ministers to observe the Vision and Mission of the MCSA and to enhance its purpose.
- To give fresh and relevant impetus to the preaching ministry of lay persons.
- To encourage and assist Local Preachers and Ministers to empower themselves through study and reading widely in order to enhance their preaching potential.
- To promote fellowship amongst all Local Preachers and Ministers in the MCSA.
- To utilise this Association as a forum to promote fellowship, inspiration and empowerment, and to share issues of common concern amongst members of the Local Preachers' Association.

- To find creative ways of embracing each other within and among all Local Preachers and Ministers in the Connexion in a manner that is sensitive and uniting.

ACTIVITIES PERFORMED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FIVE IMPERATIVES

Spirituality

DRD Model: This is observed by the eleven (11) Districts through Bible Studies with some Districts observing the LPA Sunday. Local preachers have been addressing social ills through this model ever since its implementation and adoption in 2012.

Local preachers at their discretion, do a number of different things:

- create the order of service
- omit or include any part of the order of service
- determine which Bible readings are to be included, which may - but need not - be selected from those defined in the [lectionary](#)
- involve other people in the preparation and leading of the worship

Local Preachers accept guidance from the churches to which they go, for example in regular or seasonal local elements of liturgy, or in using those nominated.

Evangelism and Church Growth

Local preachers take part in evangelising in their Circuits and Districts working hand in hand with sister Organisations. Annual, biennial and triennial evangelical crusades take place at district, regional and Connexional levels respectively. The Association will hold its third Triennial Connexional Evangelical Crusade will be held on 22-23 October 2016 at Buffalo City Stadium in East London. The main purpose of this crusade but not limited is to address the social ills that are destroying the moral fibre of our society and encourage, develop and empower our people to form and take active part in the fight and struggle against these ills, putting prayer and faith at the centre in bringing about transformation and healing.

We strongly believe that this event will contribute towards boosting the economy and tourism of our province, as it is not limited only to Methodists people but to everyone who believe in prayer, as its approach is interdenominational and ecumenical.

Justice and Service

All of the 11 Districts have outreach programmes where LPA donates to the needy during the annual conventions or at scheduled periods. One district observes John Wesley's Day through a Presidential Project wherein the Circuits are urged to look after the Ministers and their families by offering blankets or any gift as led by Holy Spirit as John Wesley once said; "give as much as you can"

Human and Economic Development and Empowerment

One District has launched a "District Social Relief Desk" an adopt or dress a child programme whereby every Circuit is expected to have a soup kitchen and assist the needy and aged people where need arises.

Education and Training

Local Preachers have always been required to undergo some form of training and examination - the examination being concerned with their doctrinal orthodoxy as well as with their knowledge of the scriptures and the history and doctrines of the church. Districts conduct in-service trainings and workshops in order to empower local preachers.

FINANCIAL POSITION

The Association submitted its books for the auditing. They showed as at 31 December 2015 the position of the finances of the Association to be having a balance of R183 811.00

OBITUARIES

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" Out of 436 Local preachers who were called to the eternal rest, one of them was the Connexional Executive member, Mrs. Nodumo Bongoza. The enormous support received from the districts during this trying time was unmeasurable, one district

even wrote a poem with her photo to be placed in the cars and be read at the funeral. What a send-off... befitting a queen!

May all their departed souls rest in peace and rise in glory.

CONCLUSION

We thank God Almighty for the wisdom, vision and courage as we pursue the theme; **“Seek, tend my flock and follow me”**. As these are action words that challenge the Local Preacher to get up and do something, indeed, Local Preachers have been challenged.

YOUNG MENS’ GUILD CONFERENCE REPORT 2016 REV M SAMSON NHLAPO - GENERAL PRESIDENT

INTRODUCTION

The Connexional Young Men’s Guild had during the week of 01 – 05 June 2016 held its 27th Triennial Conference at Saulsville Society, Pretoria Central Circuit, Limpopo District. The theme for the Triennial Conference was **“Mission Shaped Disciples for Transformation and Healing.”** It was during that Convention that the new YOUNG MENS’ GUILD Connexional Executive Committee was inducted. The new Connexional EXCO comprised of the following members:

General President: Rev. Mphengwa Samson Nhlapo

General Vice President: Bro. Mthuthuzeli Buyeye

General Secretary: Bro. Malesela John Mokoele

General Recording Secretary:

Bro. Crosby Thanduxolo Manase Breakfast

General Treasurer: Bro. Jimmy Matsho

General DDSR Secretary:

Bro. Abner Motlogeloa Mathabe

General Committee Members:

Bro. Keikanetswe Conrad Taukobong

Bro. Choene Albert Mokobane

Rev. Mthuthuzeli Izeman Puleni (Posthumously)

This Connexional Young Mens’ Guild EXCO is taking over from and following on the footsteps of the past committee that was led by the late General President Reverend Motlalepule Petrus Leseba who met his untimely death on the 29th February 2016 at Welkom and was buried on the 10th March 2016 at Klerksdorp. May his soul rest in peace.

The report captures ten elements that are; introduction, visits to districts, finance, mission imperatives, GDDSR, Young Mens’ Guild Constitution, membership of the Young Mens’ Guild, 27th Triennial Conference, tribute to General President - Reverend Motlalepule Petrus Leseba and conclusion.

VISITS TO DISTRICTS

As per roster, the following Districts were visited and supported in 2015 by the Connexional Executive Committee: Cape of Good Hope, Highveld and Swaziland, Natal West and Northern Free State and Lesotho. The roster for 2016 District visits was successfully concluded as follows: Natal Coastal, Central, Clarkebury and Queenstown. The past Connexional Executive Committee has completed all District visits and support during their era for the Connexion at large. It must be noted as well that, not only the Young Mens’ Guild was visited and supported, but the following Connexional sister organisations were visited during their respective Conferences and Conventions: Women’s Manyano, Young Woman’s Manyano, Order of Evangelism and Bible Women, Music Organisation and Local Preachers Association.

FINANCE

The Connexional Young Mens’ Guild continues to do reasonably well with its finances. They are audited annually and tabled at the Connexional General Executive Committee meetings for approval. We are still trying to improve on fundraising activities to complement our cash-flow and ability to support the various projects identified by the Young Mens’ Guild and sometimes the church.

MISSION IMPERATIVES

The mission imperatives aspects are fully captured and successfully addressed in all Districts. The following are but a summary of all the past three years report:

Spirituality

Most of the Districts still engage in Bible studies and prayer meetings to keep spirituality mission alive. It is also of interest to note in Grahamstown District that 100% of the males are the Young Mens' Guild members within the Local Preachers Association.

Evangelism and Church Growth

Night-vigils and street revivals are still prominent mechanism of spreading the Gospel. Door to door strategy is applied in Limpopo District while evangelical campaign was conducted in White Mount Circuit of Clarkebury District. Cluster revivals feature prominently in both NFSL and KNB Districts. Hospital and prison visits for prayers happen generally in all districts.

Human Empowerment and Economic Development

Majority of Districts invited motivational speakers on issues such as "Men's Health", "Financial Stewardship" and "Adopt a Boy-child" campaigns and embark on outreach with sister-organisations.

Justice and service

Some of the Districts supported and conducted activities to commemorate International Nelson Mandela Day. They painted the House of Hope Centre, contributed school shoes to indigent learners, conducted Bible studies on "Women abuse" and provided groceries to the needy. Limpopo District continued to implement the "YOUNG MENS' GUILD – Thokoza Statement of Faith and Life" against the abuse of women and children in every convention in their District.

Education and Christian formation

Most of the Districts intensified their progress in this mission. Among the others, Highveld and Swaziland District held "Men Summit" on socio-political and economic issues while Grahamstown gave R2 256.00 in school-fees to Ms Nontobeko Sihlongonyane. Natal West District provided R7 000.00 towards school uniforms for thirteen learners while Queenstown distributed furniture and four brand new computers with printers, to the tune of R60 000.00 to Msundulo Primary School. Central District distributed bursaries of R25 000.00 to destitute students while Clarkebury District ensured that sixty three learners were dressed in school uniform at Brooksnek.

GDDSR

The 12 Districts continued to empower communities around them and members of the organisation. As part of the empowerment initiatives, the 2015 CGEC resolved that the Mozambique District must be visited to be empowered on matters relating to the church and Young Mens' Guild. That was done during a visit by the officials from the 12 Districts and the Connexional Young Mens' Guild EXCO. All the circuit leaders were trained on the roles and responsibility of the each portfolio including how the YOUNG MENS' GUILD in the circuit operates and how to manage the finances of the Organisation.

Pivotal to note is the Philani (Clinic) Project currently underway in the two district of KNB and Clarkebury. As reported during the last Conference, the active project in underway N dofela, Sterkspruit, KNB District. The partnership on this project has been formalised between the YOUNG MENS' GUILD, the District Municipality, the Eastern Cape Government care of the Provincial Department of Health and the Community of N dofela, Sterkspruit. Great strides have been made in this project and the provincial government has agreed to provide substantial funding of this project. It is expected that by the end of the year the first phase of the project would be completed.

Notwithstanding the above, different Districts projects such as building of a house for the Louw family who stays at Vryburg (North West) at Central District, building a house to the tune of R35 000.00 for a widow by Highveld and Swaziland District, Clothing of the elders by Queenstown District and back to school project of clothing and shoes by Clarkebury and Northern Free State and Lesotho Districts are but few examples of the excellent job done by the Young Mens' Guild-movement under the 26th Triennial Conference theme: ***"The role of Christian men (YOUNG MENS' GUILD) in reclaiming humanity in a broken society: The 2nd Century outlook"***

YOUNG MENS' GUILD CONSTITUTION

The Young Mens' Guild had again during the last Triennial Convention considered amendments to the current constitution to make final inputs and or comments. The inputs and comments have since been consolidated into a final draft Young Mens' Guild Constitution which is hereby tabled for consideration by the MCSA Conference. The final draft has been referred to the Revision Committee as determined by the protocol. This process has been ongoing since the 2013 Triennial Convention and the Connexional Young Mens' Guild desires that the process to be finalised.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE YOUNG MENS' GUILD (STATISTICS)

DISTRICT	STATISTICS	DISTRICT	STATISTICS
Cape of Good Hope	652	Natal West	1566
Grahamstown	2260	Central	1514
Queenstown	2396	Highveld and Swaziland	
Kimberley, Namibia & Bloem		Limpopo	2151
Northern Free State & Lesotho	710	Mozambique	
Natal Coastal	1800	Clarkebury	3200
		GRAND-TOTAL	1624

27th TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

During its 27th Triennial Conference held in Saulsville Methodist Church, Pretoria Central Circuit, Limpopo District, the Connexional Young Mens' Guild elected Rev. Nkosinathi A. Geja as the Young Mens' Guild General President-Elect. He would be inducted during the next Triennial Conference to be held in 2019 at a venue still to be confirmed.

TRIBUTE TO GP-REV MOTLALEPULE PETRUS LESEBA

Figure 2 reflects the last memories of leadership under General President, Rev Motlalepule Petrus Leseba. All the twelve Districts commemorated his death (seen sited left in view and right of the General Secretary, Dr Selogilwe Petrus Mokobe at the CGEC February 2016 meeting at Cape Town) in their different Districts Conventions. An amount of R22 000.00 collected for condolences from Districts was sent to the Leseba family by the Connexional Executive Committee.



Figure 2

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED

In the rising of the sun and it's going down;
 In the blowing of the wind and the chill of winter;
 In the opening of the buds and the rebirth of spring;
 In the blueness of the sky and it's going down;
 In the beginning of the year and when it ends

When I am weary and in need of strength;
 When I am lost and sick at heart;
 When I have joys, I yearn to share;
 So long I live; you too shall live, for you are part of me.
 May your beautiful and humble soul rest in peace!

CONCLUSION

The Connexional Young Mens' Guild continues to grow in strength and members continue to brighten every corner they are. This despite the challenges of life experienced including growing unemployment affecting most of our membership. We shall continue to pray for our church, its organisations and the government to provide leadership during period of crisis. We believe that even during this era of the new leadership in the organisation, we will continue to strive for "a Christ healed Africa for the healing of the nation." God bless you all abundantly!
 This is the spirit in the Connexion – **"One heart, One way!!!"**

**CONNEXIONAL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
CONFERENCE REPORT 2016
MR MOTINGOE ITUMELENG - GENERAL PRESIDENT**

OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF CONNEXIONAL MUSIC ASSOCIATION (JULY 2015-May 2016)

Motto: "One voice; one song!"

OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION

God is good at all times! Gratitude to the Almighty for affording Connexional Music Association another opportunity and strength to tirelessly do His work and be able to present this organizational report. As an organization within the greater MCSA, Music Association operates within the framework of Vision and Mission of the Church for Healing and Transformation of the people of God. Again, as Methodist Choristers, we aspire to be like Angels surrounding God's Throne, offering Him our praise, worship, adoration, confession, forgiveness and thanksgiving through music. This report calls for God's Name to be praised as we report the work of Music Association from eleven (11) Districts of the Connexion which are fully participating in Connexional activities, however there is still cause for concern with the 12th District, (Mozambique), and most Districts which are supported by few Circuits in comparison to the number of Circuits in those Districts

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONNEXIONAL MUSIC ASSOCIATION FOR THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

- To increase membership from Society to District level
- To attract Youth and other Organisation to the great work of Evangelism and Mission through music
- To ensure that Music Association's Amendment to the Constitution is recognized by the Conference
- To ensure full participation of all Districts in Connexional activities
- To support and assist Mozambique & Lesotho be part of the Connexion as far as Music Association is concerned
- To continue supporting SMMS financially
- To continue unifying music and singing in the Connexion (bring back Methodist chants in our Divine services), especially Liturgy, so that the Liturgy of the Methodist Church is preserved, and its hymns are passed on to future generations.
- To establish links with the Ministers, Evangelists and Local Preachers in the bid to get these stakeholders to regard the choirs as their support system during services

IMPERATIVES OF MISSION

SPIRITUALITY

Our District Choirs are always available to participate in all spiritual gatherings (Conference, Triennials, Synods, Conventions) of different Organisations, memorial services and funerals of Ministers, including church members and respective services at all levels of the church, to lead worship, for, "God is Spirit, and all those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth". Our music is not intended to be entertainment or performance, but to be an act of worship. It is a concern that some congregants still find it difficult to understand the choral music of the choir in leading service and introducing new chants, as most Methodists use beats, whistles and drums during Divine services. However, the choirs continue to lift the spirits of the congregants by leading worship during church service. Most districts are embarking on reviving inactive choirs in different circuits to deepen the sense of spirituality.

EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH

Music is one of the tools used to call people to the Grace of God. Through music choirs join with Ministers and Preachers to convey messages that call people into the church and makes it grow. Great improvement and support have been reported by most districts where more circuits are coming in to support Music Association. There is a marked increase in the number of participating choirs at district competitions. District Executive members are fully at work, visiting inactive circuits, embarking on road shows for building and revival of inactive choirs. Where revival is held, there has been reports that people join choirs in great numbers. Other districts hold 'Music Association Indaba', to create platform for choristers and other organizations to dialogue about issues relating to the growth in membership and development of music in the circuits. The Connexional Music Association has introduced the Intermediate section for participation during music festivals.

JUSTICE AND SERVICE (Humanitarian Service)

No sustainable project has been reported by Districts, however, mission outreach during Conventions (Districts and Connexion), is still much supported by the choristers as identified needy institutions are visited, donations offered in the form of groceries, blankets, beddings and school uniform. The donation of the Computers and Printers were delivered to the Methodist High School in Lesotho (WEZI) as promised. This was made possible by generous donations from the Districts and were delivered to the school by the Connexional Music Association Executive members, accompanied by NFS & L and KN&B District Executive members on the 27th of November 2015.

HUMAN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The eleven (11) Districts now hold their annual/bi annual Conventions. Church choirs are not financially viable because they operate with limited funds, from pledging system by members. Our hymn books are a reservoir filled with great and inspiring hymns from different languages. Some districts have put more effort to produce CDs and DVDs to develop and preserve music heritage, and also boost their financial muscle. The following Districts have CDs; Cape of Good Hope (False Bay and Dumisani Circuits), Grahamstown, Queenstown, Natal West, Highveld & Swaziland (Kwa Thema and St Paul's Circuits) and Northern Free State & Lesotho (Qwaqwa Circuit). These initiatives also assist the church choirs to be viable and be able to support the Church programmes initiatives, and also meet the contributions of the Connexion. Malihambe Melodies' (Connexional Choir that toured Germany in 2014), CD has been released also and is presently on circulation. Youth choirs have been developed in most Districts and are being nurtured.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Connexional Music Association continues with its commitment to support SMMS. Few Districts reported to be supporting District Methodist Bursary Funds by donating certain amount of money to assist learners from disadvantaged communities to pursue their studies. Some Districts have reported to have helped nearby schools with buying of JOJOs during this period of water shortage country-wide. Districts and Connexional workshops are held prior to the Competitions. Capacity building workshops are held in different Districts to empower choristers. The greatest contribution by the Connexion was the donation of computers to WEZI School in Lesotho!

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Connexional Music Association has succeeded in assisting NFS&L establish and induct its structure in August and September 2015 respectively. 2016 saw the NFS&L District holding its inaugural Convention, hosted by Qwaqwa Circuit, under the Theme: "Music as a Call to Discipleship and Transformation of our Worship." (Mathew 4 verse 19). The Connexional Music Association held its twentieth (20th) Biennial Connexional Competitions which was hosted by the Grahamstown District. It was a real 'Clash of Titans!'. The Liturgy formed part of the prescription again in 2015 Connexional Competitions. Intermediate and Youth choirs have been established in most districts and participate in music Competitions up to Connexional level. The Connexional Music Association donated nine Computers and a printer to WEZI School in Lesotho. "Blessed is the hand that gives, than the one that receives!"

Qwaqwa Circuit's CD; "Rea u boka Modimo" was nominated for (National Choral Music Achievement Awards) NACMA (Kzn) in March 2016, for "Best Recorded Church Hymns" Category. The inclusion of the choir of the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary (SMMS) in the Eisteddfod Project. To celebrate 40 years of recognition of the Church Choirs as an organized body in the Church and that the Music Association will organize Church Choir Competitions on behalf of the MCSA. The celebration will take place in during the Connexional Music Convention in November 2016.

CHALLENGES

- The Districts still face a challenge of a limited number of male voices.
- Younger generation does not join the choirs as a result choir members are mainly group of matured age
- Participation from other racial groups non-existent
- Poor visibility of Ministers in choir activities.
- Only three (3) Districts managed to tackle the prescribed Liturgical excerpts in Zulu and Sotho languages successfully

- No data base for Music Association due to lack of statistics from districts, circuits and societies
- Some Districts are still not viable financially, making it difficult for the choir that win at district level to proceed to the Connexion
- The Connexion has not yet established full relationship with Mozambique District
- Some Ministers do not view the Music Association as part of the organizations that needs support and inclusion in the plans at Society and Circuit level
- Lack of support in other congregations where choir are still in competition with other organizations to lead services

FINANCIAL POSITION

The financial status of the Connexional Music Association according to the audited financial statement as at **31 December 2015** was as follows:

Income:	R290 205.33
Expenditure:	R184 343.20
Balance:	R105 862.13

FUTURE PLANS

- Continue reviving inactive Circuits
- To finalize completion of the Connexional Music Booklet with specific reference to the birth of Music in the Methodist Church (from all Districts) as well as establishment of Connexional Music Association.
- To enable all choirs in all Districts to incorporate all Methodist hymn books and sing all liturgies in all languages.
- To have our own Music Academy, where we are going to train Conductors and Pianists and also teach our choirs approach to good singing.

CONCLUSION

The Connexional Music Association appreciates the support of the Ministers who encourage choirs and ensure that the Ministry of Music grows. Church choral music is an important facet in the life of the church. The choir members offer their time tirelessly to the work of God. The church needs to apply its mind to the fact that during seven days of the week, church choirs meet frequently to prepare for Sunday worship. Without the support of the Ministers and the congregants, the Music Ministry of the Methodist Church will flounder and perish. We are looking forward to the day when Districts will report that their Circuits and societies have formal church choirs that will help restore the Methodist culture of proper musical performance during services!

MATTER REQUIRING CONFERENCE DECISION

Recognition of the Music Association Constitution amendment for final discussion at the Connexional Convention of the Music Association in November 2016.

DISTRICT STRUCTURES

DISTRICT	NAME	PORTFOLIO	CONTACTS
Cape of Good Hope	Rev Maseti VG Ms Yolisa S	District President Assistant Secretary	masetvg@gmail.com Sizeka.Yolisa@stellenbosch.gov.za
Grahamstown	Mr Meke H Ms Msizi N	District President District Secretary	ghtmusicassociation@mail.com norooi85@gmail.com
Queenstown	Mr Kolo T Ms Bam N	District President District Secretary	kolo.thomas@gmail.com noluthandobm7@gmail.com
Kimberly, Namibia & Bloemfontein	Me Sebate K Ms Makate P	District President District Secretary	kea.sebate@gmail.com Pmakate@yahoo.com
Northern Free State & Lesotho	Mr Mnguni T Ms Malete L	District President District Secretary	thokozanitr@gmail.com lollymalete@gmail.com
Natal Coastal	Mr Sangweni T Ms Khanyile DR	District President Assistant Secretary	thembasangweni@vodamail.co.za dudruthkhanyile@gmail.com
Natal West	Prof Ngcobo R Ms Mthiyane N	District President District Secretary	langareg@mweb.co.za Nomusa.Mthiyane@kzndoe.gov.za
Central	Mr Monyane TL Ms Legote K	District President District Secretary	Monyane@gauteng.gov.za Keitumetse.Legote@gauteng.gov.za
Highveld & Swaziland	Rev Mabuza FN Ms Maritz J	District President District Secretary	francenmabuza@gmail.com JMaritz@lscmasakhe.co.za
Limpopo	Ms Kgabi G Ms Moopelwa M	District President District Secretary	loungog@gmail.com gmoopelwa@rustenburg.gov.za
Clarkebury	Rev. Nogonyoti ZL Mr. Nkewana M	District President District Secretary	078 577 0445 nonibs74@gmail.com

**WORLD FEDERATION OF METHODIST & UNITING CHURCH WOMEN
SOUTHERN AND EAST AFRICA AREA REPORT
2011-2016 – “BAMBELELA, CHRIST IS OUR HOPE”
CONFERENCE REPORT 2016
MRS GRETTA XOLISWA MAKHWENKWE**

INTRODUCTION

The quinquennium 2011-2016 under the theme, ‘Bambelela, Christ Is Our Hope’ has been an enriching journey. The sisterhood has been a vehicle of awakening women to challenges facing women in various countries of the continent. It also endeavoured to strengthen faith as women became agents of change in their communities through making the MDGs a success. Women realised they are strong in relation to their dependence on God and their active participation with His transforming purposes in their lives.

WEAVING TOGETHER PROGRAMME:

The World President, Ann Connan, had very empowering teachings on how to strengthen an organisation. Growth of the Federation and hindrances to growth were extensively analysed and discussed. What drives the organisation and what is the passion of the members are questions that were interrogated.

AREA SEMINAR:

The seminar was held in Cape Town where it was a joy to have various units from the following countries in attendance: South Africa; Zimbabwe; Congo; Malawi; Mozambique; Zambia and Uganda. Though in some countries it was just one or two members, but the unit was represented.

Members went into commissions that were divided according to the MDGs allocated to the Area. Deliberations gave direction to the agenda of the area and a programme of action to be followed by the units.

A protest march against child and women abuse was led by Bishop Hansrod of the MCSA in the Cape of Good Hope. Thursday-in-Black was observed by the women. The Area President, Mrs Gretta Makhwenkwe, handed over the memorandum at the police station after a speech that highlighted the plight of women as victims of abuse.

Outreach to the community was embarked upon. The Rape Crisis Centre trains women to go and do advocacy, educate young girls and women who have been raped, run support groups and give the necessary support to victims and their families. The Area donated a much needed data projector to the centre to enable the training of trainers. Toiletries and some educational consumables were donated to an orphanage in Cape Town. Lastly, a home of an elderly lady in Worcester was furnished with some essentials.

WORK ON THE MDGs:

MDGs 1 and 6 always form the basis of the mission work done by the Area. The lifestyle of women is encouraged to embrace and promote achievement of these MDGs at all times.

MDG 2:

Achieve universal primary education. The following are some of the activities done to promote this MDG:

- Building and partnering with early childhood development centres (ECDC’s)
- Ensuring quality education by providing educational toys and upskilling the teachers

MDG 3:

Promote gender equality and empower women. Activities done are:

- Teenage mothers provided with baby clothing and taught to knit and crochet.
- Sanitary towels provided to rural schools to restore the dignity of girl-children.
- Bursaries to girls to access tertiary education
- Meaningful and intentional conversations with teenage mothers to help them realise their self-worth.
- Encourage re-use; recycle and renew to ensure environmental sustainability.

NEW LEADERSHIP:

Area President: 2016-2021 – Mrs Sipiwe Chisvo (Zimbabwe)

Vice President: 2016-2021 – Mrs Patricia Mapani (Zimbabwe)

CONCLUSION:

As women of this Area are strengthened by Galatians 6:9 “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” As pillars of strength in our families – whether married or unmarried – we get strength from sharing our stories with other women. Promoting sound families anchored in Christian values is core of our calling in “Knowing Christ and Making Him Known.”