



CONNEXIONAL ORDERS

**METHODIST ORDER OF DEACONS
CONFERENCE REPORT 2016
DEACON DR VERNON VAN WYK (WARDEN)**

“I am in the midst of you as one who serves.” (Luke 22:27 GNB)

“That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not to be served” (Mark 10:45 MSG)

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

In the Year 2016 the Methodist Church of Southern Africa celebrates 40 years since the ordination of the first woman as a presbyter in 1976. The Methodist Order of Deacons played a significant role in this regard. It was a member of the Methodist Order of Deacons who pioneered this transformation in the Church. Deacon Constance Oosthuizen, Ordained as a Deacon in 1957, became the first woman to be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the MCSA in 1976. (She was Warden of the Order of Deacons 1977 – 2003.) **It is her ordination we are celebrating this year.**

We however also humbly remember the Rev Dr Unez Smuts, who became a member of the Methodist Order of Deacons and was ordained in the Ministry of Word and Service in Great Britain in 1949. In 1959 she however resigned and joined the Congregational Church where she pursued her calling and became the first woman ever to be ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in South Africa!

The Order of Deacons also contributed to the first Black South African woman to be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Rev Mavis Mbilini, was Ordained as a Deacon in 1980, where after she was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the MCSA in 1985.

Other Deacons who were later ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament were Rev Dorothy Spink; Rev Cathy de Boer, Rev Marjory Denner, Rev Angie Pickard; and Rev Soraya Douglas.

STATUS OF DEACONS

The Vision of the Methodist Order of Deacons is *“To share Christ’s love through service and to help the Church respond to the needs of the wider community.”* (Methodist Book of Order; 13.1) *“Deacons are recognized by the Church as called of God, and trained and Ordained for service of the Church.”* (Methodist Book of Order; 13.30.1)

A Deacon is thus a minister in the Methodist Church in Southern Africa ordained for Word and Service.

ON BECOMING A METHODIST DEACON

With respect to the nominating procedure, candidating procedure, probationer’s internship and ordination please refer to Chapter 11 in the Yearbook 2016 (pp 205 – 208)

DEACONS IN MINISTRY

Deacons are recognised by the MCSA as called of God, and trained and Ordained for service in the Church. They are colleagues on the staff of the Circuit to which they are appointed, responsible to the Superintendent, and thus share in the work of the Circuit. (MBO: 13.30)

Two (2) Deacons were ordained in 2015, and the Convocation has recommended one (1) Deacon for ordination in 2016. No Probationer Deacons are recommended for ordination in 2017, but the Order is considering recommending three Probationer Deacons for ordination in 2018. Two (2) Candidates (1 female and 1 male) will be admitted to the Order in 2017. One (1) Ordained Deacon and one (1) Probationer Deacon resigned in 2016. One Ordained Deacon will be sitting down at the end of 2016. Two Ordained Deacons passed on to higher service in 2015. The profile of the 39 members of the Diaconal Order are as follows:

- Eighteen (18) ordained Deacons (11 females and 7 males.) *(whose names appear in the Church Directory)*
- Ten (10) Supernumeraries (8 females and 2 males) *(whose names appear in the Church Directory)*
- One (1) Ordinand (1 male) *(whose names appear in Chapter 6:EMMU)*
- Ten (10) Probationer Deacons (6 females and 4 males) *(whose names appear in Chapter 6:EMMU)*
- Two (2) Candidates (1 female and 1 male) *(whose names appear in Chapter 6:EMMU)*

ANNUAL CONVOCATION

The Convocation remains the highlight of the year for Deacons. Deacons function as a dispersed religious community and the time spent together in fellowship, study and training at Convocation is invaluable and affords members an opportunity for celebrating the successes and sharing the heartaches of ministry. Deacons meet at Convocation to, as an Order, to foster and develop their calling as servant-ministers and to receive training relevant to their ministry.

The Convocation was held from Monday 25 April 2016 to Friday 29 April 2016 at eMseni Christian Conference Centre. On Monday, 25 April 2015 Convocation transacted the business of the Order (MBO Appendix 7). On Tuesday, 26 April 2016 One (1) Ordinand of the Order were examined by Bishop Rev Andrew Motswenyane and the main business of the day was a discussion on the Conference resolutions and proposed amendments to Chapter 13 of the Methodist Book of Order with regards to the Order. On Wednesday, 27 April 2016 the Warden and Warden –elect from the British Order of Deacons made presentations on their Order and later in the day a visit was paid to the John Wesley Children’s Home in Kempton park with supper hosted by the Women’s Auxiliary. On Thursday, 28 April 2016 Rev Brenda Timmer conducted a Workshop on “Women in Ministry” and Convocation adjourned on Friday 29 April 2016.

FINANCES

Most of the expenses incurred for the Convocation are covered by Circuits contributing to the accommodation of their Deacons (See Conference Resolution on page 90 of Yearbook 2014). The Warden’s traveling costs, Conference fees, etc. is largely covered by donations received from the District Women’s Auxiliaries. The Connexional Cash Management Scheme has contributed to the Order’s funds for 2013 and 2014, but were unable to do so in 2015 and 2016. Tuition fees for Probationer Deacons (under 55 years of age) have been taken over by EMMU. However in view in the decline in funding and increase in membership of the Order, additional sources of funding need to be found to administer the Order. We have requested that the Connexion budget for funds for the administration of the Order.

CONNEXIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Methodist Order of Deacons is managed by a Connexional Committee. The following persons are recommended to Conference to serve on this Committee in 2015:

- Bishop: Bishop Andrew Motswenyane - Northern Free State and Lesotho District
- Warden: Dcn Dr Vernon van Wyk – Alberton Mission Circuit (Highveld and Swaziland District)
- Ministers: Rev Fred Celliers – Alberton Mission Circuit (Highveld and Swaziland District)
Rev Ina Guy – Alberton Mission Circuit (Highveld and Swaziland District)
- Deacons: Deacon Douw Grobler –Magalies Circuit (Limpopo District)
Deacon Fozia Madjoe – Moreleta Circuit (Limpopo District)
- Lay members: Mr. Percy Howroyd - Alberton Mission Circuit (Highveld and Swaziland District)
Mrs. Mary Ellerbeck - Representing Women’s Auxiliary; Highveld and Swaziland District
Mrs. Teresa John - President of Women’s Auxiliary: Central District

RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Understanding the Methodist Order of Deacons

Conference in 2013 made a resolution regarding the “**UNDERSTANDING OF THE DEACONS ORDER** (2014 Yearbook, par.2.16, pg. 90) “Conference notes the challenges as outlined in the Order of Deacons’ Report (2012 Yearbook, pg. 184) and instructs DEWCOM to consider the matters raised, develop an appropriate response in consultation with the Order and advise Conference accordingly.”

Approaches were made to DEWCOM to discuss these matters, but it appears that with the re-structuring of DEWCOM, this could not take place. The Order however wishes to make certain recommendations in this regard.

The matters highlighted for discussion in 2012 were as follows and we recommend:

1. THE STRUCTURES THAT PLACE ONE FORM OF MINISTRY ABOVE ANOTHER

In a Paper “ORDAINED DEACONS AND THE SACRAMENTS IN THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA” (www.spirituality.org.za) the DEWCOM in 2007 already gave clarity on this subject when it states “As a principle of governance and practice the Methodist Church has affirmed the ‘Priesthood of all believers’” Further DEWCOM indicated that “The MCSA upholds the co-equal and mutually dependent role of lay and ordained ministers, yet accords a special responsibility those who are called and set aside to the ordained ministries.” Thus, according to DEWCOM, “...the only context in which the ministries of ordained deacons and presbyters can be rightly understood is that of the calling of all people, lay and ordained, to participate equally, yet distinctly, in God’s mission in the world. The distinct ministries of deacons and presbyters thus serve to express, enable, and focus the ministry of the whole people of God.”

DEWCOM further indicates that “Within the ambit of the ordained ministries the MCSA recognises and ordains presbyters (persons called to the ministry of word and sacrament), and deacons (persons called to the ministry of word and service). With regards to the ministry of the laity the MCSA recognises and affirms the various, and important, ministries of lay Christians with particular clauses in its Methodist Book of Order relating to Local Preachers, the order of Bible Women, and the order of Evangelists.”

The Order recommends that Conference note the clarity given by DEWCOM, that no ministry is ‘above another’, for it would not be in line with the MCSA belief of the priesthood of all believers. See also proposed amendment to Clause 13.2 of the Methodist Book of Order hereunder.

2. THE PERCEIVED RELUCTANCE OF CIRCUITS/ SOCIETIES TO APPOINT DEACONS

The Order is of the opinion that this is a structural issue and not doctrinal in nature, hence DEWCOM would have very little to offer. **The Order appeals to Circuits to seriously consider appointing Deacons for Ministries of Service. The Order recommends that Conference note this proposal.**

3. DIFFERENCES IN STIPENDS AND OTHER ALLOWANCES

The Order is of the opinion that this is a structural issue and not doctrinal in nature, hence DEWCOM would have very little to offer. **The Order appeals to MCO to give serious consideration to parity between the Ordained Ministries (Presbyters and Deacons) as well as the Commissioned Ministries (Evangelists and Bible Women). The Order recommends that Conference note this proposal.**

4. PROMOTING THE APPOINTMENT OF THOSE CALLED TO A SPECIFICALLY MISSIONAL MINISTRY

The Order is of the opinion that this is a structural issue and not doctrinal in nature, hence DEWCOM would have very little to offer. **The Order recommends that EMMU in consultation with the Mission Unit give consideration to including Deacons in their deliberations of Conference Resolution 2.44, page 105 of Yearbook 2016. The Order recommends that Conference note this recommendation.**

5. ENCOURAGING A MOVE TOWARDS ITINERANT MINISTRY IN PREFERENCE TO THE LARGELY NON-ITINERANT MODEL THAT CURRENTLY PREVAILS.

The Order is of the opinion that this is a structural issue and not doctrinal in nature, hence DEWCOM would have very little to offer. **The Order recommends that Conference Resolution 2.43, page 105 of Yearbook 2016 should apply to the Order as well, but that there should be a Full-time Stipendiary and a Part-time Non-stipendiary category for Deacons and that Deacons be invited to serve as provided for in par 13.20 of the Methodist Book of Order. The Order recommends that Conference support this recommendation.**

6. AGE OF CANDIDATURE AND RETIREMENT

The Order of Deacons are small in number and bring unique skills and qualifications to the MCSA. The majority of Deacons are covenanted in the non-stipendiary category and poses no threat to the finances of the Church. However, should a Minister in this category be in the stipendiary category, the Order is of the opinion that the same rules should apply as for Presbyters.

In response to the Conference resolution regarding **age of candidature and retirement** of the Order of Deacons (Yearbook 2016; 2.46, p. 105 -106) the Convocation of the **Order recommends that Conference accept the amendment of Clause 13.10 of the Methodist Book of Order to read:**

“With regard to the age of candidature and retirement the system applicable to Presbyters shall apply to Candidates who apply for the stipendiary category.

No age limit is laid down for candidates for the non-stipendiary category, with the understanding that the rules of the pensions fund and medical aid shall apply should such a candidate wish to change category at any point of time.”

7. ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES BETWEEN THE ORDERS OF DEACONS AND EVANGELISTS

Conference (Yearbook 2016; 2.41, p 105) notes the imbalances and the need for training on the differences between the Diaconate and the Order of Evangelism and directs the Human Resources Unit and Orders to investigate all issues including relationships and imbalances as well as the retirement age for members of these orders and report to Conference 2016.

The Human Resources Unit has not approached the Order. The Order has however made an approaches to the Order of Evangelists to initiate discussion on the resolution. At the writing of this report there has been no response.

The Order recommends that Conference note that this process is ongoing.

8. Stipend Augmentation Fund

It has occurred that a Circuit was not able to pay their assessments and subsequently ordained staff did not receive their stipends. Ordained Presbyters received assistance from the Stipend Augmentation Fund, but not the Ordained Deacon. This is not a just practice.

The Order recommends that Deacons who are paid a stipend through the Finance Unit also participate in the Stipend Augmentation Fund on the same basis as Presbyters.

9. Warden

Methodist Book of Order, Appendix 7 – Question 16: “Whom do we nominate to the Connexional Executive for appointment as Warden of the Order?”

The Convocation nominates Deacon Douw Grobler to become the Warden of the Order for the term 2018 - 2022.

10.The Convocation of the Order of Deacons recommended to EMMU that the minimum qualification for ordination of Deacons be a Diploma in Theology. The minimum of a Higher Certificate in Theology should be done away with. The meeting of EMMU on 21 June 2016 noted this recommendation and recommend that the recommendation be put to Conference.

11.Revisions to Chapter 13 of the Methodist Book of Order.

APPRECIATION

The Order is grateful for the many acts of selfless service and ministry offered by God’s servants and thanks all who support this work in prayer or in kind.

The Deacons are grateful to God for His call upon their lives and for the many and varied opportunities of ministry and service that have been afforded to them.

**METHODIST ORDER OF EVANGELISM
CONFERENCE REPORT 2016
REV JACOB FREEMANTLE**

PREAMBLE

The Order of Evangelism sends congratulations and prayers to our Presiding Bishop Rev Z. D. Siwa for re-election as our Presiding Bishop. We pray that he will be strengthened and blessed as he responds yet again to the calling of leading our Church in times like these.

Secondly the Biblewomen and Evangelists, the humble agents of our vanguard mission in the MCSA, are thankful to you Sir for your passion to the Order of Evangelism. It is truly our singular honour to see you coming to grace and pastorally affirm, pray and support the Biblewomen and Evangelists Conventions in the way you do.

By almost any metric, the Methodist Church owes its origin in evangelism. Our ethos of evangelism is ecclesiastically claimed from the patterns in the early church wherein, *“every day the Lord added to them those who were being saved”* (Acts 2; 47). We are not a dying but growing Church. What reduces the membership of the church is apathy in evangelism, where sometimes the church lays more emphasis on what is against than what it exist for. Evangelism is not about meeting personal needs but rather about caring and reaching out the lost in love. Such is our core evangelistic discipleship of building the Kingdom of God.

STATISTICS

At the Conference of 2012 we reported that we have 534 Evangelists and Biblewomen in the MCSA. Though this number has reduced to 387, we are happy to report that 50% of them have been registered with MCO. Before that Conference, we were struggling to get many of our Biblewomen and Evangelists to be properly registered with MCO. We must now extend our gratitude to those Circuits who have heeded the appeal to register them with MCO.

SUPPORT FROM CONNEXIONAL ORGANISATIONS

We thank Women’s Manyano, Women’s Auxiliary, Women’s Association and Missionary Unit for their continued support to the Order.

CANDIDATES OF THE ORDER OF EVANGELISM

The Procedure of Candidating (14.4) and The Process of Candidating (14.5) in the Order of Evangelism are clearly spelt out. These have to be adhered to

Training

The training is conducted by EMMU under the guidance of Connexional Coordinator Rev Mbuyiseli Stemela. Such training will be conducted at eMseni. The syllabus under the Order of Evangelism is as follows;

1st Year

- Introduction Methodist Doctrine; Vision And Mission
- Introduction Church Planting
- Introduction Evangelism (New Ways)
- Introduction Small Groups
- Introduction To Pastoral Counselling & Crisis Counselling

2nd Year

- Pastoral Counselling & Crisis Counselling
- Evangelism (Faith Sharing)
- Methodist Doctrine
- Church Planting
- Small Group

CANDIDATES

Circuit	Surname	First Names			
0214	Mkhosana	Siphiwo John	1020	Nkosi	Johnnes Indonesia
0215	Blaauw	Veronica *	1026	Mokoena	Tsepo Aubrey Andrew
0216	Rooibaart	Mandilakhe	1137	Letswalo	Kegaisamang Thelma*
0216	Zitho	Nomthandazo Rina*	1137	Mariri	Khustafalo Cecilia*
0319	Bobelo	Siviwe	1140	Frank	Evelyn Kefentse
0339	Matanda	Sanuse	1341	Sikwele	Noziphiwo Virginia*
0813	Mkhize	William Ngunezi	1345	Dandala	Samkelo
0904	Muchave	Narcisa Miambo	1352	Dlagqibe	Cynthia Thenjiswa*

NB Asterisk next to the name indicates that the Candidate has not been accepted due to age above 50 years.

2nd Years

Tom Nocawe	Modise Gouta
Velebhayi Vilakazi Patricia	Ngundze Lungile Hardier

2016 GRADUATES

Circuit	Surname	First Names			
000	Franisi	Nomthandazo	0910	Mashinini	Bendie Jabulani
000	Mtimka	Pheliwe Mavis	1006	Motsei	Kgwakgwane Magdeline
0301	Hokolo	Xoliswa Sybil	1006	Poo	Lorraine Lebogang
0502	Molaolwa	Lawrence Keloabetswe	1006	Ramocoedi	Bantsi Evelyn Aria
0515	Taaibos	Neziswa	1102	Nkumanda	Nomaroma Margaret
0605	Mahlatsi	Ramaleshoane Joel	1121	Ngwenya	Sidudhla Norah
0803	Zuma	Simon Musawenkosi Boni	1324	Zulu	Sibongile Bettie
0813	Radebe	Thembalihle Donatus	1324	Matshoba	Siyabonga Templeton

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE (14.1).

The General Committee (Clause 14.1) of 2015 decided not to change the venue and dates of its meetings. Such venue will be Natal Coastal District on the 1st Tuesday of every June.

Developments in the Order

The General Committee that met in June (2016) strongly recommended the following;

- i. Encourage discussions between the Orders of Evangelism and the Order of Deacons.
- ii. Asking the Circuits to note the *age* restrictions and *moratorium on Part Time*. The General Committee discourages attempts to ignore this Conference decision.
- iii. New Warden will be appointed by the 2016 Conference and inducted in the Biennial Convention of 2018.
- iv. The General Committee thanked the following for the success of Biennial Convention held from 19-22 May in Queenstown District; Bishop M. Matyumza, outgoing Biennial President Rev F. Makananda and his Executive, Circuit Superintendent Rev Makula, all delegates and the hospitality of 313 Circuit.
- v. Biennial Convention will be changed to Triennial Convention after the Free State and Lesotho Biennial Convention in 2018.
- vi. The General Committee endorsed the election of the Biennial Convention Executive as; President- Rev Tshidisho Sibi, Vice President- Msisitheki Cyrus Selima, General Secretary- Miranda Patricia Moss, Treasurer- Philile Rayili Mjongile, Recording Secretary- Cynthia Jabulisile Moalisi
- vii. Biennial Convention will be held at Free State and Lesotho District in 2018
- viii. The roster of ensuing Triennial Conventions is; *Kimberly Namibia and Bloemfontein-2021; Central District-2024; Limpopo-2027; Grahamstown-2030; Natal West -2033; Highveld and Swaziland-2036; Natal Coastal-2039; Cape of Good Hope-2042; Clarkebury-2045; Queenstown 2048.*

Except Medical assistance, the Stipend and Traveling for 2017 will be increased by 6, 5% as;

The stipend for Commissioned	R4148-00
The stipend for Probationers	R3526-00
The travelling	R1500-00
Medical Assistance	R4000-00.

Circuits should note the following directive of Conference;

As soon as Biblewomen and Evangelists begin to work in the Circuit, they must be paid through MCO. To be paid this way enables MCO to register them with pension and medical assistance. Furthermore, all registered Biblewomen and Evangelists do qualify for extra-ordinary grant (a portion of claim for spectacles) if they are paid minimum stipends through Methodist Connexional Office (MCO). Similarly, the retired Biblewomen and Evangelists who were full time, qualify for the above mentioned grant provided that they had at least 10 years' service and were paid minimum stipend through MCO. These extra-ordinary grants and medical assistance are subject to the limit of R4000-00 per family per year. The 2007 Conference further decided that 6% from their Basic plus additional stipend would be their contribution towards this grant. So the Circuit which does not pay through MCO is grossly disadvantaging our Biblewomen and Evangelists. Conference appreciates with gratitude to Circuits who accordingly continue to remain faithful in remunerating our Biblewomen and Evangelists accordingly.

Honoring those who have been called to Higher Service.

*"Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" (Revelations 7; 13). The Conference honored the following Biblewomen and Evangelists who have since passed on and prayed for their families. **May their souls rest in peace and rise in glory!***

(a) Cape of Good Hope

Murel Noveve	Noma Africa Ngxalaba	Liberforce Dungelo
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(b) Grahamstown

Richard Cakwebe	Phentshiwe Marriam Nkontso	Wake Vayise
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(c) Queenstown

Admiral M. Dondashe	Dorah Majavu	Nontombi Rwaxu
Andile Zuba	Gladys Munyu	Lillian Nojoko
M. Silolo	Rachel Mnyebeleza	

(d) Highveld& Swaziland

Lindiwe Qiqimane	Thandi Kunene	Alfred Kheswa
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(e) Kimberly Namibia & Bloemfontein

Imitation Mehlomakhulu		
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(f) Limpopo

Mita Modise	Angelina Kekana	Violent Montja
Esmia Ndlovu	Cathrine Ledwaba	Evangelist Mametja

(g) Natal West

Mandlenkosi Sibiyi	Samuel Ngcobo	Elwphina Ngcobo
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(h) Central

Lilian Matabane	Martha Block	NomhleTshofela
Ada Ntsamia	Violent Jali	Abigail Ngomane
Stephen Maraba	Andrew Moacwi	

APPOINTMENT OF WARDEN

The 2016 Conference appointed Rev Nompithizelo Sibhidla as the Warden of the Order of Evangelism 2018- 2022

2017 Diary

21 February Secretaries Consultation at eMseni
06 June General Committee in Durban at Old MCO
08 July Graduation in Bloemfontein
05 October Warden's visit to SMMS

DISTRICT SECRETARIES OF THE ORDER OF EVANGELISM

*Rev Matshidisho Sibi is the President of the Biennial Convention

Cape of Good Hope	Rev N. A. Nomqolo
Grahamstown	Rev T. Klaas
Queenstown	Rev L. Mdoda
Northern Free State & Lesotho	Rev Mohitlhi
Kimberly, Namibia & Bloemfontein	Rev A. Mokoena
Natal Coastal	Rev N. P. Sibhidla
Natal West	Rev A. M. Gwala
Central	Rev T. S. Sibi
Highveld and Swaziland	Rev B. M. Manne
Limpopo	Rev R. M. Machola
Mozambique	Rev R. Massango
Clarkebury	Rev T. H. Ntuli