

MINISTRY AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Most people face situations of significant stress in their lives, and many people turn to the use of both legal and illegal substances as a way of coping with this. But the use of such substances – alcohol, tobacco, narcotics etc – have a severe impact on our health, relationships, finances and our communities.

The Ministry Against Substance Abuse (MASA) is an initiative of the MCSA through the Mission Unit, developed in partnership with the United Methodist Church of Germany. In 2013 MASA will pilot ways in which members of the MCSA can become practically engaged in activities which confront the very high levels of substance abuse in our communities.

The Rev Ray Goddess is coordinating the MASA initiative, supported by a Connexional Task Team.

In 2013 MASA will work to:

- Share the experience of societies/local churches like the Heidelberg Methodist Church in the Highveld and Swaziland District in running a dedicated support ministry to people affected by substance abuse with other interested Societies;
- Develop a resource kit which will assist MCSA members in becoming more aware and informed on the array of challenges associated with substance use and connect with the many organisations which work to support communities and individuals in responding to the problem;
- Partner with one or two Districts to run a Campaign on Substance Abuse which aims to mobilise MCSA members to analyse their context and develop practical ways of responding
- Convene a Connexional Workshop which will engage MCSA leadership in developing a detailed and sustained programme over the next five years.

We request All District Synods to discuss Substance Abuse and to consider whether they would be willing to run a Campaign in 2013.