



4. ACTIVITIES

4.1 **Evangelistic:**

The YMG throughout its various structural levels shall visit townships, compounds, suburbs, cities, villages, farms and any other area where the Church ministers for revival, witness, evangelism (including street revivals), so as to bring unbelievers to Christ and His Church.

4.2 **Devotional:**

The YMG shall encourage all its structures to conduct regular meetings for praise and prayer, exhorting and helping one another to love one another and to do good works. Outreach prayer meetings shall also be held.

4.3 **Educational:**

The YMG shall encourage all members to study the Bible and other supporting Christian literature, and to attend educational workshops and seminars where and when possible.

4.4 **Social and development:**

The YMG shall engage in programmes for spiritual growth, leadership training and literacy, provide opportunity for recreational activities and song, and arrange effective and friendly fellowship activities among members at local and District levels. The YMG shall also initiate and participate in empowerment initiatives which promote the socio-economic development of the members.

5. MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Only men who are full members of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, including male ordained

Notes

Horizontal lines for taking notes.





Executive Committee

- The Chairman who may be a lay member
- The Secretary and the Recording Secretary
- The Treasurer and DDSR
- Three (3) Additional Members.

All the above office bearers shall be elected by the Branch or Sub-Branch Annual General Meeting which shall be presided over by a Minister. They are elected for a three (3) year term, but may be re-elected for one further three (3) year term only.

- 12.4 All the above mentioned office bearers shall operate the Branch or Sub-Branch in accordance with the general provisions of paragraph eight (8) above as it relates to each stated position or its equivalent.
- 12.5 All the funds of the Branch or Sub-Branch shall be operated and administered in accordance with paragraph 11.8 and 11.9 above.
- 12.6 The Branch or Sub-Branch shall be required to report to the Circuit Executive at least once a year on the work and finances of the YMG.
- 12.7 The Chairman or a duly appointed representative of a Branch or Sub-Branch of the YMG is a member of the Society Leaders Meeting in accordance with paragraph 7.39.7 of the Laws & Discipline.
- 12.8 This whole Constitution may be translated into any of the official languages spoken in the Connexion and be reproduced in a CARD format which shall be referred to as the MEMBERSHIP CARD.

and student ministers, shall be received into full membership of the YMG. Every such member shall observe the provisions of this Constitution.

- 5.2 All applications for membership shall be submitted to or be processed through the Local Branch committee. A prospective new member shall remain on Trial for a period not less than six (6) months, after which his name shall be submitted by the Chairman concerned to either the Sectional or Circuit General Meeting with a recommendation about his readiness for full membership. This trial period may not run concurrently with that of full membership of the Church.
- 5.3 Before a member on Trial is admitted into full membership of the YMG he must fulfil all the requirements set by the YMG from time to time which include, but are not limited to, diligent attendance at meetings, spiritual maturity, active participation in all the YMG activities, full membership of MCSA and paying all the prescribed dues. The local Committee of the Branch shall ensure that these requirements are met prior to presenting the name of the member on Trial for full membership.
- 5.4 Such members on Trial may participate in discussions at the meetings of the YMG but shall not vote, and shall not be delegated or be elected to any office.
- 5.5 A member on Trial, having satisfied the requirements for full membership, and having been accepted by the (Section) Circuit, shall be robed at a public recognition service where he shall receive a membership card and be robed with a Waistcoat and the Badge.
- 5.6 Ordained and student Ministers who wish to belong to the YMG in accordance with paragraph 5.1 above shall join the YMG and make a pledge to be bound





- by the Provisions of this Constitution prior to being robed. Such Ministers are not subject to paragraphs 5.2 to 5.5 above.
- 5.7 Every member of the YMG shall subscribe an amount to be decided by the District Convention. The District Executive or Convention shall decide how the portion remitted to it shall be administered.
- 5.8 A member transferring or removing from one District/Circuit to another shall ask for a removal/visiting note so that his status may be known in the new area. He shall conform to the usages of the District/Circuit to which he has moved provided that such usages are not contrary to the general provisions of this Constitution.
- 5.9 A member who fails to attend the meetings of the YMG, or who fails to meet the obligations of the YMG as provided in paragraph 5.3 above for three (3) consecutive months without adequate reason(s), and having been visited by the local committee during the abovementioned period, shall have his name removed from the Membership Roll. A letter signed by the Minister responsible for the branch informing him of his removal shall be sent to his last known address by the local Branch committee. A member who has been removed shall follow the procedures of a Member on Trial when wishing to resume his membership.
- 5.10 All matters affecting the character of a member and Church discipline shall be dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary procedures and structures of the Church. The verdict shall affect his status as a member of the YMG.
- 5.11 Only Ministers who are members of the YMG in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution

- Quarterly Meetings through their representatives.
- 11.10 A Circuit may be divided into one or more Sections for purposes of effective easy communication and mission. When such an arrangement is made, it shall not be seen to be undermining the governance of a Circuit, as the Church recognises Sections only for purposes of effective management but not a new structure or a new Circuit within a Circuit.
- 11.11 Where the YMG has a Section functioning within a Circuit, the most senior active Minister residing and labouring in the Section who is a member of the YMG may be appointed by the Circuit Ministerial Staff Meeting to be the Convener of the YMG activities and to be accountable to the Circuit Executive.
- 11.12 The Sectional Convener of the YMG may have a Committee consisting of a Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and DDSR for purposes of assisting with general administration of the Section, but also being accountable to the Circuit Executive.

12. BRANCH ORGANISATION

- 12.1 The Branch shall refer to a Prayer Meeting of the YMG in a Society. If there are more than one weekly prayer meetings of the YMG in a Society, the second and any additional such prayer meetings shall be referred to as Sub-branches.
- 12.2 No Branch or Sub-Branch shall operate outside the geographical boundary of a Circuit.
- 12.3 Each Branch or Sub-Branch of the YMG shall be managed by a local committee consisting of:
- All Ministers worshipping in the Society, being ex-officio members of the Branch or Sub-Branch





neighbouring Circuit to perform the functions of Circuit President, including the robing of the new YMG members.

- 11.3 The Vice-President elected by the Circuit Annual General meeting of the YMG for a three (3) year term. He is eligible for re-election for one further term of three (3) years only. The Vice President shall not be a Minister but a lay member of the YMG.
- 11.4 The Circuit Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, the DDSR and three (3) additional members, all being elected by the Circuit Annual General Meeting for a three (3) year term, and being eligible for re-election for one further three (3) year term only.
- 11.5 All other Ministers (who shall not be referred to as Presidents) and Evangelists, who in the Circuit are ex-officio members of the Circuit Executive Committee meetings of the YMG.
- 11.6 At least once a Quarter there shall be a Circuit gathering including, but not limited to, a General Meeting.
- 11.7 The Circuit President and the Secretary or their alternates are members of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting in accordance with paragraph 7.6.9 of the Laws & Discipline.
- 11.8 All the funds of the YMG shall be raised by collecting the members' annual subscription fees and by other fundraising efforts which are approved by the Circuit Superintendent in writing. All such funds shall be administered collectively by the Circuit Executive with the Treasurer playing a prominent role.
- 11.9 The Circuit Executive collectively shall submit a report on the work of the Circuit YMG and an Annual Audited Financial Statement to one of the Circuit

may be part of the Leadership of the YMG. Otherwise, all other Ministers by virtue of their pastoral status in the Church may exercise pastoral and ministerial duties and oversight to the YMG.

- 5.12 The MCSA reserves the right to demand the return of any property of the YMG including, but not limited to, waistcoat, Membership Card and the badge from any member who has been removed from membership.

6. UNIFORM

- 6.1 All lay full members of the YMG shall wear this uniform:
- White Shirt
 - Plain Black tie
 - Black Blazer
 - A pin Badge bearing the Letters "YMG-ONE HEART ONE WAY" to be worn at the top left lapel of the Blazer
 - Red Waistcoat with five (5) gold or silver buttons
 - Grey trousers
 - Plain Black Socks
 - Plain Black Shoes
- 6.2 A lay member on Trial shall wear all the items as prescribed in paragraph 6.1 above excluding the pin badge and the red waistcoat.
- 6.3 All Ministers and Evangelists may wear a black clerical shirt, instead of a white shirt and a plain black tie, if they do not fully observe 6.1 above.

7. OFFICERS OF THE YMG

- 7.1 The Officers of the YMG shall include the following Office Bearers:





- President/Chairman
- Vice-President
- Secretary/Recording Secretary
- Treasurer
- Convenors

7.2 All the Presidents at Circuit, District and Connexional levels are urged to ensure that the above structure is always implemented and that the bearers of the above offices submit annual reports to their relevant structures such as the Circuit Annual General Meeting, District Convention and Connexional Triennial Convention.

8. DUTIES OF THE PRESCRIBED OFFICERS

8.1 **President/Chairman**

To be responsible for the general welfare of the YMG at the relevant level (this includes the Chairmen of Branches). He shall ensure that there is effective leadership, operation and sound administrative and financial systems and processes for proper accountability.

8.2 **Vice-President**

To be responsible for spiritual growth and development of the YMG, which includes evangelism. He shall also be responsible for the devotional aspects of the YMG which includes worship, prayer, out-door revival services, home and cottage prayer meetings. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall have powers to preside over the relevant meetings.

8.3 **Secretary**

He shall be responsible for the general administration of the YMG and effective Communication on all the affairs of the Organisation. The Recording Secretary

11. CIRCUIT ORGANISATION

11.1 The YMG in each Circuit shall have not less than a minimum of twenty five (25) members and shall be managed by the Circuit Executive consisting of:

11.2 The Circuit President who may be the Superintendent Minister of the Circuit provided that he is a member of the YMG in accordance with paragraph 5.6 above.

11.2.1 If the Superintendent is unable to assume the position of President, the Circuit Ministerial staff meeting may appoint one of the active Ministers labouring in the Circuit (Ordained or student minister) who is a member of the YMG to be the President of the YMG in the Circuit.

11.2.2 In the event that the provisions of the above paragraph are not possible, the Circuit Ministerial Staff Meeting may request one of the Ordained Ministers in Full Connexion and in active service who resides in the Circuit, but does not necessarily labour in the Circuit, for example, a Seconded, Part-time or Chaplain Minister, who is a member of the YMG, to be appointed as the Circuit President. In the event that this is still not feasible, a Supernumerary Minister residing in the Circuit who is a member of the YMG, may be requested to fulfil the duties of the YMG Circuit President, including presiding over the robing of members.

11.2.3 If the above provision fails, the Superintendent or Resident Minister may request any Minister who is a member of the YMG from a



- place until the next District Convention. If that is not possible the District Executive may appoint any YMG member in the District to fill the vacancy until the next District Convention.
- 10.12 The District Executive Committee shall collectively prepare, for presentation to the District Convention and Synod, a report on the work of the YMG and an audited Annual Financial Statement.
- 10.13 The District YMG, as represented by two officials or their alternates, is a member of the District Synod in accordance with paragraph 6.4.15 of the Laws & Discipline.
- 10.14 The District as demarcated by the Church may be divided into a number of Regions by the District Convention for purposes of Fellowship, Communication and Mission Work. When that happens, it should be noted that such an arrangement shall not interfere with the general administration of a Circuit and its governance. Each Region may elect a Minister who is a member of the YMG or one of their members as a Co-ordinator to co-ordinate the above stated purposes and activities.
- 10.15 Circuits within the said Regions are urged to cooperate closely with such an arrangement in good faith and as reasonably as possible.
- 10.16 Each District Convention shall set aside funds annually for the Widows/Widowers of Evangelists. Such funds (Evangelist's Widow/Widower's Fund) shall be forwarded through the Triennial Convention Treasurer to the Methodist Connexional Office.
- 10.17 Each District shall bear all the expenses of its official delegates/representatives to the District events.

- shall operate under the direction of the Secretary and among other things shall be responsible for the minutes, membership roll and any other function as delegated by the Secretary from time to time.
- 8.4 **Treasurer**
The treasurer shall be responsible for the general financial administration of the YMG including, but not limited to, the following:
- Financial Administration
 - Banking of funds in a cheque account
 - Being a compulsory signatory
 - Financial Accounting of the YMG funds
 - Fund Raising
 - He shall also submit an annual audited Financial Statement compiled by a qualified Auditor.
- 8.5 **Convenor: Department of Development and Social Responsibilities (DDSR)**
The convenor DDSR shall co-ordinate all the developmental work of the YMG which shall include, but not be limited to, research projects, Community Development activities, Social services and entertainment.
- 8.6 **Convenor: Education**
This function shall operate under the general direction of the Secretary. Among other things the Convenor shall be responsible for Bible Study, Bursary administration and literacy training, workshops and seminars relevant to the objectives of the YMG.
- 8.7 At the Society or Branch level the abovementioned duties and responsibilities of the President and Vice-President respectively may be discharged by a Resident Minister or a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman, who is a member of the YMG.



**8.8 Financial Administration**

All the funds of the YMG from the Connexional, District, Circuit and Branch levels shall be subject to the general financial policy of the Church and shall be kept in a recognised Commercial Bank. A Cheque Account shall be opened at all the above levels in the name of "The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Young Men's Guild" followed by the name of either the level or the name of the District, Circuit or Branch.

8.9 The signatories on the abovementioned Bank Accounts shall include the Treasurer as a compulsory signatory, with either the President or the Secretary being the optional signatories.

9. CONNEXIONAL ORGANISATION

9.1 A Connexional Convention, hereinafter referred to as the Triennial Convention, shall be held every three years, comprising:

- 9.1.1 The General Executive Committee, which is:
- The General President
 - The Ex-General President
 - The General Vice-President
 - The General Secretary
 - The General Treasurer
 - The General Recording Secretary
 - The General DDSR Secretary/Convenor
- There may be three (3) Additional Members for
- Community Development
 - Education
 - Research

10.6.3 Circuits are encouraged not to send the same people every year to the District Conventions, but to rotate them proportionally for purposes of continuity and learning.

- 10.7 The extended District Executive Committee:
Each District Convention may have an extended District Executive Committee which comprises:
The District President, District Vice President, current Secretary, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, DDSR, all Ministers and Evangelists who are members in accordance with 5.1 above.
- 10.8 The District Convention shall elect any Ordained Minister in Full Connexion who is in active service in the District and who is a member of the YMG as the District President for a three (3) year term, to be endorsed by the District Synod. The District President is eligible for re-election for one further three (3) year term only.
- 10.9 The District Convention shall also elect the District Vice-President, District Secretary, Treasurer and the DDSR, plus three (3) additional members for a three (3) year term. They are eligible for re-election for one further three (3) year term only.
- 10.10 The District President-Elect and the newly elected District officials shall take office after being inducted by the District Bishop on the first day of the following District Convention. The outgoing District Executive shall hand over all District properties to the incoming District Executive during the public induction service.
- 10.11 If any District Office Bearer is unable to function for any reason, the former District incumbent of the office shall be invited by the District Executive to take his





10. DISTRICT ORGANISATION

- 10.1 A District Convention shall be held annually in every District for prayer, fellowship, evangelisation and to transact the business of the Organisation in the District.
- 10.2 **The District Convention shall comprise:**
- The District President
 - The Ex-District President
 - The District Vice President
 - The District Secretary
 - The District Recording Secretary
 - The District Treasurer
 - The District DDSR
 - Three (3) Additional Members
- 10.3 The ex-District Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer who shall be voting members of the District Convention.
- 10.4 The Circuit Presidents, Office Bearers and elected delegates/representatives. Circuits shall be as recorded in the Current Yearbook in accordance with their Circuit numbers.
- 10.5 All Ministers, including Student and Supernumerary Ministers in the District who are members of the YMG in accordance with paragraphs 5.1 and 5.11 above.
- 10.6 Circuit representatives who shall be elected as follows:
- 10.6.1 One (1) representative for every twenty five (25) Circuit YMG Members with a maximum of six (6) delegates/representatives from any one Circuit.
- 10.6.2 Such representatives shall be elected in a Circuit General Meeting prior to the District Convention.

- 9.1.2 The ex-General Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, DDSR who shall be voting members.
- 9.1.3 The District President, District Vice-President District Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and DDSR Convenor of each District.
- 9.1.4 Six representatives, 3 Ministers and 3 Lay members, elected by the Convention of each District.
- 9.2 The Triennial Convention shall be held in any District of the Connexion as determined by the Triennial Convention from time-to-time through whatever system has been agreed upon, including but not limited to, a roster system. The Bishop of the District to host the said Triennial Convention shall be consulted by the General Executive Committee.
- 9.3 The Triennial Convention shall elect any Ordained Minister in accordance with 5.1 in active service as the General President with a clear majority 50%+ 1 and he shall serve for a three (3) year term. He may be eligible for re-election for a second and last term of a further three (3) years. The Ex-General President shall preside over these elections. If he is unable to do so, the most recent Past President present at the Triennial Convention shall preside.
- 9.4 The General President-Elect shall be inducted at the beginning of the Triennial Convention by the Presiding Bishop in a Public Service which is open to all.
- 9.5 The General President-Elect may nominate the General Office Bearers from amongst any members of the YMG in good standing. He may, however,





- for purposes of cost effectiveness and efficiency in running the Connexion, nominate from either the District of his residence or nearby Districts.
- 9.6 The nominated General Executive shall be presented to the Triennial Convention to be duly elected and inducted in the same Public Service where the General President is inducted. The outgoing General Executive shall hand over all the Connexional YMG property to the in-coming General Executive during the said induction service. Signatures on the Bank Account shall be changed before the Triennial Convention sits or not later than three (3) months after the Triennial Convention.
- 9.7 If the General President is unable to continue with his duties, the Presiding Bishop shall convene the General Executive and all the District Executive Committees in the Connexion to elect a Successor.
- 9.8 Similarly, if the General President-Elect is unable to take office at the next Triennial Convention, the current General President shall convene the General Executive and all District Executive Committees to elect a General President-Elect, who shall be recognised at the beginning of the ensuing Triennial Convention and be inducted at the beginning of the said ensuing Triennial Convention. Before the end of the Triennial Convention a General President-Elect shall be elected to be inducted at the next Triennial Convention.
- 9.9 If the General President is transferred some distance away from his General Executive, the Triennial Convention shall empower the General Executive to pay for his official expenses in attending meetings of the General Executive until the end of his term.

- 9.10 The General President and the General Secretary are members of Conference in accordance with L&D paragraph 5.5.15 as amended. Only the General President may be invited to the Connexional Executive.
- 9.11 A General Committee of the YMG consisting of the General Executive Committee, all District Office Bearers or their authorised alternates may meet annually to consider major matters for report to the next Connexional Executive or Conference.
- 9.12 If a vacancy occurs between the Triennial Conventions in any office other than that of the General President, the General Executive committee as provided in paragraph 9.1.1 above may call on the previous incumbent of that office to resume the duties of the office until the next Triennial Convention. If that is not possible, the General Executive Committee may appoint a new person to serve until the next Triennial Convention.
- 9.13 Each District shall bear the expenses of its official representatives to the District and Triennial events. Other expenses of the Triennial Convention and its officers shall be met by an annual levy on the Districts, as decided by the Triennial Convention from time-to-time.
- 9.14 Every member of the YMG shall pay an annual fee as determined by the Triennial Convention to support, among other things, Youth Work. Each District shall collect, administer and remit to the Connexional General Treasurer all the funds meant for the Youth Unit and any other authorised body which is supported by the YMG.