

SETH MOKITIMI METHODIST SEMINARY

2014 CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

1. SMMS motto: FORMING TRANSFORMING LEADERS FOR CHURCH AND NATION. Four definitive goals:
 - 1.1 Strong foundations of personal faith; A faith that results in a strong personal moral awareness that discriminates between right and wrong, good and bad.
 - 1.2 A faith strong in the consistency of word and action, especially with regards to overcoming the legacy of division that is a characteristic of our history.
 - 1.3 Men and women who are ready to serve as a resource for our communities and people.
 - 1.4 Men and women who have a strong ecumenical consciousness.
2. Our strategy:
 - 2.1 Centrality of our chapel life as the centre of building our spirituality. Community related programmes that we engage in through our Field Education Ministry are essentially connected to our spiritual consciousness.
 - 2.2 The Library is the centre of our intellectual formation work, with our lectures revolving around this centre.
 - 2.3 Community life being the arena through which the spiritual principles are enhanced for living together harmoniously, sharing and growing a consciousness of common good. There are 14 language groups living together in our residences.
3. The SMMS has complied with the standard principles of good governance and financial management. In the same vein we are happy to say that our finances for running the SMMS are slowly but surely stabilizing. We are grateful to God.

3.1 In this regard we have developed a three pronged resource development programme, viz:

3.1.1 Short term resource development programme.

This is largely built around the challenge to build residences that are adjacent to the main SMMS academic campus. We shall be sharing this vision with the wider church. Already we are humbled by the reception we have received from the Connexional Women's Manyano, the Young Women's Manyano, the Women's Auxiliary and the Young Men's Guild. This is one of the most exciting experiences for us as we meet Methodists who know very little about the great work of the MCSA in establishing the SMMS.

3.1.2 Our medium term strategy is related to the

broadening of the academic programme of the SMMS. We are in the process of redefining our curriculum so that it may serve also those seminarians who do not intend to offer for the ordained ministry of the church. In this regard we are looking carefully at expanding the content of our B.Th to meet this need. With this achieved we shall be able to accelerate our student recruitment effort to meet the full capacity of the SMMS. With the student fees becoming a key resource for the Seminary, we shall embark on an effort to raise scholarships to enable many from disadvantaged backgrounds to take advantage of our programmes. The niche for the SMMS is in serving essentially as a centre for higher education that puts ethical consciousness and formation as the primary defining character of our education. In this regard we seek to work towards making excellence the hallmark of SMMS education. In time we shall be working to make research an indispensable part of the SMMS education programme. Already our Governing Council has accepted that since

the educational future of our countries might have the Honours degrees as the basic University qualification, the SMMS should not hesitate readying itself for an Honours degree being its primary degree too. This would need to be reflected upon by the MCSA.

3.1.3 Our long term goal is to build endowments that will guarantee the future of the work of the SMMS. Great schools are built by the communities that subscribe to the values that those schools cherish and pursue. It is around this that we hope to enthuse the Methodist people to rally. We believe that the Methodist people will have made their contribution to the future generations of our sub-continent if they were to undergird the SMMS with resources that will strengthen its commitment to build men and women whose only dream is to build strong countries made up of men and women who value the common good and are ready to put integrity at the heart of responsible citizenship.

4. We are excited to announce that the SMMS will hold its first major conference for the Church public on December 02 – 05, 2014 at the SMMS in Pietermaritzburg. The intention is to challenge the churches to think of innovative ways of mobilizing resources for the Church and its mission. We have put together an array of speakers from across the continent, people who are at the cutting edge of thinking “church resourcing” in Africa. The intention is to continue to expand the mission of the SMMS so that it also assists the wider church in challenging the members to enhance their innovation capacities for greater mission effectiveness in their local contexts. For us this would ensure that greater partnerships are developed between the SMMS and the wider church for a seamless process of training ministers and those leaders of the church who are already in the field.

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