



# The Methodist Church of Southern Africa

Tel: +27 11 615 1616  
Fax: +27 11 615 1511

Methodist Connexional Office  
33 Ernest Oppenheimer Ave  
Bruma Office Park, Bruma  
Private Bag X11  
Garden View 2047

17<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## **To: All Synod Bishops**

### **Re: COVID 19 Restrictions Level 1**

Grace and Peace to you!

We write to you as a consequence of the announcements made by the Presidents of the Republics of South Africa and Namibia over the past few days, whilst mindful that similar situations prevail in the all countries of our Connexion, where there are clear signs of the reduction of Corona transmission infections. Aware that the fears of a second wave are ever present, it remains incumbent upon all of us to continue practising the non-clinical precautions prescribed to continue reducing the virus transmission and saving lives.

We refer you to our correspondences on COVID-19, dated 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (attached for ease of reference); on the opening of our places of worship as announced effective 1<sup>st</sup> June. We remind you that the decision and responsibility for the opening of our buildings remain a Synod and Circuit competency, subject to their readiness taking seriously the diverse contexts and the protocols regulated for gatherings. The only change to the regulations is the maximum number of 250, depended upon the square meterage of the specific building, as well as an increase to 100 attendees at a funeral. The "**Guidelines, Norms and Standards for SACC Member Churches to Self-Regulate to Protect Lives at Worship**" remains a helpful guide in your decision making, preparation and opening of places of worship.

In respect of the Sacraments, the Presiding Bishop directs that the suspension of the administration of Sacraments placed in March be lifted immediately whilst ensuring that the necessary precautions are adhered to.

We kindly request that you remind all Ministers and Circuits in your Synod of our previous collective decision on the re-opening of churches as well as the lifting of the suspension on the administration of the Sacraments.

We continue to remember you and those we collectively serve in our prayers.

  
**Rev Purity Malinga**  
Presiding Bishop

  
**Michel W Hansrod**  
General Secretary

*A Christ-healed Africa for the Healing of Nations*

**Presiding Bishop:**  
Rev Purity N Malinga  
E-mail: presbish@mco.org.za

**General Secretary:**  
Rev Michel W Hansrod  
E-mail: gensec@mco.org.za

**General Treasurer:**  
Mrs Thini Ngonyama  
E-mail: finance@mco.org.za

**Lay President:**  
Mr James M Nkosi  
E-mail: jm.nkosi@gmail.com