



# The Methodist Church of Southern Africa

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15<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**To: All Bishop's, General Presidents, General Presidents Elect, Synod Presidents of Organisations and All Ministers.**

Dearest Friends,

Warm Easter Greetings from the MCO, with the prayer that the Joyous Resurrection of Jesus keeps you filled with hope, faith and peace in this uncertain time in our global history.

We write this letter following broad consultation between the General Presidents and General President Elects of the Woman's Manyano, Women's Association, Women's Auxiliary, Young Women's Manyano, Young Men's Guild, Local Preacher's Association, Music Association and Children & Youth Unit (Wesley Guild, Methsoc, Children's Ministry) within the MCSA as well as the Bishops, to inform you of the decisions in respect of all Organisation Synod Conventions/Annual Meetings as well as Connexional Triennials/Biennials/Meetings for 2020 in the light of COVID-19 and subsequent Government Regulations in the various countries of our Connexion. Subsequent consultation has occurred with the Men's League and Women's Fellowship.

We all recognise that, while the Covid-19 effects will remain with us for the most part of this year, there is essential business that each of the Organisations need to deal with, for the mission of God to continue. It is in that light that the following decisions were made:

1. Subject to the relaxation of the lockdown regulations in the countries of the Connexion, the Synod Conventions, Annual Meetings and Consultations, that were postponed, now be cancelled and replaced by Extended Synod Executive Meetings as per the Constitution of each Organisation to transact essential business. The mode of these meetings will depend on the regulations around gatherings. In the case of the larger Organisations due to delegate numbers, this would be conducted at regional level as determined by each Synod and guided by the General Executive and Synod Bishop.
2. Those Organisations who were going to have Inductions i.e. who elected a New Executive Committee in 2019, shall during the course of their Extended Synod Executive Meetings, under the general direction of the Bishop, ensure that the handing over of office takes place for the new executive to effectively start their term of office. Public services of recognition (Inductions) shall be held next year.
3. Where Synods were due to elect for the next term of office, elections shall be postponed until the 2021 Convention/Consultation/Annual Meetings and the term of

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

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Office commence in 2022. This of course extends the term of the present executive by a year.

4. That All Connexional meetings i.e. Triennials, Biennials and Meetings for 2020 are postponed to 2021. This effectively means that the term of Office of Current Connexional Officers who were due to retire at the Triennials/Biennials this year are extended by 1 year.
5. That in the preparation for all subsequent Conventions/Triennials/ Biennials that cognisance be taken of the economic effects of COVID-19 which demands that we completely rethink and replan our current models in terms of representation, duration, and programmes so as not to add to the economic woes of our people and apply the prudent use of our resources.

It is our hope that this communication is received in the Spirit of Unity and Co-operation which was evident in our meeting. We have not ever found ourselves in such a situation before, yet despite the constraints imposed on us by this pandemic we encourage all of us to continue seeking to fulfil God's Call to the Methodist Family in Southern Africa. Together we continue to work towards "A Christ Healed Africa for the Healing of the Nations"

**"God Bless Africa  
Guide Her Leaders  
Guard Her People  
Grant Her Peace"**



Rev N Purity Malinga  
**Presiding Bishop**



Rev Michel W Hansrod  
**General Secretary**