Conference 2018 Report

“Shaping Tomorrow Today”
God’s Mission is bigger than the church, but God chooses to use the church as a visible symbol of the transforming presence of God.”

“It is God’s Mission that has a church not the church that has a Mission”

The call to be a discipleship movement shaped for mission is both a prophetic and timeous one shared by the Global Ecumenical family.
Prof Wilbert Shenk: *New Wineskins Toward a Post Christendom Ecclesiology*

### 5 Characteristics of Mission Shaped Church

- A Missional church is intensely aware that its priority is to witness to the kingdom of God so that people are being liberated from the oppressive power of idols. The church is consciously discerning and naming the idols.
- A Missional church is deeply committed to the world but is not controlled by the world.
- Mission is patterned after the example of Jesus the Messiah; that is, id cruciform. The vision of Isaiah 53 is being fulfilled as God’s people serve and witness. The cross is central.
- A Mission Shaped church has a keen awareness of the eschaton. In Jesus Christ the kingdom has been inaugurated, but the people of God eagerly await the consummation of the kingdom.
- Church structures serve and support its mission to the world.
Ed Stetzer:
“*Our Mission is not our mission at all it is God’s*”
“The church is God’s plan for reaching the world, God isn’t limited to us, to build God's kingdom on earth”

- We point out to people the presence of God who is already amongst them
- The kingdom is much bigger and broader than the church
Phil Meadows

“The church does not have a mission, God’s mission has a church”
Hirsch:

“A Missional (mission shaped) church is a church that defines itself, and organises its life around, its real purpose as an agent of God’s mission to the world. In other word’s it’s the church’s true authentic organising principle for mission. When the church is in mission, it is the true church. The church itself is not only a product of that mission but is obligated and destined to extend it by whatever means possible. The mission of God flows directly through every believer and every community of faith that adheres to Jesus. To obstruct this is to block God’s purpose in and through his people.”
Alan Roxburgh:
What a Missional Shaped church is not:

- Missional Church is not a label to describe churches that emphasizes cross-cultural missions
- Missional Church is not a label used to describe churches that are using outreach programmes to be externally focused
- Missional Church is not another label for church growth and church effectiveness
- Missional Church is not a label for churches that are effective at evangelism
- … is not a label to describe churches that have developed a clear mission statement with a vision and purpose for their existence
- … is not a way of turning around ineffective and outdated church structures so that they can display relevance
- … is not a label that points to a primitive or ancient way of being the church
- Is not a label describing new formats of church that reach people who have no interest in traditional churches
Missionary understanding of God
- God is a *sending God*.
- Missio dei – the Mission of God
- Mission is derived from God
- Relationship between *missio Dei* and *missio ecclesiae*
- God needs the church as an instrument of mission
- The Church is not uncessary in mission
- There is a church because there is a mission, but the churches role is not identitical to the missio dei
- The church participates in the mission of God
- Jesus determines the churches mission in the world
- The church must follow mission
- A missional church has mission at its core
- A missional church is beyond itself
- Its life and ardour goes outward to the world that God loves
- Its not inward to the fellowship and institution that we treasure
The missional church models itself after Jesus’ mission to restore the poor, the unclean and the wounded to the community of God’s people.
Boundaries
Conversation
Shaping for Mission
Journey Thus Far………. 

- 212 Years Of Presence 
- 133 Years Autonomy as a Connexion 
- Not much change in past 130 Years 
- 82 Years of Unification of Methodist and Wesleyan Connexional Conferences 
- 50 Years since Re-alignment of Boundaries in Transvaal into Three Districts, SWT, SETS, Natal into Natal Coastal and Natal West, as well as Free State into NFSL and K and B 
- 43 Years since birthing of Mozambique District 
- 37 Years since Obedience 81 Conference – Geographical Circuits

25 Years since “Journey to the New Land” Consultations – Mission Calls - Structural, Governance and Missional Focus Changes

20 Years since First Triennial Conference – Moving from Maintenance to Mission., adoption of Vision and Mission Statement

Journey Thus Far…….

- 17 Years of conversation on possible Boundary Changes to maximise Missional, Organizational, Financial Effectiveness following various resolutions from Circuit’s, Synods, Units, Conferences.
- 2004 Mission Congress – Mission Charter (Shaping for Mission)
- 2007 and 2011 – Connexional Structures Indaba’s
Journey thus far……

- 2014 Establishment of Connexional Boundaries Committee
- 2016/2017 4 Regional Consultations – Eastern Cape, Kwa-Zulu Natal, Gauteng and Free State
- Conference 2017 – Receives and Endorses possible re-alignments and Process
Principles for Conversation
Reasons to Re-consider Boundaries

- Districts exist for Mission – Church Shaped for Mission
- Districts exist for Accountability, Fellowship, Administration
- Sovereignty – Six Nations – Terminology District vs Synod
- Need for Change
- Financial Implications
- Connexional Boundaries Remains Static
- Agreement – Current Shape not desirable
Obstacles to Change

- District vs Connexionality
- Inherent aversion to change
- Fear of the Unknown
- Financial Implications
- Organisational Identity and Culture
Principles agreed to....

- Inclusiveness/ Diversity
- Smaller Districts approximately 4hrs maximum.
- Mission Centered – Mission determines Structure
- Connexionality – as the cornerstone
- Methodist/ Wesleyan- Theology/Ethos
- Sustainability
- Boundaries – meet current needs
- All spaces worthy of MCSA Ministry irrespective
- Districts – support each other through Kenosis
Responses from Districts
Agreements

- Recognition of the Missional Intent
- Recognition of Shaping for Mission
- Our Connexional Identity to remain intact
- Ethos non-negotiable
- All places worthy of Methodist Presence Evangelism/Ministry opportunity
- Distances are problematic
- Diversity and Inclusivity
- Need for Circuit Boundary engagement
- Affirmation of Sovereignty is important
- Classification of New District as Mission Districts
Concerns and Challenges

- Rapid pace of Conversation
- Financial Implication / Feasibility / Viability
- Population density / Geographical Distances / Methodist Presence
- Impression of Top / Down Agenda
- It looks exclusive (culture, language, colour, ethnicism)
- Racial Segregations of Past Structures remain issue (2 Circuits in 1 Location)
- Badly structured District – possible derailing of Missional Strategy
- Resourcing – Agency, Funding
- Socio-economic conditions
Recommendations
- Staggered approach
- Further conversations
- Circuit restructuring
- District name changes
- District to Synod: Change of Term
2020 Establish New Districts
Karoo Synod

- 113 Central Karoo
- 118 Outeniqua
- 209 Garden Route
- 214 Humansdorp / West Louterwater (into Garden Route or Karoo East)
- 217 Karoo East
- 221 Middleburg
- 223 Craddock and Fish River
- 225 DJ Mapekula Memorial Circuit
- 515 John Wesley
- 516 Upper Karoo Mission
Namibia Synod

- 550 Central North (Namibia)
- 551 Namibia South
- 553 Kavango Mission
- (115) Namaqualand
- Oranjamund
Botswana Synod

- 920 Lichtenburg
- 1126 Molopo Eye
- 1127 Mahikeng
- 1128 Lehurutshe
- 1139 Lobatse
- 1140 Gaborone
- 1141 Botswana Central
- 1142 Francistown
- 1143 Maun
Further Boundary Changes for 2020
Kimberley & Bloemfontein Synod

926 Vryburg Circuit from Central District
Northern Free State & Lesotho Synod

- 530 Archbell & Twee Spruit – Ladybrand Society to Circuit 620
  Ficksburg / Ladybrand Circuit
Queenstown Synod

1304 Cwecweni Circuit from Clarkebury District
2020 Synods
Cape of Good Hope Synod

- 100 Cape of Good Hope District
- 101 Table Bay
- 102 Bellville
- 103 Dumisani
- 104 Cape Methodist Children’s Homes
- 106 Helderberg
- 107 Worcester
- 109 Wynberg
- 110 Fish Hoek
- 111 Heathfield
- 112 Victoria Road
- 114 Blue Downs
- 115 Namaqualand
- 120 Tygerberg
- 121 Cape West Coast
- 122 Bongani
- 123 Cape Gateway
- 124 Wesley College
- 127 Stellenbosch
- 128 False Bay
- 129 Paarl Valley
- 132 Breede River
Grahamstown Synod

- 200 Grahamstown District
- 201 Grahamstown Methodist
- 203 Kingswood College
- 206 Bathurst / Port Alfred
- 207 Salem
- 208 Alexandria
- 211 Port Elizabeth Central
- 212 Port Elizabeth Algoa
- 214 Humansdorp (Part to Karoo District)
- 215 Winterhoek
- 216 Uitenhage Kabah
- 218 Port Elizabeth North
- 219 Sundays River Valley
- 224 Port Elizabeth Kwazakhele
- 226 Somerset East Russell Park
- 227 Somerset East / Glen Avon
- 228 Kat Valley
- 230 Healdtown
- 231 Port Elizabeth West
- 232 Motherwell
- 233 Annshaw
- 234 Tyhume / Amatole Basin
- 235 Keiskammahoek
- 236 Perksdale
- 237 Port Elizabeth Zwide
- 238 Ayliff
- 239 Tuku
- 240 Newtondale
- 241 Horton Mission
Queenstown Synod

- 300 Quesstown District
- 301 Queenstown
- 302 Queenstown and Lesseyton
- 303 Molteno & Stormberg
- 304 Lukhanji
- 305 Kamastone Mission
- 308 Dimbaza
- 309 Kingwilliamstown
- 310 Kei
- 311 Wesleyville
- 312 Kingwilliamstown
- 313 East London
- 314 East London
- 315 Mount Coke
- 316 Nahoon River
- 317 Tamara
- 318 Mount Arthur
- 319 Fransbury
- 320 Tsomo
- 321 Centane
- 322 Butterworth
- 323 Tsojana
- 324 Cala
- 326 Wodehouse Forests
- 327 Ulundi
- 328 Southern Drankenberg
- 329 Nqabara
- 330 Idutywa
- 331 Fort Malan
- 332 Gcaleka
- 333 Nqamakwe
- 336 Seplan
- 339 Mdantsane North
- 340 Gombo
Kimberley & Bloemfontein Synod

- 500 Kimberley & Bloemfontein District
- 501 Diamond Fields
- 502 Kuruman
- 503 Postmasburg
- 504 Taung
- 505 Vaal River (Barclay West)
- 509 Bloemfontein
- 512 Brandfort
- 513 Transgariep
- 514 Seth Mokitimi
- 516 Upper Karoo Miss (part to Karoo)
- 517 Upington
- 519 Upington
- 520 Aliwal North
- 523 Zastron
- 524 Bensonvale
- 526 Blikana
- 527 Wittebergen
- 528 Thaba Nchu
- 530 Archbell & Twee Spruit
- 531 Ebenezer
- 926 Vryburg
Northern Free State & Lesotho Synod

- 600 Northern Free State District
- 601 Kroonstad
- 602 Wesselsbron
- 603 Virginia & Hennenman
- 604 OFS Goldfields
- 605 Welkom
- 606 Bothaville
- 607 Viljoenskroon
- 609 Kwakwatsi
- 610 Vaal South
- 611 Kutlwanong
- 612 Parys
- 614 Lindley & Frankfort
- 615 Senekal
- 616 Bethlehem
- 618 Winburg
- 619 Ficksburg
- 620 Ficksburg / Ladybrand
- 622 Qwa Qwa
- 623 Greater Harrismith &
- Warden
- 650 Maseru
- 651 Mafeteng
- 652 Leribe
- 653 Quthing
- 654 Mokhotlong
- Ladybrand Society from KNB
Natal Coastal Synod

- 700 Natal Coastal District
- 701 Durban Metropolitan
- 702 Umngeni
- 703 South Durban
- 704 Central City Mission Yasethekwinini
- 708 Clerpine
- 709 Kearsney College
- 712 Durban
- 713 Eshowe
- 714 Ndwedwe
- 715 Lower Tugela
- 716 Ndulinde
- 717 Empangeni
- 718 Upper South Coast
- 721 Nongoma
- 722 Mahlabatini
- 724 Kwangwanase
- 725 Ingwavuma
- 726 Ubombo
Natal West Synod

- 800 Natal West District
- 801 Pietermaritzburg Metro
- 802 Pietermaritzburg & Howick
- 803 Southdale
- 804 South Midlands
- 805 Edendale
- 806 South Coast Renishaw
- 807 Harding
- 808 Port Shepstone
- 809 Bulwer
- 810 Indaleni
- 811 Indaleni Institution
- 813 Ixopo
- 814 Deyi
- 815 Umvoti
- 817 Umtshezi
- 818 Ladysmith
- 819 Ladysmith & Jonono’s Kop
- 820 Ukhahlamba
- 821 Driefontein
- 822 Dundee & Glencoe
- 823 Dundee
- 825 Vryheid
- 826 Enyanyadu
- 827 Nquthu
- 828 Evansdale
- 829 Newcastle Central
- 830 Newcastle
- 832 Kokstad
- 836 Bhongweni
- 837 Umzinto
- 838 Matatiele / Maluti
- 839 Ekuphumuleni Homes
- 841 Seth Mokitimi Seminary
Central Synod

- 900 Central District
- 901 Central Methodist Mission
- 902 Alexandra / Johannesburg
- 903 Johannesburg North
- 904 Johannesburg West
- 905 St Stithians College
- 906 South Rand
- 908 Johannesburg East
- 909 Roodepoort
- 910 Fourways
- 911 Zola
- 912 Orlando
- 913 Rand West
- 914 Golden West
- 915 Mogale
- 917 Kopano
- 921 Khunwana
- 922 Matlosana
- 925 Kgatelopele Mission
- 928 Jabavu
- 929 Pimville
- 930 Mashinini
Highveld & Swaziland Synod

- 1000 Highveld & Swaziland District
- 1001 Alberton Mission
- 1002 Germiston Mission
- 1003 Edenvale / Kempton Park
- 1004 West Vaal
- 1005 Vaal North
- 1006 Vereeniging
- 1007 Benoni
- 1008 East Rand
- 1010 Springs
- 1012 South East Rand
- 1015 Majuba
- 1017 Masakhane
- 1018 Tembisa
- 1019 Mkhondo
- 1020 Msukaligwa
- 1021 Highveld Ridge
- 1022 Mpuluzi
- 1024 Mahamba
- 1026 Central Swaziland
- 1027 Hhohho Wesley
## Limpopo Synod

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Mozambique Synod

- 1200 Mozambique
- 1201 Quartel – 2
- 1202 Mavalane
- 1203 Katembe
- 1204 Limpopo Sul
- 1205 Macie
- 1206 Zona Centro
- 1207 Matola
- 1208 Limpopo Norte
- 1209 Matutuine
Clarkebury Synod

- 1300 Clarkebury District
- 1301 Clarkebury Circuit
- 1302 Kwantshunqe / Mqanduli
- 1303 Emqkekezweni
- 1304 Cwecweni
- 1305 Bojane
- 1306 Mthatha
- 1307 Ncambedlana
- 1308 Pamlaville
- 1309 Wesleyville
- 1310 Xora
- 1312 Buntingville
- 1313 Buntingville Institution
- 1314 Marubeni
- 1315 Old Bunting
- 1316 Tombo
- 1317 Shawbury Circuit
- 1318 Shawbury Institution
- 1319 Caba
- 1320 Osborn Institution
- 1321 Enyanisweni
- 1322 Tsitsana-Katkop
- 1323 Fletcherville
- 1324 Mount Frere
- 1325 Osborn
- 1326 Mvuzi
- 1327 Mt Hargreaves
- 1328 Colana
Clarkebury Synod

- 1329 Ngqeleni
- 1330 Mount White
- 1331 Mbalisweni
- 1332 Emvubukazi
- 1333 Qaukeni
- 1334 Ntibane
- 1335 Etembeni
- 1336 Elukholweni / Samaria
- 1337 Engwaqa
- 1338 Rode
- 1339 Edutyini

- 1340 Emnceba
- 1341 Emfundisweni
- 1342 Bodweni
- 1343 Buttville
- 1344 Balasi
- 1345 Ludeke
- 1346 Ndlovu
- 1347 Patekile
- 1348 Hlabati
- 1349 Ndunge
- 1350 Etyeni

- 1351 Palmerton
- 1352 Dumi
- 1353 Matshona
- 1354 Mandileni
- 1355 Cancele
- 1358 Brook's Nek
- 1359 Ncamedlana / Ncambele
- 1361 Sipaqeni
- 1362 Qunu
- 1363 Ridge
2021 Synods
Aliwal North Synod

- 301 Queenstown
- 302 Queenstown and Lesseyton
- 303 Molteno & Stormberg
- 328 Southern Drakensberg
- 520 Aliwal North (part Zastron)
- 523 Zastron (part to Free State)
- 524 Bensonvale (part Zastron)
- 526 Blikana
- 527 Wittebergen
- 513 Transgariep
Mpumalanga Synod

- 1107 Maranatha
- 1108 Middleburg
- 1109 Escarpment
- 1118 Soutpansberg
- 1119 Ysterberg
- 1120 Letaba
- 1121 Mbombela
- 1122 Mhluzi
- 1123 Sabie & Shatale

- 1124 Lowveld
- 1125 Nkomazi Mission
- 1129 Capricorn West
- 1130 Capricorn East
- 1132 Mogalakwena
- 1133 Zebediela
- 1134 Mphahlele
- 1135 Sekhukhune
The Proposals

Conference 2018 endorses and resolves to:

1. Establish the new Districts effective 1 January 2019 and 1 January 2020 respectively
2. Appoint a Connexional Shaping for Mission Enabler (SME) for a 3 year term (2019-2021)
3. Change the description District to Synod
4. Request all Synods to reconsider name changes by 2019 Conference reflecting its missional area
5. Hold interim Mission Synods before 2019 Synods for the new areas to be established in 2020
6. Hold interim Mission Synods before 2020 Synods for the new areas to be established in 2021
7. Convene a special Connexional Executive be held before April 2019
8. Employ the church reserve fund for the establishment of the new Districts
Strategy and Process

- September 2019 Conference endorses and resolves
- Oct-Dec re-training of District Boundary Convenors (District Shaping 4 Mission Enablers) who will assist with implementation relating to Circuit conversations for District and Circuit Boundary considerations.
- Convene inter-District consultations affected by Boundary changes. This will begin the process of preparation for the Mission Synods.
- Appoint implementation committees with the assistance of the SME. These committees will design the broad outlines for finance, resources (which would include the mission Resource fund, as well as consideration of District “kenosis” – what would the “Giving” District send with along with a Circuit moving to another District), shaping of the District (Synod) Office, considering new missional areas, implications for all mission groups and Organisations structures.
- Mission Synods should be held before the end of February 2019.
Strategy and Process

- February 26-28, 2019 Mission Unit Regional Consultations for Free State Region - Bloemfontein
- March 12-14, 2019 Mission Unit Regional Consultations for Cape Region – Port Elizabeth
- March 19-20, 2019 Special CE: Appointments of District Leadership, financial administrative and other logistics. This will go to Synods who will formally resolve.
- March – May 2019 implementation committees finalise their implementation and strategy reports
- April 2-4, 2019 Mission Unit Regional Consultations for Natal & Mozambique - Durban
May 16-18, 2019 Synods to resolve on recommendations from the Special CE

May 2019 Synods and September 2019 Conference - the implementation planning continues including inter-District work to take place in terms of establishing missional hubs in and across Districts.

Any further recommendations to go to 2019 and 2020 Conference.

September 9-14, 2019 Connexional Executive and Conference to receive final recommendations on the implementation of new Districts for 2020, 2021 and further recommendations in respect of other proposals.


January 1, 2020/2021 new Districts/Synods Inaugurated.
Cape of Good Hope and Kimberly, Namibia & Bloemfontein Districts to engage on enhancing and growing our missional footprint along the Orange River between the Namaqualand and Upington Circuits and report to Conference 2020.

Grahamstown and Queenstown Districts to engage on boundary changes in respect of the Alice Region during 2019 and report to Conference 2019.

Central, Kimberly, Namibia & Bloemfontein and Northern Free State & Lesotho to engage on boundary changes in respect of Kgatelelopele Circuit (Wolmaranstad) for report to Conference 2019.

Clarkebury District to engage on boundary changes within the District for report to Conference 2019.

Natal West and Natal Coastal Districts to engage on possible boundary changes for report to Conference 2019.


Highveld & Swaziland, Limpopo and Mozambique Districts to engage on Swaziland and possible boundary changes in respect of the proposed Mpumalanga District for report to Conference 2019.

Further Conversations Recommended