



# The Methodist Church of Southern Africa

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20<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Bishops and District Justice and Service Desk Coordinators

Greetings to you from the Connexional Office.

This communication serves as an update with regards to the Methodist Church of Southern Africa's Church Land Programme. It provides an update on work done by the church in this regard. I hope that this will enable the church to move forward in a positive direction with regards to the developing discussion around land expropriation and land reform.

In 1998, the MCSA passed an extensive resolution titled Church Land (included in the information pack). The MCSA has responded to this resolution in the following ways:

- The land Audit and Inventory for South Africa has been completed in 2004.
- The Church entered into a partnership with the Federation of Homeless People to identify land suitable for low cost income housing.
- A draft church land policy has also been compiled.

Conference passed further resolutions on this issue in 2004, 2006 and 2017. The Mission Unit has acted on the 2017 Resolution as follows:

- Participated in the South African Council of Churches Land Summit as well as the Moral Regeneration Movement Summit. Reports are available.
- A Reflective Session was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2016 and the comprehensive report is attached.
- The Mission Unit also reported on this to Conference 2018. Attached please find the report that emerged from the Reflective Session, the PowerPoint Report, presented to Conference 2018 and the recommendations are included in the Reflective Session Report.

I request Bishops and Mission Teams to:

- Familiarize themselves with the Reflective Session Report and its recommendations.
- Request the Districts and Circuits to convene Reflective Sessions so as to assist the Church in moving forward with regards to the use of Church owned land that would benefit the communities especially the poor and marginalized (special focus on women and children).
- The outcomes of these must be communicated to the Justice and service Desk no later than 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019.
- Districts and Circuits that have already engaged in processes regarding land, please forward the reports to the Mission Unit J&S Desk.

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

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- Please note that church land is also in the business of the District Trust Properties. Therefore your conversations must include District Trust Properties Secretaries. The Connexional Trust Properties Committee has also made some suggestions and we must be careful not to work in silos.

For any assistance with regards to the above please contact the Mission Unit (J&S Desk). Countries of the Connexion I request Bishops to assist with the compilation of church land audits and inventories. The Mission Unit (J&S Desk) will be in communication with regards to the information required.

I therefore request your cooperation in this regard.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Z. Siwa', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a small flourish at the end.

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Rev. Ziphosihle D Siwa  
Presiding Bishop: MCSA