



The Methodist Church of Southern Africa

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16 March 2020

Communique: MCSA Response to Covid -19- Botswana

Preamble

The Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, Rev Purity Malinga notes the measures instituted by the government of Botswana to combat the transmission and spread of the Covid-19. Taking cognisance of these and after consultation with the Bishop of the Molopo Synod, Rev Matshedesho Molale, the Presiding Bishop has given the following directives:

Sunday Services

As per the Botswana government edict: Total suspension of public gatherings of more than 50 people immediately for 30 days, these include;

- a. Religious activities
 - b. Sporting events
 - c. Conferences
 - d. Wedding celebrations
 - f. Music concerts
 - g. Parties
- We encourage all ministers in the Molopo Synod, based in Botswana, to access the latest information on Covid-19; to take precautionary measures as provided for by the parameters set out by the Government and provide regular updates to their congregants via email and WhatsApp groups.
 - We also encourage E- worship where possible as a creative alternative to physical gatherings.
 - Any members of your Society or Circuit to who have cold or flu like symptoms including a cough, fever, sore throat and have had contact with returning travellers should call **997, 3632756 /3632757 /363 2773**

Circuit Quarterly Meetings

- Circuits are encouraged to look at creatively holding their April CQM's while still abiding to the no more than 50 persons edict.
- The Synod through the Office of the Bishops will provide guidelines to superintendents about how to reduce the attendees to the meeting without losing the value of broad participation and contribution.
- The highest levels of hygiene must be upheld at all these meetings and anyone who feels unwell and presents with flu like symptoms is requested to self-isolate.

Funerals, Weddings and Baptisms

- All weddings and baptisms are suspended in Botswana until further notice.

A Christ-healed Africa for the Healing of Nations

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- Numbers at funerals are to be restricted to a maximum of 50 people and handwashing, respiratory hygiene and social distancing maintained at the event with the maintenance of a distance of 1-2 metres between
- The government will handle all Covid-19 related funerals.

All conventions, Youth Synods and combined Easter services have all been suspended with immediate effect as previously communicated.

Opportunity for prayer

- The pandemic provides us with an opportunity to not only go back to basics, but to join in solidarity and prayer for those affected and impacted by Covid -19 and for all the nations of our Connexion and the world at large as we together fight the debilitating effects of this scourge.
- The Presiding Bishop calls on all People called Methodists to join together in prayer on **Thursday 26 March at 12H00** wherever we are.

Final reflections

In the midst of this global concern is the profound realisation that we are in this together and that we are indeed our sister and brothers keeper. We are at this time reminded of our individual responsibility for the wellbeing of all of humanity.

The office of the Presiding Bishop will continue to disseminate updates as the situation evolves. There is no better time for us as a church to live out our vision and mission of “A Christ healed Africa for the healing of nations” as we “proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ for Healing and Transformation.”

“Shaping tomorrow today- walking humbly with God”

Kind regards,



Rev Purity Malinga
Presiding Bishop