



The Methodist Church of Southern Africa

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Communique: MCSA Response to Covid -19- KINGDOM of ESWATINI

Preamble

The Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, Rev Purity Malinga notes the declaration of a State of Emergency in the Kingdom of Eswatini by His Majesty, King Mswati 111 and Ingwenyama in order to curb the spread of Covid-19. Taking into consideration the current public health authority advice from the Kingdom of Eswatini government, and after consultation with the acting Bishop of the Highveld and Eswatini Synod, Rev Sondlile Nkwananya the Presiding Bishop has given the following directives:

Sunday Services

- As per the Kingdom of Eswatini's edict: *"All public and private gatherings attracting 50 or more people are suspended until further notice. These include conferences, funerals, weddings, entertainment, sporting activities, etc."*
- We encourage all ministers in the Highveld and Eswatini Synod within the borders of the Kingdom of Eswatini 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 visit their nearest health centre facility or call the Emergency Medical Services Toll free line 977

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

- Baptisms are suspended until further notice.
- Numbers at funerals and weddings are to be restricted to 50 or otherwise suspended and handwashing, respiratory hygiene and social distancing maintained at the event.

A Christ-healed Africa for the Healing of Nations

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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