



# The Methodist Church of Southern Africa

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## Communique: MCSA Response to Covid -19- NAMIBIA

### Preamble

The Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, Rev Purity Malinga notes the declaration of a State of Emergency in Namibia by His Excellency, President Dr Hage G Geingob in order to curb the spread of Covid-19. Taking into consideration the current public health authority advice from the Namibian Government, and after consultation with the Bishop of the Namibia Synod, Rev Charmaine Morgan, the Presiding Bishop has given the following directives:

### Sunday Services

- As per the Namibian government edict: *“For a period of thirty ( 30) days following the adoption of this measure, large public gatherings ( of no more than 50 people) be suspended: schools, religious gatherings, customary , weddings, funerals, and all parades for uniformed forces be suspended until further notice.”*
- We encourage all ministers in the Namibia Synod 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.

### 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 Namibia until further notice.
- Numbers at funerals are to be restricted to 50 and handwashing, respiratory hygiene and social distancing maintained at the event.
- 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.

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

## 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