2020 YEARBOOK
THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

PURITY NOMTHANDASO MALINGA
Presiding Bishop

MICHEL WILLIAM HANSROD
General Secretary

JAMES MABHALANE NKOSI
Lay President

Methodist Publishing House, Cape Town

ISBN: 978-1-920464-49-3
The Mission Statement of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa

Our Mission

“God calls the Methodist people to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ for Healing & transformation”

Our Vision

“A Christ-healed Africa For the healing of nations”

Our 5 Imperatives of Mission

- Development & Economic Empowerment
- Spirituality
- Education & Christian Formation
- Reconciliation
- Justice, Service

Our Continuing Goals Of Transformation Are:

- a deepening spirituality; a resolve to be guided by God’s mission;
- a rediscovery of the priesthood of all believers; a commitment “to be one so that the world may believe”;
- a re-emphasis of servant-leadership and discernment as our model for ministry;
- a redefinition and authentication of the vocation of the clergy in the church;
- a re-commitment to environmental justice.
THE CHARTER OF THE MISSION CONGRESS ADOPTED BY
THE CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA IN JOHANNESBURG
ON 30 AUGUST 2005

Where there is no vision the people perish.
Where there is no passion the vision dies.

God has given us the vision of
“A Christ healed Africa for the healing of nations.”

As members of the Methodist Family our challenge is to share more deeply God’s passion for healing and transformation. We believe the Holy Spirit is guiding us to continue the pilgrimage which has led us through Obedience 81 and the Journey to the New Land to the present day. We recognise the importance of the local church and rejoice in the many Circuits and Societies where life-giving mission is taking place.

In trust and obedience we commit ourselves
to the four imperatives for mission in our time:

A deepened Spirituality as individuals and a Christian Community.

Justice and Service in Church and Society.

Evangelism and Church growth which build up the people of God.

Empowerment and Development which give dignity and new purpose
to those who have been deprived.

We resolve to take intentional and sustained action to implement these imperatives
in such areas as:

The Healing Ministry.
Deepening our understanding of African and other spiritualities.
Co-ordinated programmes for Christian Education, information and communication.
Building meaningful relationships that transcend racism, sexism and all other forms of discrimination.
A vigorous response to the crisis of HIV and AIDS.
Informing our prophetic ministry by research into socio-economic issues.
Identifying land for sustainable livelihood.
Sacrificial giving.
Becoming a church in solidarity with the poor.
Providing training in evangelism.
Training ministers for the African context.
Implementing anti-bias training.
Becoming a more Youth and Child centred Church.

We invite the people of God throughout Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland to join us as we put ourselves at God’s disposal to carry forward God’s mission in this sub-continent.

Let us each renew our personal commitment to Jesus Christ and seek to grow in grace and in love for God, one another and the world.

Let us ensure that our mission of healing and transformation is holistic, embracing all the imperatives for mission.

Let us participate in God’s mission in ways that are appropriate to our local contexts and in partnership with the wider church and community.

Let us celebrate our diversity and the gifts God has given to each of us; support each other, challenge each other and pray for each other.

Finally, we encourage every Circuit to set aside the last Sunday in May each year to celebrate what God is doing among us and to commit ourselves once again to our high calling in Christ.

God bless this Africa which is our home.
Give us grace to follow Jesus the healer,
Jesus the peacemaker,
Jesus the Saviour of the world,
Jesus the Lord of all life.
Restore us and make your face shine on us That we may be saved.
## CONTENTS

The Mission Statement of the MCSA ........................................ 2
Charter of the Mission Congress 2005 .................................... 3
The Presiding Bishop’s Address to Conference 2019. .................. 7
The Presiding Bishop-Elect’s Address to Conference 2019. ............ 16
The General Secretary’s Report to Conference 2019 ...................... 23
The Lay President’s Report to Conference 2019 .......................... 31
The General Treasurer’s Report to Conference 2019 ..................... 38
The Synods’ Reports to Conference 2019 ................................. 43

Chapter 1 Conference 2019: Message to the Methodist People ....... 91
Chapter 2 Conference 2019: Resolutions ................................. 94
Chapter 3 Minutes of Conference ........................................... 111
  Membership Returns .......................................................... 119
Chapter 4 Amendments to Laws and Discipline ......................... 120

### THE UNITS OF THE CHURCH

Chapter 5 The Finance Unit .................................................. 185
  Appendix 1: Policy on Effective Financial Management ............ 201
  Appendix 2: Institutional Competency Assessment ................. 210
  Appendix 3: Stipend Augmentation Fund .............................. 214
  Appendix 4: Connexional Gifts Policy .................................. 217
  Appendix 5: The Supernumerary Fund Reserve and
  the Church Reserve ....................................................... 219
  Appendix 6: Mission Resource Fund .................................... 222
  Appendix 7: Treasurers Code of Conduct ............................... 224

Chapter 6 Ecumenical Affairs Unit ......................................... 228
Chapter 7 Education for Ministry and Mission Unit ..................... 238
Chapter 8 Seth Mokitimi Seminary ......................................... 266
Chapter 9 Communications Unit ............................................. 273
Chapter 10 Connexional Children and Youth Unit ....................... 276
Chapter 11 Human Resources Unit ......................................... 279
Chapter 12 Mission Unit .................................................... 282

Appendix 1: Policy on Effective Financial Management ............ 201
Appendix 2: Institutional Competency Assessment ................. 210
Appendix 3: Stipend Augmentation Fund .............................. 214
Appendix 4: Connexional Gifts Policy .................................. 217
Appendix 5: The Supernumerary Fund Reserve and
the Church Reserve ....................................................... 219
Appendix 6: Mission Resource Fund .................................... 222
Appendix 7: Treasurers Code of Conduct ............................... 224

Appendix 2: Institutional Competency Assessment ................. 210
Appendix 3: Stipend Augmentation Fund .............................. 214
Appendix 4: Connexional Gifts Policy .................................. 217
Appendix 5: The Supernumerary Fund Reserve and
the Church Reserve ....................................................... 219
Appendix 6: Mission Resource Fund .................................... 222
Appendix 7: Treasurers Code of Conduct ............................... 224

Appendix 3: Stipend Augmentation Fund .............................. 214
Appendix 4: Connexional Gifts Policy .................................. 217
Appendix 5: The Supernumerary Fund Reserve and
the Church Reserve ....................................................... 219
Appendix 6: Mission Resource Fund .................................... 222
Appendix 7: Treasurers Code of Conduct ............................... 224
THE ORDERS OF THE CHURCH
Chapter 13 Order of Deacons .......................................................... 296
Chapter 14 Order of Evangelism ...................................................... 299

THE COMMITTEES OF THE CHURCH
Chapter 15 Connexional Chaplaincy Committee .............................. 303
Chapter 16 Connexional Trust Properties Committee ....................... 305
  Annexure A: MCSA Property Strategy ....................................... 308
  Annexure B: Visit to Kenya ...................................................... 310
Chapter 17 Doctrine, Ethics and Worship Committee ....................... 313
Chapter 18 Methodist Archives .................................................... 316
Chapter 19 Methodist Publishing House ....................................... 318
Chapter 20 Women In Ministry .................................................... 320
  Women In Ministry Task Team Report .................................... 323
Chapter 21 Structures Committee ................................................ 325

ORGANISATIONS OF THE CHURCH
Chapter 22 Music Association ..................................................... 331
Chapter 23 Local Preachers’ Association ....................................... 336
Chapter 24 Women’s Work .......................................................... 340
  Women’s Association ............................................................ 340
  Women’s Auxiliary ............................................................. 343
  Women’s Manyano .............................................................. 347
  Young Women’s Manyano ..................................................... 350
Chapter 25 Men’s Work .............................................................. 355
  Young Men’s Guild ............................................................. 355
Chapter 26 Conference Awards .................................................... 360
Chapter 27 Elections and Appointments ....................................... 361

Connexional Diary 2020 ............................................................... 363
2020 Lectionary .............................................................................. 369
List of Conferences, Presidents and Secretaries ............................... 374
List of Future Conferences .......................................................... 379
In Memoria .................................................................................... 381
THE PRESIDING BISHOP’S ADDRESS TO CONFERENCE

Bishop Ziphozihle Daniel Siwa

Theme: Shaping tomorrow today; walking humbly with God
Readings: Jeremiah 8:4-22 and Luke 3:1-6

Greetings, Welcome and Gratitude
The Lay President, the Presiding Bishop Elect, the General Secretary, the General Secretary-Elect, Bishops and Lay Leaders of our Synods, Unit Leaders, members of the 2019 Conference, distinguished guests and visitors, I greet you warmly this evening in the Name of the Triune God – Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

I extend a word of welcome to all of you to the 130<sup>th</sup> Conference of the MCSA. A special word of welcome to the leaders of the soon-to-be-inaugurated new Synods, Rev Charmaine Morgan of the Namibia Synod, Rev Louis Williams of the Camdeboo Synod and Rev Dr. Matsishedisho Molale of the Molopo Synod. It is my greatest joy to welcome and introduce two special persons, the Chairperson of the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary, Dr. Phumla Mnganga and the new President of the Seminary, Dr. Rowanne Marie. On behalf of the Methodist people, I welcome the new Chief Pastor, Rev. Purity Malinga who will lead us in our journey of sharpening mission effectiveness.

It has indeed been a special privilege for me to be afforded the opportunity to offer leadership at various levels of the Church and even allowed to occupy what is also known as ‘Mr Wesley’s Chair’ in our Connexion. I thank God for being with us as a family at this time; God has been so good in surrounding us with a reservoir of support from Methodist people and leaders. The church and all her people have shown me God’s love, sometimes in tough ways, but I have never doubted the care of the Methodist people. On behalf on my whole family, I thank you. I do not normally thank my wife Yoliswa Nokulunga in public because we have enough time to do so in our own space. On this occasion however, it is proper that I do so. She has been a very strong pillar of support throughout my active ministry, or rather, our ministry. She has sacrificially given of herself to this ministry at great personal cost. I salute you MamNqarwane, Ziduli, Hintsebe! I love you!

We are on an exciting journey of shaping tomorrow-today. This includes the strategic activity of multiplication, reorganising and reshaping in order to minimize exclusion in our mission endeavours. The 2015 Conference address in Port Elizabeth ends with an appeal for all of us to go and reflect on the shape of our societies, circuits, districts and organisations with the intention of sharpening our disciplership movement for effective mission. Much work has been accomplished as reports to subsequent conferences indicate, but there is also much still to be done.
**Context and Introduction**

We are in Cape Town in the Cape of Good Hope Synod. This is a place of many contrasts: a place of pain and hope; a place of so much beauty and hazardous settlements. It is here that Bartholomew Diaz, the Portuguese explorer sailed around the Southern tip of Africa and “found” and named this region the Cape of Good Hope in 1488. He was followed by Vasco da Gama about a decade later in 1497. Jan van Riebeeck was sent by the Dutch East India Company to set up a refreshment station for Dutch ships on their way to the east. This ushered in an era of occupation, settlement and dispossession. Upon his arrival on 6 April 1652 on 3 ships, De Reiger, De Dromedaris and De Goede Hoop, he was accompanied by 82 men and 8 women. Since then, there has been a clash of cultures and interests. The settlers started farming on the land of the Khoi and the San, who lived a semi-nomadic life. The landscape of this part of the world was irretrievably changed to date. In response to the deadly skirmishes with the local population, van Riebeeck planted a wild almond hedge to protect his settlement in 1660 – a symbol of division that we are struggling with to this day. The wounds of subjugation, division and occupation are still with us as we strive to shape tomorrow today. It is here that the Rev Barnabas Shaw landed in 1816, some 164 years later, and a new trajectory of rapprochement began. He began his mission journey here with transforming Gospel values and worked against the stream of dominance and subjugation. He defied the Governor who had refused Rev. J. McKinney permission to preach in 1814. His mission and ministry were to all God’s people despite the prevailing socio-political challenges at the time.

Friends, we are at the home of the South African Legislature, where Dr. Hendrik Verwoerd, known as the architect of Apartheid, was assassinated on 6 September 1966 on the floor of the National Assembly. The impact of his apartheid education system is still felt today. If he could come back and assess the effects of what he started, he would smile. Amnesty International launched a campaign called ‘Sign the smile off’ the face of Verwoerd. This campaign can be reinforced by ensuring that our ill-performing education system is given a red card by all of us in every space in the Connexion, as we strive to shape tomorrow today.

It was in this month, on 12 September 1977 that Stephen Bantu Biko died in police detention – killed three months before his thirty first birthday. What a loss! It is outside of this city that many were detained in a place called Robben Island, including the Rivonia trialists amongst whom was Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe spent many years here in solitary confinement. The aerial view of the township Crossroads adjacent to the Cape Town International Airport is comparable to the divide between the affluent suburb of Sandton and the impoverished Alexandra Township. It is against this bitter historical backdrop that we are called to deliberate on the theme: **walking humbly with God** in shaping tomorrow today.

A month ago, on 6 August 2019 the President of Mozambique, President Filipe Nyusi and the Renamo leader, Ossufo Momade, signed what is seen as a landmark
peace agreement ending what President Nyusi referred to as the ‘theatre of war.’ Mozambique has borne the brunt of horrendous natural disasters which left untold suffering in their wake. We are called upon to uphold the peace agreement in our prayers and remember the people of Mozambique as they head to the polls on 15 October 2019. Let us also pray for the people of Botswana who will also hold elections in October.

What we are, what we should do and what we can be and do, is better crafted on a journey with the transforming God. We are a collective repository of God’s light! How do we overcome the paralyzing divides that continue to polarize our collective witness? I have over the years, heard clearly the cries of the member countries of our Connexion, as they express their deep pain of exclusion in Connexional thinking and I have experienced awkward moments when we spoke and acted without regard to those cries. There is no better time than this to reorganise ourselves in incarnational mission strategy that reduces the phenomenon of some believing that they belong to the ignored periphery.

The Theme and Theological Rationale
We continue with the 2018 Conference theme and have added a reminder that it is not our own doing, but a journey instigated by God who invites us to follow – ‘Shaping Tomorrow Today; walking humbly with God.’ Commenting on Micah 6:8, Bruce Dahlberg writes:

“To walk humbly with your God signifies not personal piety in any narrow sense, but obedience to whatever God requires or commands.”

Humility is not submission to just anything but to God’s way. It is a call for the church to be on the side of the vulnerable who are the reservoirs of hope and among whom God is found. The Prophet Micah cites God’s saving acts as the standard and inspiration to our vision and mission activity/strategy. ‘Shaping tomorrow today’ is not a special social project with timelines, but the whole life-walk of Christ followers.

Dahlberg continues “in the biblical religion the indicative mood gives rise to the imperative mood.” What God has done and is doing inspires what human beings ought to be and do in faithful and humble response. As we experience God’s love, we cannot afford to be passive, but actively imagine what the future will be. Walking humbly with God is a life of response to God’s love. God is our God who mercifully humbles God-self in order to penetrate our hearts and melt them to respond to His love. The invitation is to be an integral part of the divine intention to make the world right. It is not what we want but what God wants and as such we will do well to intentionally seek ways of walking with God. I salute the efforts and the impact of local churches’ mission initiatives and their embrace of the MCSA Vision and Conference calls. It is always heart-warming to witness what is possible if we humbly walk with the God of life, who is shaping the future.
There is, however, always a risk of the battle of wills – between our will and God’s will, where a competition arises between narrow personal interests and a humble walk with God. Narrow personal interests have the power to pull us towards making our desires the rule of faith whilst verbally confessing that Scripture is the supreme authority of faith. The shape of the future built on the foundation of purely personal wishes is different from the future crafted in the trenches of daily walking humbly with God. In that process, we are urged to let God be God. We can either dance around our own proverbial golden calf or sacrificially walk into the future being shaped by God. The church is called upon to be the midwife of the future that comes from the womb of our Mother God. God created the world that is pregnant with possibilities waiting to be born. As the mothers in the room know, the process of giving birth is messy, painful and risky. In following God who shapes the future and gives birth to newness of life, we will do well to understand the God of Jeremiah who calls us to “uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant”. This calls for something more than just “superficial politeness” as we strive towards “a world waiting to be born.”

Oscar Wilde wrote a beautiful sonnet way back in 1897 titled: Betrayal, Bravery, Courage, Love, Remorse, and I quote: “Yet each man kills the thing he loves. By each let this be heard; some do it with a bitter look, some with a flattering word. The coward does it with a kiss, the brave man with a sword.’ The birth of God’s promise is killed every day by claim to false wisdom, false promise of the evil one, corruption and turning away from genuine love which is the essence of who God is.

The Message of the Prophet Jeremiah
At a time of deep pain and suffering and exile the Prophet Jeremiah addresses what he calls perpetual backsliding of the nation. In chapter 8 we find these words:

“When people fall, do they not get up again? If they go astray, do they not turn back? Why then have this people turned away in perpetual backsliding? ... The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved. Since my people are crushed I am crushed; I mourn and horror grips me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?” Jeremiah 8: 4-5, 20-22.

Jeremiah’s message is full of hope at a time of pain and distance from the Living God. It calls for a return to God’s way in a context of people’s fallen ways. It seeks to untangle the nation from the grasp of clinging to deceit. It communicates that there is a world waiting to be born.

God weeps when people go astray and longs to redeem us from what Jeremiah calls “perpetual backsliding”, not in our theology but in our actions. God, in tears stretches His arms to welcome us. Jane Williams writes that God’s humility is merciful, and cannot be earned or alienated. It is offered and calls for us to walk in the paths of humility for our own sake and the sake of the world. Jane calls it ‘letting God say,
“you are my beloved”. So, instead of reciting that God loves me, I allow God to say it to me. This is a philia-shaped response to God’s love. It is self-giving love, responding to friendship with God because of the overwhelming experience of God’s love. (Jane Williams, 2019, *The Merciful Humility of God*). Shaping a just, peaceful and reconciled society requires humility.

In our humility, we allow God to shape the future. Kent Groff writes; “To make friends across barriers of your own faith circle is the gift and challenge of evangelism – a word better defined as faith finding and faith sharing. This calls for trust in the Spirit for guidance to know when to speak of your experiences of God, when to be silent and when to allow one’s action to speak.” (Kent Ira Groff, 2000, *The Soul of Tomorrow’s Church*, Upper Room Books pages 143-144).

Writing in the Stone-Campbell Journal in 2016, Shaun Brown quotes from Daniel Migliore’s book, titled; “*Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*” I quote:

> “Every theology must be a critical reflection on the beliefs and practices of the faith community out of which it rises. Since theology is faith seeking understanding, theologians should not pretend that faith has arrived at its goal… theology’s critical reflection does have a criterion: ‘the gospel of Jesus Christ, the incarnate, crucified and risen Word of God. The Bible points toward Christ and Triune God’s creative, providential, and world transforming activity.’” ([www.stone-campbelljournal.com](http://www.stone-campbelljournal.com)).

This quotation points to the Living Word, because God continues to lead and guide us today in world transforming activity. God is transforming the world and we must always seek to follow Him or else we fall into the trap of dancing around our own self-created golden calf. Serious and continuous theological reflection is needed more than ever before as new questions arise. We will do well not to be driven by emotions, but prayerful discernment, meditation, robust theological enquiry and walking humbly with God.

Some writers describe the church as ‘a dance of the wounded, dancing in the presence of the healing God’. As we reflect, converse, pray and act towards shaping tomorrow today, our dance must take cognizance of our woundedness and strengthen our resolve to discern where God is leading us to.

The way to the future is through walking humbly with God. The sub-theme carries the words ‘walking humbly with God.’ We have to be serious about the call expressed during the Journey to the New Land – that of deepening spirituality, mindful that our own social constructs without God have a limited life span. It is not about us being politically correct, important as this may be, or feeling good, but being painfully obedient to God and following God who continues to disrupt the patterns of our sometimes selfish wishful constructs. The way has been given; it is clear and devoid of any shallow Christian diplomacy. Micah in 6:8 puts it thus: “*God has shown you...*
what is good. And what does God require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with your God.” Please note the choice of words here. When Micah speaks of justice, he does not speak about knowing or understanding or supporting but acting justly; and not only knowing about God, but walking humbly with God.

The call to disrupt destructive tendencies in order to shape a better future
It begins with God. The story in Luke 3 is synchronized with the political and ecclesiastical history of its time. He locates the story in the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar’s reign, when Pontius Pilate was the prefect of Judea. He begins with the Empire, then mentions the regional authorities and ends with the religious leadership. In our case, what time did we receive the Conference call to walk humbly with God? If I were to use that pattern today, it would read something like: ‘In the reign of Cyril Ramaphosa of the African National Congress in South Africa and the premiership of Alan Winde of the Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape; during the presidency of Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana and the transition of the region to Molopo Synod; during the presidency of Hage Geingob of Namibia and the transition towards the Namibia Synod; during the reign of iNgwenyama Mswati III of eSwatini; at the time of Prime Minister Thomas Thabane of Lesotho and the presidency Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique, the Conference of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa met in Cape Town and called for ‘walking humbly with God in shaping tomorrow today.’ It is a serious call for such a time as this. The destructive patterns of governance in church and society must come to an end. The Expositor’s Greek Testament states that in this chapter, the ministry of the new era opens.

The Gospel and the Discipleship movement is a disruptive enterprise.

August is Women’s month in South Africa and in August 2018, we were urged not to look away as numerous stories of domestic violence, gender based violence were told. We were exposed to the ugly face of violence; intimate partner violence within the church and sometimes behind closed doors. We must promote safe spaces for people to tell these stories so that this scourge may be disrupted. Corrupt relations with power must be dismantled; manipulative strategies of some minorities to protect paralyzing self-interests must be destroyed; bullying majorities must be stopped in their tracks.

Prayer, informed actions and disciplined disruption must be at the centre of our mission strategy. It is covenancing to stay in love with God and be practitioners of disruptions of destructive tendencies more than just being chaplains of power and false justice that will help shape a better tomorrow. Ministry to power must be pastoral and prophetic. Walk with God to power and also to the church so that you may be able to speak truth to both. Everything must change towards a just society and the One in charge of the transforming activity is God.

Peter Storey begs us to be bearers of the Kingdom dream and says that “seeking the Kingdom of God must take first place. It must be our supreme allegiance.” Storey
quotes Karl Barth in the dark 1930s, when a new idolatry was sweeping throughout Germany and even Christian leaders were beginning to bow down to a demagogue called Adolf Hitler. He says Karl Barth stood up and cried, “Let God be God!” Storey writes:

“The Church must be different from, and often against and in contradiction to the ways of all nations. That alternative identity must be cherished and guarded as the most important characteristic of the Church. The richest gift the church can give to the world is to be different from it. It must be a constant irritant that the world doesn’t want but cannot do without.” (Peter Storey, 2002, With God in the Crucible, Preaching Costly Discipleship, Abingdon Press, page 150-151).

A demagogue is one who seeks support by appealing to the desires and prejudices of ordinary people rather than using rational argument. In an age of demagogues, let God be God.

Quoting Isaiah, Luke records the message to the people under occupation: “every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God’s salvation.” It is the word of hope that came through John the Baptist that pointed towards a new way of life which is breaking down barriers that block access to life opportunities. We stopped in verse 6 and left the remaining verses of this chapter, verses that call for fruit that is in keeping with repentance. When the hearers asked what they were to do – the answer was simply “share with one who has none, (to tax collectors) don’t collect any more than you are required to, don’t exact money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay” (no cheating and no bribes). Luke brings a message of dismantling destructive structural arrangements and non-life giving activities that drain emotional and material resources but lead nowhere.

Mitri Raheb writes: “We must live with our feet firmly grounded in the reality of this world with its empires, yet, at the same time, be engaged in creating with our own hands a foretaste of the kingdom to come. We have to learn to hold the reins of the tension between history with its endless injuries and the vision of a future with its promises, ever conscious that the present is the space to heal wounds and to seize opportunities.” (Mitri Raheb, 2014, Faith in the Face of Empire, The Bible through Palestinian Eyes, Diyar Publisher, page 126). Raheb continues to argue in line with Steve Biko’s thinking, that the most potent weapon is what he calls the software – which is what people think. The designers and influencers of the software are powerful. The church must up its game in reflective engagements where God’s people help each other to “see, judge and act.”

Pimelo Ngidi wrote the book titled “The Pregnant Mind of an Orphan (https://myafricanbuy.com). In the book he speaks of not wanting to be imprisoned by where he comes from. Life in general is a matter of living in the tension between the world
as it is and the world as it could be. Ela Mange speaks of desensitization and the numbness that comes from over exposure to suffering. (Ela Mange, 2017, The Energy Code, MF Books JHB, page xv). It is only a closer walk with God that can heal our numbness. Whilst grounded in this real world, with all its ugliness, let us not lose sight of possibilities that can open us up to a journey with God.

The Call for Us today
Remember: it is God’s mission that has a church. Ours is a journey of obedience, humility and following God in dismantling destructive barriers and building bridges of life and healing.

Same-sex Conversation
Let me note as I end that the church has been in conversation around same sex relationships for a number of years now. It was in 2014 that the Conference affirmed the Theological Position of the MCSA on the debate as well as the Profession of Faith developed by DEWCOM. These are found in paragraphs 16 and 17 of Conference Miscellaneous Conference Resolutions on pages 226-228 of our Book of Order (Laws and Discipline). These statements have been applauded by many organisations including the Other Foundation whose representatives were invited to a dialogue with the Bishops with a view to equip the church in this conversation. The conversation is on-going and new resolutions keep coming.

I therefore ask the question of whether it is not time for Conference to call an inclusive 2 day reflective session inviting all relevant stake holders, theologians and church representatives early in the new year and ask them to produce a well thought out proposal to CQM’s and Synods in order to bring this conversation to a close or further pointed guidance at the 2020 Conference. We must continue conversations that connect people with God and with one another. “It is always good to connect people; connected people are more engaged; engaged people deliver exceptional results.” (Yolanda Lacoma and Martin Sutherland, 2018, Talent Talker, KR Publications).

On the website of the Tent of Nations in Palestine are the following words: “At the Tent of Nations, our call is to change hearts and to build a bridge between people and the land. We invite people to the farm, to come and see, then go and tell our story of faith, love and hope.” In their Easter Message, are the words: “The tomb is not the end of the story; it is the path into the new life. We are people of the resurrection, we are people of hope, and we are people of light. We don’t know what tomorrow will look like but our call will remain to change hearts even in times when we feel that we are still in the dark tomb.”

We are people called by God to walk humbly with Him in seeing and smoothing rough places. It is about seeing God’s glory together. Justice is what love looks like. Justice is not divisive. It has to include all struggles against injustice. Not in words but in action. Activism is not just words or self-aggrandizement but skin in the game.
There must be daily presence in the game. There is a price to be paid – which could be loss of income, loss in numbers etc. Gospel imperatives require sacrifice. Truth is not always in the majority. I end with a paraphrase prayer from Sabeel Wave of Prayers:

“Lord of suffering, help us to walk humbly with you in your suffering and the suffering of your people and creation. We pray for commitment to human rights by all sides and the protection of all lives, in every situation. Use us to ensure righteousness and justice in our actions of shaping tomorrow today. We pray to be present with you in rebuilding where destruction has occurred. We pray for peace and justice in our homes, streets, communities and nations. Wrap all and each of your people in your love. May it be so!” (https://sabeel.org).
THE PRESIDING BISHOP-ELECT’S REPORT

Rev. Purity Nomthandaso Malinga

Greetings and Gratitude

The Presiding Bishop, the Lay President, the General Secretary, General Secretary-Elect, Distinguished Ecumenical Guest, Bishops, lay Leaders, Unit Leaders, Conference delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I greet you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I thank the Presiding Bishop and the General Secretary for giving me the opportunity to say a few words at this Conference. I do not consider this an address but a reflection on what I consider to be priorities for us as we seek to sharpen our mission effectiveness.

Let me start with expressing words of gratitude to the Methodist people throughout the Connexion. I am humbled by the great confidence in me, to be elected as a spiritual leader of the MCSA. I consider this a great honour, privilege and a great responsibility. I take this responsibility in obedience to God, who I believe is at work in my life and in the life of Her church. Counting from 1883, this is the 130th Conference. The MCSA has had 100 Presiding Bishops – 90 white and 10 black men – the profile of Presiding bishops has been set by history. I, like many people, consider it brave and transformational for the Methodists to go against this solid history. This for me is not about an individual woman but about openly recognising and affirming women leadership in general! I can only praise God for bringing our church to this point. I certainly have no illusions about what lies ahead for me as an individual. There will be resistance, ridicule, sabotage, undermining – some rules of engagement will be changed etc. At the same time, I have no doubt that God will raise many who will offer help, care and support. The many messages of congratulations and prayer support from many Methodist people, have already strengthened my faith in God and my resolve to participate with the One seated on the throne saying “I am making everything new”. (Rev 21:5)

I am excited about the three sisters, Yvette, Charmaine and Faith who have been elected to be Synod Bishops. I have been the only woman among male bishops and that is an experience that I do not wish for any woman. I am excited about the endorsement by the majority of Synods of the 40/40/20 representation as a policy. These indicate to me that the Methodist people are committed to end the marginalisation of women and youth from the decision making structures of the church. We have not come to this point easily – there have been difficult conversations, at times hurt and disappointment – but thank God for bringing us here!
The Context

I must confess my ambivalence however, in celebrating the MCSA that affirms women in the context of the unabated gender-based violence and femicide experienced in South Africa. The humanity of women is diminished every day in our society and in churches. The women of South Africa in particular, have been and continue to be beaten, raped, killed, burnt and buried in shallow graves by men and in most cases with no serious consequences. Children have been molested and killed or hanged by men who roam the streets. In this our church – some women – young and old – are bleeding silently, having gone through violation by some men we respect!

There has been on and off outcries around those “lucky to be known” women whose stories are publicised. There has been Protest marches, vigils, memorial services, state sponsored funerals held in their names – which get turned into platforms of political speeches and popularity contests. Not much is said and done about countless unnamed women and children abused and killed after every three hours, in rural villages, townships and informal settlements. Which woman in SA is not afraid for her life or the life of her children! Women of SA are outraged! Enough is enough! I pray to God that there are enough men who are outraged too!

If indeed we believe as church we are called to proclaim the gospel that heals and transforms it is time to act. I am encouraged by the letter from the YMG President, Rev Geja, calling for practical actions at circuit and society levels. After all it is men who are the agents of gender-based violence. I add the following as urgent actions to be taken:

- Mobilise safe spaces/sessions in our churches for women to share their pains / get counselling. Centres of Hope Model – collaborate with Civil society, government departments where possible.
- Urgent review of our disciplinary processes, to take seriously sexual offenses. A system of discipline that protects the rights of perpetrators over the rights of victims is a scandal.
- Condemn, expose and deal decisively with acts of violence of men in our midst.
- Intentional teaching and preaching of messages that condemn patriarchy and promote transformative masculinity.

It was OR Tambo who said, “No country can boast of being free unless its women are free.” For me it is the same for the church. This church cannot boast of being progressive or free unless its women are free.

Violence in SA

An outcry is heard throughout the world, South Africa is burning again! The raging fires are turning businesses and property into ashes of nothingness! Black people, mostly youth are looting shops! Pictures on the media are shaming all who are South African! It is not clear who, what, why? Is it xenophobia, is it crime, is it politically sponsored chaos, what is it? Violent riots are destructive and are to be condemned.
However, as Dr Martin Luther King told the Americans:

“It is necessary to be as vigorous in condemning the conditions which cause persons to feel they must engage in riotous activities as it is to condemn the riots… In the final analysis, a riot is the language of the unheard”. (Speech at Stanford University entitled “The other America”)

It seems to me that these raging fires and looting taking place in Gauteng, KZN and in other parts of SA – represent the feelings of the unheard masses of the poor black people of this nation, who feel the rage of being turned into ashes of nothingness by poverty and unemployment. As the poor get desperate, the politicians and the rich get richer. The anger however is meted out wrongly, to the poorest of the poor – and that is unacceptable. No amount of anger or suffering justifies destroying and killing others. Among many things, these shameful acts indicate that not a lot has been done to heal the people of SA from the trauma of apartheid. While the previously advantaged continue with their usual lives, the previously disadvantaged are busy with self-destroying and self-hating actions. What do we do as church in this situation?

It is Dr Alan Boesak in his book, “Pharaohs on both sides of the blood-red waters”, who compares the church during Apartheid and in the democratic SA and laments:

“We became more and more mesmerised by Mandela and the ANC and became more and more embarrassed by Jesus”. (2017:216)

He accepts that the church was out-maneuvered and confused by democracy, but argues that the church of Jesus Christ is to be alert and forthright as Jesus was in his dealing with Herod and Pilate, even in the face of threats. He then calls the church in SA to a “prophetic theology”, – “a theology at the edge and with an edge” – “the edge of Jesus”. Simply put this is the old theology of liberation of the church that stands on the side of the poor and the oppressed against every form of injustice – recognising the struggling people as equals.

• For such a time as this my fellow Methodists, we are called back to a ministry of presence with and among the poor.
• In the cities, towns and townships where these lootings have taken place, there are men, women and children who have nothing – no food, clothes or shelter as we speak. Let us mobilise and offer practical help.
• Let our voices and actions be heard and seen condemning attacks of fellow Africans. Let us preach and practice humanity and equality of all before God, “For the Lord your God is the Lord of lords... who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt”. (Deut 10:19)
• Let us partner ecumenically and/or inter-faith and open our churches for conversations to build peace and social cohesion.
Let us be present with the poor as they engage community leaders about their struggles.
Let us engage the politicians at all levels and keep them accountable.

Solidarity with the poor is our calling as church irrespective of who they are and where they come from, irrespective of who is in government.

The MCSA

From its beginning, the Methodist church has been about the mission of God. Since 1998 we are guided by the vision of “a Christ healed Africa for the healing of nations” and a Mission Statement of “proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ for healing and transformation”. At the first Mission Congress in 2005 we affirmed our vision and mission as God given and committed ourselves to the five imperatives of mission i.e.

- Spirituality
- Justice, service and reconciliation
- Evangelism and church growth
- Development and economic transformation
- Education and Christian Formation.

At that congress we resolved to take intentional actions to implement the mission imperatives in specific areas. The Presiding Bishop has helped us as a Connexion to focus on these areas through the Conference themes over the years.

Eleven years after the first Mission Congress, in November 2016 we met in Pietermaritzburg at SMMS for the 2nd Mission Congress, to inspire passion for mission and to evaluate how well we have implemented the areas of engagement agreed on in 2005. The conversations at that congress revealed that the vision of a Christ healed Africa and our mission strategy remain relevant. What came out of the Listening Committee Report, which those who were at the congress agreed to, was that there are issues that hinder our mission effectiveness. It is those issues that I believe we need to work on as we sharpen our mission effectiveness going forward. I will comment on three only.

1. **Divisions**

   Pointing at divisions as the biggest obstacle to our mission effectiveness the committee writes:
   
   “We confess that we are a bruised and divided church, in which some are more equal than others… We exist in silos, not living out the communion of our community…”

   The missionary policy that was declared in 1958, that the Methodist church should be one and undivided remains an ideal. In a divided world the church of Christ is called to be a change agent, and model the value of unity and reconciliation. When we continue to divide ourselves according to race, ethnicity, class, gender, age, sexuality, and various cliques and groupings, we have no message to the
world. We go to the extent of turning mission groups and organisations into objects of division. In a divided church there are bound to be minorities whose voices, issues and concerns are ignored and a dominant group or groups – the more equal than others – whose issues dominate the agenda. Such a situation breeds hatred and endless conflicts.

As followers of Christ – the body of Christ – we are called to embrace each other. As Paul says: “In Christ Jesus, you are all children of God through faith. There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus”. (Gal 3:26-28)

Commenting on a church as a healing community Prof Musa Dube wrote:

“A church that still harbours patriarchy, racism, ageism, classism, heteronormativity, ethnocentrism and discrimination on the basis of physical challenge is a disease-spreading body. A healing church ensures that every member is given space to flourish in this our divine earthly home”. (Health and Healing as a Missional Focus: a Christ Healed Church is HIV Positive Church – in Mission Congress Resource Book, Page 89)

The power of the gospel we proclaim is that of unifying diverse groups of people, breaking down walls of hostility and building inclusive communities of love.

I dream of a Methodist church that is a spiritual home for all its members, where no one is made to feel rejected, where we all in our diversity find space to flourish. I believe this is a dream we all share. Inclusivity is our Methodist ethos, doctrine and heritage. “All people need salvation and all people can be saved to the uttermost”. This calls us to being intentional in breaking the barriers amongst us. We are to ask ourselves questions: Is this our society/circuit/synod/Connexion a space where children and youth flourish? What about people of another race, nationality, ethnic group etc. What actions are we to take?

- We are to prioritise and invest in the focused, holistic ministry and spiritual formation of children and youth if they are to flourish. As we talk shaping tomorrow today we must be intentional in spending resources to skill those who minister to children and youth.
- There is need for us to take bold, intentional and practical steps to build meaningful relationships that transcend ethnicism and racism.
- We need to be intentional in living out our connexionality and ensure a greater sense of belonging for all. I dream of a day when the Presiding Bishop of the MCSA or a Lay President will be a Methodist from Mozambique or Botswana.
- We cannot continue to ignore or avoid the voices, issues and concerns of the LGBTIQ members in our midst. The Proposal you made P.B. of a two day conversation might take us forward to being a church that listens and hears the cries of the marginalised. I am more encouraged by the emerging vocal
voices from the LGBTIQ members in our midst. It is in listening carefully to those voices that we will be led to at least, being comfortable in our divergent views.

- As we work for unity amongst ourselves, we dare not neglect the importance of ecumenical, inter-faith and civic organisations partnerships. The social, moral and economic challenges we face in the countries of our connexion demand that we partner with others for effective impact.

2. **Leadership**

Leadership is key to every organisation including the church. We live in a time where there is suspicion and mistrust of leaders. This is not uncommon amongst us and this issue was raised at the Mission Congress. There is a tendency of autocratic leadership in our church which is a blockage to our mission effectiveness. i.e. the understanding of leadership as power over others, domination, controlling and flexing muscles, leadership to be about self-gain and popularity.

Some of our leaders suffer from what is called “delusions of grandeur and adequacy”, or inflated egos. The consequences of these delusions are dire to the whole church. They affect relationships, create conflicts and turn people away from faith in God.

While leadership is shared between clergy and lay in the MCSA, clergy are leaders of mission and are role models of leadership in congregations. It is a missional strategy of the church to invest in training, forming and re-forming clergy into transforming and ethical leaders who will model “servant leadership” for the whole church. People learn better by seeing than just by hearing. As we learn from the elders who advised Rehoboam the son of Solomon,

“If today you will be a servant to these people … they will always be your servants”. (1Kings 12:7) As our Lord Jesus Christ taught us, “Those who are regarded as rulers of gentiles lord it over them. Not so with you. Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant”. (Mark 10:42f)

I dream of a Methodist church where “servant leadership” is not just spoken about but practiced by both lay and clergy leaders. Servant leaders are servants first. They share power and lead with others. They lead out of love not fear. In the socio-political context of leaders who are dictators, arrogant, greedy, corrupt and immoral, as church we are to model ethical leadership which is caring, humble, honest, transparent morally upright and accountable. It cannot be that the stories of leaders who do as they please – intimidating, bullying and victimising people continue amongst us. Stories of leaders who rail against church policies and use church resources for their gain. As leaders, clergy and lay we are to constantly ask ourselves if we have the moral stature, spiritual maturity, the will and competence to be leaders in God’s church. What are we to do?
• Leadership requires spiritual maturity and on-going personal empowerment and those in leadership are to be encouraged to take initiatives of spiritual enrichment and personal empowerment.
• We as church are to invest in continuing skilling of those in leadership.
• Our systems of accountability and mutual accountability are to be taken seriously.
• There is a need for a serious review of our systems of appointing leaders.

3. **Moral Behaviour**

In times and days where talking about unacceptable moral behaviour is seen as being out-dated, old-fashioned, being legalistic and up tight, the issue of lack of expected Christian behaviour was and continues to be raised as a hindrance to our mission effectiveness. Christian faith is about formation towards holiness. It is about daily being moved from actions that do not give glory to God. We need to be courageous and intentional in keeping each other accountable about our behaviours – guard against normalising the abnormal. We either attract or repel people from Christ or the MCSA by word and deed.

There is no time to comment on other issues highlighted at the Mission Congress e.g.

• Our disregard of the poor and the vulnerable in our midst
• Our failure to take environmental issues seriously – inability to connect soul, soil and society in how we do church.
• The need to prioritize teaching ministry in our churches etc.

Going forward therefore my dear Methodists – I do not believe we need a new vision. I do not believe we need more resolutions. Yes we do need to review some of our policies so they are more just! What I believe is that we need to live out our faith. We are the agents of healing and transformation wherever we are! As we seek to sharpen our effectiveness as a church the theme of this Conference reminds us that it is as we walk humbly with God that we will succeed. Remember the mission is not ours but God’s. God is at work shaping the world and has invited us to participate in this shaping. This invitation demands that we surrender to the will of God. The church that walks humbly with God is a praying church! Mission effectiveness is impossible without closeness to God. Steve Doughty, in his book “To walk in Integrity”, describes humbleness, or humility as consisting of three elements i.e. repentance, dependence and openness. He says, “The humble remain open to thoughts and perspectives different from their own… They have learned that even on issues where they possess passionate feelings, they shall never fully know the mind of God.” (2004; 60)

May God grant us enough humility to repent, to totally depend on God and be open to be led by God.

I thank you.
THE GENERAL SECRETARY’S REPORT

Rev. Charmaine Morgan

We stand on the brink of colossal and significant changes in the life of this Church. We do so with anticipation and faith, and so it is fitting that we enter this era of change with the Conference theme: Shaping tomorrow today: Walking humbly with God.

We will start 2020 with a new Presiding Bishop and a new General Secretary, with three more Synods than we have ever had before and more in the making. The Gender make-up of the Ministerial leadership of the Church will look as it has never looked before. Regarding Bishops, in 2020 we will have four new Bishops and in 2021, probably another five. In 2021 and 2022 we are likely to have yet a further four Synods.

I congratulate the newly appointed leaders, and express gratitude to those who are stepping down. The Presiding Bishop has been a leader worth following, a man of humility and wisdom and above all a deep love for his God and the church. It was a privilege to work with you, Sir. Heartfelt thanks also go to the Bishops over the past number of years, and the Unit Leaders as well as the whole staff at the MCO, and of course the Secretaries of Synod. Thanks must also be expressed to Rev Hansrod, the Shaping For Mission Enabler, who has worked tirelessly this year in making sure the detail of the birth of the new Synods are in order for launching in January 2020.

The Mission Passion of the Church
Since “The Journey to a New Land”, have we been talking about shifting from maintenance to mission. We have held two Mission Congresses, various mission consultations, and started reshaping the Connexion to enable mission, after various Conference and Synod themes on the matter.

We have long been talking about mission. And we continue to engage in a string of mission activities or projects that have changed some people’s lives. Circuits and Organisations do wonderful things for families, schools and communities. The problem with these kinds of projects, as good as they are, is that they make us think we are a church in Mission. But Mission is much greater, and much more personal, than projects. If Extensio Dei and Missio Dei are about the presence of God with people, projects cannot be the sum total of our mission. Mission to the church has to be like your blood type to a person. My O+ blood runs through my veins. Without my O+ blood, I collapse. Mission is what should run through our veins, our openness to the world around us, our concern for all creation, our ache for every person or community who is bruised and battered by life in whatever way. Our mission is nothing less than our healing presence wherever we are, and without that
mission blood streaming through our veins, the church collapses. Mission blood in our veins says if there are places we are not active, living the light and salt of the Gospel, it becomes our compulsion to become present in those places. We become the tangible expression of the presence of Jesus. Mission is more than a project or an outreach. It becomes our passion and our reason for being – from Class Meeting to Connexion.

But can we call ourselves a Missional Church when the church has to be begged to make use of the Mission Resource Fund for new work? Can we call ourselves a Missional Church when only a handful of tertiary institutions have chaplaincy when there are more than 140 public universities, TVET colleges and other tertiary institutions in our Connexion? Can we be called a Missional Church when there is an average of 31 baptisms per Circuit in the year (according to our statistics) – 11842 in the Connexion, when there were 1990437 children born in the countries of our Connexion last year?

I suggest that we have become very good at talking about mission, but it is still not in our DNA. Someone wrote a book entitled “The Continuing Conversion of the Church” – the MCSA needs continuing conversion.

New leadership, new structures, fresh probationers out of Seminary, new buildings are good, in fact they are great, but without the life-blood of mission running through us, they will become frustrated, stuck, and not very useful in the Kingdom of God or in the healing of the nations.

**Financial Wellbeing of Ministers**

We will talk about the Orders of Evangelism and Deacons shortly, so for now I refer to the Presbyterate.

We acknowledge that Ministers are in a Convenental relationship with the church, which differs from a normal contractual relationship most employees enter into with employers.

From a theological perspective, a Covenant is a stronger relationship with strong mutual responsibility toward one another. One part of the Convenental relationship is that Ministers receive a stipend, and never a package or a salary. Whereas a salary is compensation given to employees for services provided, a stipend is an amount paid to cover the cost of living. Part of the cost of living is taken care of by the provision of a Manse to live in, travel allowance to move about to do your work, as well as utilities and telephone costs being covered. Some of the cost of living is covered by the church, and some is given to the Minister in the form of a Stipend.

It is time, I believe, to give thought again to the Stipend.

All Probationers leaving Seminary are now on a Standard Stipend with no additional stipend. No Probationer receives more than another.
Ministers who earn less than the average stipend as calculated from actual stipend of the previous year, are augmented to this average stipend, automatically. This is what the Stipend Augmentation Fund does. From this year, this includes augmenting the individual’s pension contribution.

One burning issue that remains is that of Ministers who receive zero stipend because Circuits do not pay their assessment. This remains painful for the church, and excruciating for the Ministers. No Circuit is entitled to say their Minister does not deserve a stipend. It is never morally acceptable. There are often between 5 and 8 ministers in the Connexion who are receiving no stipend in a month. We have a way of assisting, but it is not ideal. It depends on reports, and that takes time and a chain of people to action the reports, it leaves the minister vulnerable, and such assistance is only for 3 months before Pastoral Commissions are required. These measures are important from an accountability perspective, but cause pain. We have to get to a position where no one needs to make use of this 3-month Voluntary Stipend Augmentation for Ministers who receive nothing. No one should go to their bank balance on the 25th of the month to find nothing paid in. Surely, this is what we need, for the sake of justice, and dignity for the minister, as well as the circuit’s fiduciary responsibility. We call on Synods and Circuits to eradicate the non-payment of Stipends.

Relating to Stipends what I want to place on the table, is what we call, Minimum Stipend. This terminology seemed to come into being in the Minutes of Conference many decades ago. When in the 1940s stipends are listed in the Minutes, they are listed as a Minimum stipend. Often it is noted in these old Minutes, that Circuits are urged to pay above this minimum amount as much as they can. The term is now in common use, and has for some become an excuse to give as low a stipend as possible. In other cases the term Minimum Stipend has become the Launchpad to “package negotiations” that at times lead to what could be called obscene and immorally large stipends for our context.

It is time to consider doing away with this mentality of scarcity, in describing stipends in terms of minimums, or a mentality of opulence in multiplying such minimum stipends.

Can we please consider doing away with the Minimum stipend, and migrate to what may be called, a Standard Stipend?

The finance people will have thoughts on this and the Doctrinal thinkers, and so too the Justice activists. So, I urge you to talk about what a Standard stipend would mean for us, and pursue the idea.

**Synergising the Orders**
Conference has directed that we consider the Order of Deacons and the Order of Evangelism together. In practise, there is a great synergy in their work, but
historically they have been racially exclusive, with the justice issues that resulted from such history.

The Committee on Synergising the Orders has been meeting, including strong participation from the orders themselves. It has produced a Report for Conference which proposes a new era. The report is found in the Blue Book section on the Orders.

The essence is that the Committee proposes that we reconfigure our work and establish one Order, which will umbrella a number of Ministries within the Order. All business of the Order will be dealt with in one chapter in the Book of Order, and it will have one Warden, and one Committee which will deal with the business of all the Ministries within the Order, including Candidature, training, stipends, accountability and all other matters relating to the Ministries. The proposal is although we do not do away with uniforms that have become iconic, we add an element of distinctiveness that brings the Orders together, such as for example, a uniquely designed cross to be worn by all, that expresses a common identity.

Further, that a central Committee of the Order be established by Conference to take on the further work of synergising, and to prepare for Conference further proposals in developing the Order, and even the possibility to add other Ministries to the Order, such as a Ministry of Lay Pastors within the Order, of people whose training and accountability should fall within the sphere of the Order.

When you look at the Statistics you will see that in the last year, we have reported through Synods, 143 Bible Women, 150 Evangelists, 103 Lay Pastors and 27 Active Deacons. It is time that we begin to bring under the accountability structures, those who are employed by the Church as Lay and Youth Pastors.

**Superintendents’ Consultations**

I report to Conference that this year we held four Consultations bringing together in four regions, the Superintendents of Circuits in the Connexion. The fifth region, Mozambique, is still to take place. We are grateful to the Superintendents for their time and effort in making the journey to our meeting places.

We know well that the Church depends greatly on Superintendent Ministers for our mission, our pastoral and prophetic role in church and society, and for administration and leadership of the church.

Our interactions were very helpful to the Unit Leaders who were part of the team, and the Presiding Bishop, in various ways. Some conversations in these Consultations were enlightening, some were difficult, and on reflection these sessions were very beneficial in terms of information sharing, raising of issues and questions, and taking steps in building the Connexional Team we are meant to be.
MCSA financing model and the Connexional assessment calculation of Assessments

In response to a Conference Resolution from 2017 and preliminary Conference Report in 2018, here is a brief outline of a new Assessment Model that may be considered by the Connexion.

This is at the stage of proposal, and the process to be undergone is:

It is proposed to Conference that a comprehensive proposal be put to the Finance Unit Executive in the last quarter of 2019, and that the Finance Unit Executive is directed by Conference to consider the proposal and prepares a document to be sent to Circuit Quarterly Meetings and Synods for feedback and decision at Conference 2020.

The apportioning of costs within an enterprise is a complex task. Whatever method is used to apportion costs within the MCSA must be simple, just and transparent. It must not impede ministry and mission.

It is proposed that the current model of apportionment of a Circuit’s contribution to Connexional costs where the calculation is based on stipends paid within a Circuit should be replaced by a model in which the apportionment is based on Circuit income.

The proposed model seeks to be transparent and just. It matches higher assessments with wealthier Synods and Circuits and delinks the distribution of agency from the apportionment, allowing for appropriate agency in poorer districts. It also provides a restraint on the possible growth of Connexional expenses.

1. Proposal

It is proposed that the amount required by the Connexion be apportioned across the circuits based on the Income of each circuit. The two primary considerations are:

(a) The apportionment would be a fixed percentage of the Income, and
(b) The percentage would remain constant over years with periodic but infrequent adjustment by Conference.

From the data analysed it is evident that an amount of R22,826,753 was raised in 2018 through Circuit assessments, and that the total income across all Synods was R475,531,799.

The ratio of the total assessments (at the time of first calculation) of total Income is 4.8%. We propose that the requirements of the Connexion are apportioned to each Circuit based on 4.8% of the circuit’s income. The figure of 4.8% will be referred to as the Apportionment Rate.

The success of the new approach is predicated on the declaration of Income and the submission of Schedule 4 documentation. Current experience is that there
are Societies and Circuits which do not submit returns timeously, but there are mitigating factors:

- The Schedule 4 documents are based on audited financial data and there must be a presumption that all Income has been declared. The penalties for falsifying data are extreme.
- We propose that where a Society/Circuit does not submit its Schedule 4, the Income of that Society/Circuit is presumed to have increased by 20% per annum since the last valid return. This is in line with the current practice of imposing a 20% penalty on circuits who do not submit their Schedule 4C documents.

2. Apportionment at Synod Level

Each Synod would have the freedom to change the apportionment between circuits within the Synod, based on missional, economic and justice issues, provided that the total contribution of the Synod remains the same.

Each synod has the prerogative to spread the apportionment between its circuits in a manner best suited to the context of the synod and its individual circuits.

All Schedule 4 documents are required to be lodged with the Synod Treasurer some time prior to the Annual Synod so that they can be submitted together with the District returns within two weeks of the rising of the Annual Synod. This means that the Annual Synod will be able to form a view of the total income of the Synod and the consequent total apportionment.

Using the Apportionment Rate, it is possible to calculate a new assessment for each Circuit within a Synod. Cape of Good Hope is our model for the exercise below to see the kind of impact on Circuits. It is noticeable from this table that even though in the case of Synod 1, the overall apportionment to the Synod is higher than the previous assessment model, nevertheless there are some circuits within the Synod where the new apportionment is lower than the previous assessment.

The Circuit with the lowest income in the Synod is 13 Central Karoo. This circuit currently pays the lowest assessments within the Synod, but this is 6.7% of its total income. By contrast Circuit 21, the Circuit with the 2nd highest income, pays only 4.4% of its total income in assessments. The Central Karoo Circuit currently (i.e. in 2017) has a probationer stationed as its sole agent. It could be argued that this circuit would benefit enormously from having an ordained, experienced minister but this will be unaffordable under the current assessment model.

Application of the proposed model would result in a reduction of assessments for Central Karoo of R6,610 or 28.2%. In similar vein Circuit 15 Namaqualand pays the highest percentage of income towards assessments – a full 7%. In absolute terms it pays significantly more than Circuit 27 Stellenbosch which has a 78%
higher income than Namaqualand. While Namaqualand does have ordained agency, it is a circuit which struggles financially, and which is considered a “missional” circuit within Synod. Application of the proposed model would result in a reduction of assessments from Namaqualand of R36,000 or 31.7%.

Analysis Conclusions
This brief analysis of the Circuits within a single synod gives some insight into the issues raised by the proposed new apportionment system. It indicates
(a) That some of the circuits with lower incomes would benefit from a revision of the calculation.
(b) That some of the circuits with higher incomes could potentially afford to pay higher assessments.

That careful consideration will need to be given to those high-income circuits which carry a greater burden.

Way Forward
It is proposed to Conference that a comprehensive proposal be put to the Finance Unit Executive in the last quarter of 2019, and that the Finance Unit Executive is directed by Conference to consider the proposal and make any necessary amendments and prepares a document to be sent to Circuit Quarterly Meetings and Synods for feedback and decision at Conference 2020.

Membership Returns
Our Membership returns continue to be a challenge, and we understand it will take time and persistence to develop accurate statistics. We do not give up, however. The Schedule as it is for 2018 is attached. A few informational statistics to mention:

We have 5309 Societies and Preaching Places. 24 were closed last year, 8 being in the Highveld and Swaziland Synod. 48 stations were opened, 21 being in Clarkebury and 7 in Queenstown Synod.

We have 16136 Local Preachers and 4409 Children’s Practitioners – that is LESS than one Children’s’ ministry Practitioner per Society if the statistics are accurate – not a good picture at all. It speaks of very low priority still being given to the work with children in our churches.

A Glance at Our History
Next year we commemorate 200 years since the arrival of Rev William Shaw in the Eastern Cape on board the ship of British Settlers who arrived to settle in the Eastern Cape, an event that turned out to greatly shape the Methodist Church in this part of the world, with a string of mission stations having been established by and through the influence of William and Anne Shaw, that have had incredible impact on the people of what is now the Eastern Cape, and eventually, the sub-continent.
A route map and description is being developed and will be on our website for Methodists to travel from where Shaw landed, to all the mission stations. Also available to commemorate the beginning of a wave of Methodism in the Eastern Cape, is a Calendar for 2020, with photo’s of the surviving churches and mission stations as they look today. Have a look, and place your order.

**Conclusion**

I am grateful for the trust that the church has placed in me to serve the MCSA in this position for the past 5 years, and return to Circuit having experienced and learnt much, grateful that I could contribute in a small way from a Connexional perspective, to this church we serve and love.
THE LAY PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mr J Mabhalane Nkosi

I thank the Triune God for the unmerited favour He has given us to be part of this divine gathering, meeting here in Cape Town, the mother city of one of the states which form part of the Connexion of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA) at this era when the narrative about 4th industrial revolution is not just in the lips but its products are visible in the eyes of us all.

1. Introduction
It is out of the Triune God’s unmerited favour that it’s not the robotics that stands before this majestic gathering to present my fifth report during my second year of my second term of office but me in person doing it. This report outlines the following aspects among others: the overview objectives set for the period under review; what has been achieved since the last Conference of 2018; the abridged highlights and challenges encountered during the process of doing God’s work as well as the future plans and some responses to matters referred by 2018 Conference, and precedes the conclusion with an observation on what God’s people experience whilst either having entered into a covenantal or a voluntary agreement to do God’s mission in church.

2. Objectives Set for the Period Under Review
The objectives that were set for the period under review were: To motivate the church at all levels to use every member ministry (EMM) model as a tool of promoting an intentional involvement of laity in various ministries, working in partnership with the clergy; to visit Synods with the narrative to empower laity as well as clergy with regards to embracing and implementation of the strategies that can suitably make mission in the church and in the community to be a concrete and realizable witness of the church. This refers to the narrative that when God’s ambassadors demonstrate unity when doing God’s mission, the community learns from such observable actions how to forge unity.

3. Lay President Office Work Responsibilities
This Office is being guided by the framework mentioned in paragraphs 5.8.2 and 5.8.3 of the Laws and Discipline which is the Book of Order of the MCSA:

3.1 (a) Represented the Church at Inductions and SMMS events and Conventions;
(b) Attended the All Africa Methodist Church Congress in Nairobi;
joined the MCSA pilgrims on a learning pilgrimage to Palestine;
attended meetings of all Connexional Committees and SMMS;
3.2 Visited ten (10) Districts and some Circuits. I was not able to visit KNB because of certain challenges, but that will be done early in the new year. Synods had good attendance, and at the end of the teaching and training sessions, committed themselves to follow their specific contextual way forwards with great intention of improving mission in their Societies, Circuits and Synods.

4. Highlights and Achievements
4.1 Development of Tools
Seven electronic presentations which has been used during the teaching and training visits to the ten (10) synods were developed.

4.2 Support of the Training
The training on EMM mission project received an overwhelming support from these ten (10) synods. Attendees at these trainings voiced their views that the information they were receiving was long overdue and suggested that it be quickly cascaded to all church members. One observed that people were yearning for knowledge, and at the end they made a commitment to share this knowledge in their societies, circuits and synods.

4.3 Message sent by Conference to Methodists
The Lay Leaders’ Consultation which was organised, facilitated by the Lay President’s Office and hosted at East London by Queenstown Synod, was a great success. This Consultation, interrogated issues that it picked from the message sent out to all Methodists to consider in their respective societies, circuits and synods. Discussions at the Consultation led to formulation of proposals that helped many Synod Lay Leaders to implement the strategic direction given by Conference to Methodists. Lay Leaders in their reports demonstrated that they have been able to follow these proposals in their spaces of operations.

4.4 Content of the Training
After training on EMM model and its Implementation Strategies (IS), some synods realised the importance of the content of the training and felt that Ministers too need to receive it. Those synods in their way forwards resolved that they see it necessary to arrange again sessions of this kind of training for both Laity and all Ministers since some Ministers could not attend, because of numerous other commitments.

4.5 Value for Money and Effective Utilisation of Time
One wishes to register that Limpopo Synod Leadership being guided by the principles of value for money and effective time utilisation, used an opportunity to invite the Lay President to come and empower all laity
that had arrived early with their clergy who were to attend Ministers’ Convocation on 15 May a day prior to Synod sitting. I used that time and space to introduce the EMM concept, model and the IS. The entire teaching and training on EMM and IS to Limpopo Synod will happen before the end of 2019. People who attended this laity empowerment endeavour at the end voiced that what they received was value for money information which they believe will help them in their societies, circuits and synod, and they commended the strategy the way time was utilised whilst the clergy was still in the convocation.

4.6 Gift of Giving and its Importance
A climax prevailed in July 2019 at Clarkebury Synod where being guided by the same principles that guided Limpopo, I was able to use an opportunity to talk to the Synod Leadership and some business people about the Gift of Giving and its importance. This happened before the Saturday morning training took place. The engagement I had with both the leadership and the business people was seen to have brought a new dawn regarding strategies of giving.

4.7 Workshops and Training
Lay Leaders have been able to conduct successful workshops and training relating to numerous issues like importance of Synod, Circuit and Society statistics, conflict management, financial management, teamwork, Trust Properties, revival of class meetings, improvement of work relations, women and youth leadership, roles and responsibilities of Society and Circuit Stewards, culture of giving, establishment of mission for a, leadership, youth empowerment, including career guidance, teaching on the new stationing procedure, Health Related issues and celebration of heritage.

5. Challenges
5.1 Changing the Brief
During the execution of the teaching and training schedule which was approved in September 2018, some challenges occurred where some Synods did not follow the brief they were given when it comes to who to invite to attend the EMM teaching and training sessions. The deviation from the brief by some Synods led to poor attendance. This kind of act was construed by attendees as an act of deliberate hindrance to knowledge flow to the church members who happen to be clergy and laity that in the space of the church have to do mission. The synods that experienced poor attendance, were questioned by the attendees about this. The attendees further asked their Synod Leadership to commit to re-arrange with the office of the Lay President some other times for him to come back again to do the training.
5.2 Financial Constraint to Produce Training Tools
The Lay President’s Office had a challenge of being unable to produce paper bound modules needed by some synods, because of financial constraints. However synods got electronic information which they were to print for their Societies, Circuits and Synods.

5.3 Degree of Commitment, Knowledge and Pariah-ism
The challenges faced by some Synods are lack of commitment, lack of knowledge and understanding of roles which lead to conflicts in some Circuits, small fraction leadership which is active in church, struggle of placement and acceptance of agents in circuits due to insufficient financial resources or mounting rejection, lack of co-operation between clergy and laity, lay leadership being viewed with suspicion by some Ministers. These challenges have been found to be disturbing mission.

6. Future Plans
This Office commits to assist all Synods in enlightening church leadership about the EMM model and its IS until the two are mastered by all. This Office will use the electronic material that has been produced. The Office will continue motivating for and selling the strategies of An Absolute Anger Debriefing Programme (AADP) to be embraced and implemented in those circuits who have had conflicts or feuds.

This Office will further continue to encourage Synods and circuits to embark on the programme of mentorship for new leaders who have been elected or appointed to start doing what they have been elected or appointed to do.

In dealing with pariah-ism which is an unhealthy practice that sows divisions, rejection or treating others as outcast or less important, this office encourages leaders to use all possible and healthy leadership strategies to prevent this phenomenon from invading the space of the life of the church, and uproot it once they found that it has crept in.

7. Matters Referred by Conference
The Consultation of Synod Lay Leaders facilitated by the Lay President, interrogated the issues that were sent out to all Methodist people for them to consider when they do mission in their Societies, Circuits and Synods. The kind of discussion that took place at the Consultation helped many Synod Lay Leaders to be able to implement some of the recommendations, because they were having more insights about them.

8. Lay President’s Observations
The scripture in Genesis 37:4-28 teaches us how Joseph was rejected and treated as an outcast by some of his brothers. I submit that they ganged up to reject him,
because of the gift he had which they could not take away from him. I propose to say they were jealous. His one brother called Reuben tried to intervene, because he did not like the ganging up act, but the other brothers who one would submit had assumed the position of tricksters (amaqili), outwitted Reuben and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites. When it is God’s people who reject and treat someone as an outcast or less important, one wonders how they feel when they see that person in a well in the wilderness like what happened to Joseph. If I’m allowed, may I canvass and equate such an act as an act of pariah-ism or pariah-dom which could either be concealed or revealed with the gangers.

8.1 Space of Pariah-ism
Methodists, pariah-ism happens anywhere and it does not give notice when it starts. Therefore, it is important to Be Careful, Be Careful and Be Careful of pariah-ism or pariah-dom, whether it’s a concealed or revealed one, it’s a crude and very dangerous phenomenon. It may be directed to a Minister or Ministers, or to a lay person or lay persons or a certain category of leadership in the church. One has observed that this act seems to be incrementally creeping-in during our time in some of our spaces of life. Unfortunately, pariah-ism invasion in a space sometimes is triggered by fear or insecurity.

8.2 Dangers of Pariah-ism
The danger of this animal called pariah-ism is that those who venture on it are driven by hearts of jealousy. Where pariah-ism has invaded the space like a mole, it hinders healthy communications and growth through its process of sowing a seed of looking down upon others, a seed of fear of the unknown and a seed of feeling deliberately ignored. In some instances, pariah-ism may become a breeder of adverse feuds and conflicts at different levels and structures of the functioning of the church.

I am afraid, this animal called pariah-ism could act as a deadly disease to the leadership, society, circuit and synod that have been functioning well. It is dangerous in the sense that once it attacks any space, including the life of the church, it becomes difficult for anyone to uproot it, because it might have spread itself insurmountably.

In many instances it disturbs supposed good relationships between people and it compromises healthy mission. This can be attested when one observes how disturbed were the relationships between Joseph and his brothers, because of the dreams he had innocently shared with them and he was construed by his brothers to be thinking that he is better than them. This thought led Joseph’s brothers to be suspicious towards him and pariah-ism kicked-in at that time. So, the church needs to be careful of pariah-ism in any space. Pariah-ism needs to be managed.
8.3 **Church’s Sense to Pariah-ism**

I believe the MCSA way back in 1993 had foreseen this revelation and resolved to come up with a strategy to prevent its potentiality of creeping into the church by accepting the implementation of the vision of intentional involvement of laity in leadership which includes advocacy for respect of clergy and laity leadership respectively.

In my view, the MCSA envisioned that if she does not proactively forge intentional shared leadership whose prescripts in this case include promotion of clergy and laity partnership work, the church in her life time would be confronted by this animal called pariah-ism which unfortunately promotes the narrative of rejection of certain people for reasons known to the rejecters. If by any mistake there is a structure or sector in the church that overlooks implementation of this noble vision of shared leadership, such a structure or sector overlooks this at its own peril.

I therefore wish to submit the proposal to the church leadership at different levels, that in order for it not to find itself entangled in pariah-ism leadership, it needs to seriously accept co-existent leadership and intentionally implement its golden principles. I commend the engagement one had with 10 synods in the past as I was crisscrossing the Connexion for a period of nine months starting from September 2018 to July 2019, where they grappled with these golden principles to their satisfaction.

8.4 **The Yields of Correct Actions**

If all leaders embrace and follow the call of acceptance of co-existent leadership, it will help them prevent dangers of pariah-ism, and any other actions that would compromise mission in the church, the MCSA in particular, and her Ecumenical partners.

I believe that the success in preventing pariah-ism from sticking out its head in the space of the life of the church, calls for all leaders at different levels without exception, to venture on an intentional collaborative and shared leadership approach which can take God’s mission in the church to a higher pedestal. I further believe that if pariah-ism finds no space anywhere, members would love and accord respect to everyone and avoid rejecting or treating or judging others as outcasts. Mother Theresa once gave a warning that “If you judge people, you have no time to love them”. Mother Theresa was discouraging the tendency of judging people. So love doesn’t judge but it goes with genuine respect, not pretentious or pseudo respect.

The forebears of Methodism and Laity Involvement vision, one of them who is still present with us in the church militant, Rev. Dr. S. Mogoba, and the other one who is late and now with the church triumphant, Rev. Dr. K Mgojo, would be happy to see the respect and love MCSA leaders have for
the vision of laity involvement mission they so passionately advocated for, they loved and respected so much as God’s mission and not humankind’s agenda.

9. Conclusion
   In conclusion, may I canvass you that once you have read this report and heard what observations have been made in it, to join me to listen, to discern about it and invite the Holy Spirit to interpret it and let it speak to the spaces of our lives and the church in particular who is the light of the world, the eyes and ears of the Creator. Once it speaks to all who read it, I believe they will not be quiet when they notice any signs of pariah-ism surfacing in the church, but will act by treating the root cause accordingly. According to some sources, Napoleon once said, “The world suffers a lot not because of the violence of bad people but because of the silence of good people”. If this is something to go by, the church needs to Be Careful not be silent towards pariah-ism but strive to uproot it when it occurs.
REPORT OF THE GENERAL TREASURER
TO CONFERENCE 2019

Mrs TN Ngonyama

Presiding Bishop Rev Siwa – soon to be a supernumerary, Rev Malinga – PB elect, General Secretary – Rev Morgan, General Secretary Elect – Rev Hansrod, the lay President, Mr Nkosi, Bishops, Leaders of units, members of Conference, I bring warm greetings from the whole team at the Finance Unit in Bruma and greet you all the wonderful name of our redeemer and comforter, Jesus Christ.

In 2015, when I made my maiden address to this Conference which was hosted in the Grahamstown Synod, I reflected on the book of Colossians 3: 23 “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men”. This scripture, in line with our theme for this Conference, and opening address of the presiding bishop delivered last night still resonates with me. I look back at the past 4 years and 9 months of my tenure as a steward of the MCSA’s resources; it can only be through God’s sustaining Grace and care that I can still, despite the rough and sometimes, muddy waters, still stand.

It has been a tough terrain and I continue to wrestle with the vision of the future we are to build today; given the level of disregard we sometimes give to being the good stewards that we are required to be.

The recent superintendent’s consultations across the connexion opened and created spaces for us to engage on various matters of the church, mine being around the accountability, ethical behaviour and prudent use of resources.

“The man who complains about the way the ball bounces is likely to be the one who dropped it.” (Lou Holtz)

“Responsibility equals accountability equals ownership. And a sense of ownership is the most powerful weapon a team or organisation can have.” (Pat Summitt)

With responsibility, comes accountability.

1. Administration/Operational Matters

The Finance Unit’s scope of administration includes but is not limited to pension funds, insurances, medical aid and property.

The Unit administers stipends for 829 Ministers, Deacons, Evangelists and Biblewomen, as well as 734 Supernumeraries/Beneficiaries.

We also manage the various church funds and are an administrator of the pension funds for the church.
We have engaged in a number of roadshows, training sessions and various other communication channels. This is aimed at ensuring transparency and accessibility of the finance unit.

The team is in engagements with the regulators of our countries in the connexion as we journey with God into the new structures on regulatory and legislative requirements regarding tax, property, insurance and medical.

2. Staff Matters
The unit employs committed professionals in various disciplines and we strive to always improve on governance, process and procedures. I would like to extend a word of gratitude to my colleagues who have not only given of themselves but also go the extra mile when required to serve the Church.

3. Financial position of the Church for the Year ended 31 December 2019
Socio-economic challenges, job losses, the political climate in Africa and the world, trade wars, the emergence of 4IR and crypto currencies has resulted in markets not performing as expected in the year 2018. The value of money has dropped drastically and affordability continues to challenge us. The Church needs to position itself such that it is able to generate income streams that will provide buffers against adverse market conditions. Despite the negative returns, we are optimistic that markets will continue to improve as they have done in the year to date.

I wish to extend a work of gratitude to the Investment and advisory subcommittee for their insight and advisory functions in ensuring that we are invested in accordance with our investment policies and appetite.
You will also note crucial resolutions on property strategies that seek to disrupt our normal way of thinking as a Church that envisions a future. The world is revolving around us. We cannot continue to afford to operate in silos and hog resources. It is a call on us to start breaking the barriers that separate as the PB put it to us last night.

4. Mission Resource Funding
In 2015 Conference approved a resolution by which 25% of what comes into the Church Reserve Fund is used annually for Church Planting.
In Building tomorrow, today, it is our recommendation that priority be given to funding new work in the new Synods. There is a resolution to this effect in your resolutions books.

5. Insurances Matters
Keeping insurance premiums manageable is increasingly becoming a challenge. The market has become harder to navigate, thus it is crucial for us to ensure that our property regulations and processes are adhered to.
The Church Insurers require full details on who our tenants are Connexionally and what risk measures are in place. A risk for the MCSA is that we do not always know who our tenants are. Synod Trust Properties Secretaries are urged to ensure that occupancy registers are kept and submitted to the MCO as required.

6. **Stipend Augmentation Fund**

I am pleased to report that despite challenging market conditions, the Stipend Augmentation fund committee brings recommendations which seek to enhance the pensions of our ministers stationed in Mozambique by assisting them partly with contributions to their pensions in addition to the amount set aside in the fund to augment stipends.

We have noted the challenges posed by incapacitation due to ill-health to both ministers and circuits; as such there is a further proposal that seeks Conference to apply its mind when we get to resolutions.

This report is enclosed. I would like to thank the chair of this committee, Bishop Rivas, for his leadership.

7. **Pension Fund Matters**

The focus of my tenure has been to enhance governance and ensure that the trustees of the Pension Funds are able to execute their fiduciary responsibility in accordance with the pensions funds act.

We are pleased to announce that in 2018 we appointed Mr Craig Taylor as our independent Principal Officer on the Funds. We have also started engaging with various services providers who have expertise in occupational health matters, particularly in cases of ill-health and the well-being of our members of the funds.

Our trustee election process and the management of beneficiary funds have also been streamlined and are governed accordingly through the expertise of service providers who have the expertise and appropriate technological requirements.

The interim valuation results of the Methodist Supernumerary Fund (the “Fund”) as at 31 December 2018 revealed the funding level of the Pensioners’ Fund to be 106.9% and was therefore in a financially sound position.

The Fund is 100% funded and is in a financially sound condition at the valuation date, 31 December 2018

8. **Arrears and non-submission of Schedules**

The Arrears report is enclosed in the delegate’s files.

The due date for submissions of 4C and 4S schedules to the MCO is within 2 weeks of Synod rising. As at 8th August, 138 4C schedules had still not reached
the MCO and I am also disappointed at the number of inaccurately completed schedules that we have received.

We continue to risk losing the tax exemption status of the MCSA by not complying with submission requirements.

Perhaps I should highlight what’s at stake for us:
- Exemption from donations tax – Sect 56(1)(h)
- Exemption from Estate Duty tax re estates of deceased persons – Sect 4(h).
- Exemption from income tax on receipts and accruals – Sect 10(1)(cN)

9. Conclusion

We can only improve with feedback, communication and cooperation. Let us know where the needs are. We will in turn do our best to train, inform and equip.

I would like to thank the PB at this point for not only being a boss, but a chief pastor through some of the most difficult moments. The GS for being the extra pair of eyes and for swimming upstream with me.

The Finance Unit Executive plays a crucial role in ensuring that we are executing the mandate of Conference. Thank you for the guidance. I’d like to take this moment to encourage the colleagues at MPH as we still try to get that ship to keep sailing.

My team at the Finance Unit for all their dedication, handwork, commitment and passion for Christ despite the challenges. Most importantly I would like to encourage the connexion at large, especially Bishops and Treasurers – work with us, talk to us and guide.

10. Reports for Approval and Adoption

The 2018 audited Annual Financial Statements for the MCO, the Methodist Millennium Resource Fund, the Finance Unit Order of Business together with the Arrear Reports, the Unit Budgets, Reports on the Pension Funds, amendments to policies and all other relevant reports are attached to the Finance Unit Report section. These reports were dealt with extensively at CE and were enclosed for delegates prior to arriving at Conference. I therefore present this en-bloc for adoption.

As John Wesley put it “Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In All the places you can. At all times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can”.

Thank you.

Mrs TN Ngonyama
General Treasurer
SYNOD REPORTS
Introduction
In writing this report as a reflection of the work and ministry of the Cape of Good Hope Synod for 2018/2019, in its 213th year of existence and 190th Annual Synod, I am acutely aware that this has been a season of transition, following the appointment of our former Bishop, the Rev Michel Hansrod, to the responsibility of Connexional Mission Enabler for 2019, and his election as General Secretary beginning 2020. We thank God for his passionate and visionary leadership, including his institutional memory, attention to detail, hospitality, hard work, and commitment to the training and development of missional leaders in the years he served as Synod Supervisor of Studies and then as Synod Bishop. We honour the gift of his wife, Mrs Tania Hansrod and their daughter, Tamia too, and are thankful for the many sacrifices made by them in seeking to be faithful to the call and responsibility laid upon him as mission leader of this Synod.

Synod Overview
At present the Synod spans a wide geographic area, reaching into the Southern area of Namibia, Northern Cape Provincial boundary, areas of the Southern Cape, the vast spaces of the Karoo, the fertile Cape Winelands, wet Cape Peninsula, and beautiful Southern Suburbs with its views of Table Mountain, named as one of the “New 7 Wonders of Nature.” Our latest Synod statistics reveal that our Synod is made up of over 60 000 members and adherents, 71 active ministers, 219 Societies and Preaching Places, 992 Local Preachers, 6 active Bible Women, 5 Active evangelists, 20 Lay Pastors, 6 268 children and young people and 440 Child Practitioners, as well as a number of Pre-Schools and early childhood developments centres, Children’s Homes and Homes for the Aged, a Home for destitute pregnant mothers and 2 Lay Counselling Centres. This stands as a testimony to lives that are touched daily by the grace of God working through the hands, hearts and prayers of so many who are seeking to be faithful to God’s missional call to be a transforming discipleship movement.

1. Objectives and Highlights for the New Year
1.1 The proposed vision and objectives for the year were set in the yearly joint Indaba of Superintendent Ministers, Organisations and Units, in which it was heard that events do not equate to ministry. A commitment was made to slow down, do less, and follow God more faithfully. To this end, taking into account the Connexional theme of Together with all God’s Creation, the Ministers’ Retreat took place in the beautiful surroundings of Goedgedagt
Farm in Riebeek Kasteel, in order to seek the “living waters” of Christ. Under the direction of the Rev Dr Rachel Mash, ministers were encouraged to listen to God through nature and in relationship with others, committing themselves to touch the earth lightly in close company with the loving Creator of all things good.

1.2 A renewed commitment was made to matters of compliance, governance and understanding the Methodist Church as a whole by holding one another accountable as well as to training in critical areas. To this end lay training days were held with the “Every Member Ministry” model of the Connexional Lay President, a Lay Training day under the auspices of the Synod EMMU Committee and Lay Leader, a Finance Training Day led by the Synod Treasurer, Circuit and Society Stewards consultative training and information day, Connexional Superintendents Regional Training Seminar in Port Elizabeth, the completion of Ministerial Reviews for all ministers in the Synod, and regular communication on governance matters from the Synod Office.

1.3 Following the 2016 Mission Congress, the vision was born to gather the Synod in worship and teaching in order to enthuse and inspire people for mission. Under the banner of “Methodists Ablaze”, this gathering took place in June, focusing on areas such as multi-generational Church, Marketplace Discipleship, transformational worship and Missional Leadership from a Wesleyan perspective. A resource booklet will be produced and will be made available to the Connexion.

1.4 Following the 2018 Connexional Theme – Shaping Tomorrow Today, Circuits have sought to engage in areas of Children and Youth Development, both in Church leadership and programmes such as Youth Alpha, Youth workshops, a Children’s Practitioner’s Indaba, youth choirs, spiritual dance groups, active Wesley Guilds, Youth Groups, Brigades, successful Holiday Clubs run in many Circuits and on an ecumenical basis, some offering free dental, and medical clinics and interactions with local community projects like the Department of Safety, SPCA, library services, etc. A commitment was made from a number of Circuits in electing one Circuit Steward/or Society Steward under the age of 35, and the appointment of a part-time University chaplain continued to pioneer an active Methodist presence on the various university campuses.

1.5 We celebrate signs that many of our formal Synod Organisations are attempting to create synergy in their Mission and Ministry programmes, culminating in a joint mission funding project for the year in support of Sencit Home for the Aged. Further focus areas in the past year includes divorcees, widows and parenting step children, health and wellness issues and gender justice.

1.6 The work of the EMMU remains one of the highlights of the Synod, with the exceptional work of discernment, training, testing and development of
both lay and ministerial persons taking place through the Local Preachers Department, School of Discipleship, Internship Programme, Synod Lay Training and EMMU Screening Committees, all under the leadership of our Synod Supervisor of Studies.

1.7. We look forward to the hosting of the 130th Annual Conference in a true colourful Cape Town spirit, and celebrate the hard work of the Coordinating Committees and participating volunteers at every level of preparation.

2. Challenges and Opportunities for the New Year

Two major challenges and opportunities are central in the future planning of the Synod:

2.1 To develop Heatherdale Children’s Home into a Residential Child and Youth Care Facility with a specialised focus programme for children with substance abuse challenges. To this end the present residential care programme of vulnerable children closed on 31 March with all the children successfully rehomed in co-operation with the Department of Social Development, and preparations being made to establish the new programme some time in 2020.

2.2 To participate in the birthing of the new Mission Synods and ongoing Boundaries conversations, notwithstanding some concerns, whilst celebrating of the gift of the participating Circuits and Societies who will form part of the new Mission Synods, viz. Central Karoo, Outeniqua and Oranjemund.

Conclusion

This Synod, in understanding that discipleship is God’s gift to the world, is committed to the priesthood of all believers in relationship between Lay and Ministerial, taking seriously our ecumenical relationships, and partnering with appropriate community programmes, seeking to respond to the movement of God’s Spirit in relevant, contextual and imaginative ways, as we serve Christ with passion. To this end, the words of Professor NT Wright, author and Research Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at the University of St Andrews, Scotland, serve as a challenge in our ongoing call in Shaping Tomorrow Today,

“...left to ourselves we lapse into a kind of collusion with entropy, acquiescing in the general belief that things may be getting worse but that there’s nothing much we can do about them. And we are wrong. Our task in the present ... is to live as resurrection people in between Easter and the final day, with our Christian life, corporate and individual, in both worship and mission, as a sign of the first and a foretaste of the second.”

NT. Wright, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*
GRAHAMSTOWN SYNOD REPORT
TO CONFERENCE 2019

Bishop Jacob Freemantle

Preamble
This report is written at a critical time in the history of our country and Church. Our
country’s citizenry has just conducted a peaceful election for President Ramaposa
and the African National Congress to whom we extended our congratulations.
Included in our prayers and congratulations were all Premiers and their Parties
who won elections in their various Provinces. We continue to pray that President
Ramaposa will take bold leadership in ruling out corruption, which has not only
tarnished the image of this beautiful country, but also wastes resources that
would have been used for service delivery. We also pray that he would be at the
forefront of leadership in tension riddled discussions such as the expropriation of
land without compensation, access to affordable education by all children of this
country – especially in rural areas (including learning environments such as curbing
erupting violence and addressing muddy building structures); improvement of our
economic policies so as to reduce unemployment rates in the country. We actually
pray for stewardship governance that cares for all citizenry regardless of race and
political affiliation.

Secondly, it is the time we celebrated the prayerful election of the Presiding Bishop
of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa. Rev Purity Malinga has been elected at
a very critical time in the mission trajectory of our church leadership, where we have
always expressed our quest for women leadership in the face of our embarrassing
extenuated assumptions and practices of patrilineal arrogance. At the Conference
held in Mozambique, we had prolific insight to ask her to conduct our Synod Bible
Study, which she did with endowed enrichment. We celebrated even more that such
a historic moment of electing the first woman Presiding Bishop could be fulfilled in
our Grahamstown Synod, which is regarded as the root of Connexional mission. The
Synod committed to pray for her always.

The State of Grahamstown Synod
Grahamstown Synod is in a sound spiritual state. Ministers, Laity, Youth and children,
as well as all mission groups clearly showing grasp of the 40-40-20 leadership
requirement in all structures of our Church. We truly praise God for continually
breathing life into their zealous passion for His work.

We are “constrained by the Love of Christ”(2 Corinthians 5:14), while expanding
vision towards a synergy of uniting our Synod in Mission. St Paul’s prayer to
Ephesians (1:18) that, “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order
that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,” is our characteristic spiritual life.

Establishment of Camdeboo Synod
The Synod of Grahamstown is in a transitional state with the restructuring of boundaries towards the establishment of the Camdeboo Mission Synod. As a result of that restructuring, Circuits such as Garden Route 209, Langkloof Area of Humansdorp (comprising of Louterwater, Misgund, Uniondale and Willowmore), Karoo East 217, Middleburg 221, Cradock and Fish River 223, DJ Mapekula 225, will add to the establishment of Camdeboo Mission Synod.

The Grahamstown Synod Changes to be noted are:
(i) The new Grahamstown Synod name is ‘Dumisani Synod’ as per Conference Resolution 2.35
(ii) Bingqana Society moves from Tuku Circuit 239 to Aylif Circuit 240
(iii) Bongolwethu Society from Bathurst and Port Alfred Circuit 207 to be incorporated to Alexandria Circuit 208. There is a discussion among these two Circuits (Salem 207 and Alexandria 208) to amalgamate to form one Circuit as a witness towards a “One and undivided Church.” These Circuits were in fact originally divided on racial lines. It is hoped that this process will be implemented in 2021.
(iv) Since the Moreson Society and Addo Preaching Place of Salem Circuit 207 overlap with Sundays River Valley Circuit 219, the Salem Circuit 207 will facilitate a discussion to incorporate Moreson and Addo into Sundays River Circuit 219. The same discussion will take place at the coming Quarterly Meetings about a Preaching Place and Southwell Society currently under Salem Circuit which in reality should belong to Port Alfred and Bathurst Circuit and Grahamstown respectively.
(v) Somerset East Circuit 227 new name will be changed to Masimdumise Circuit.
(vi) Central Circuit will work towards splitting into two Circuits. DSG Society will work with Dumisani Society, Colchester towards Chetty Area while having a conversation with Masibulele and Dwesi Societies in establishing a new Circuit. St Johns, North End, Centenary and Humewood will be another Circuit.

OUR MISSION WORK CAN BEST BE SUMMARISED INTO THE FOLLOWING FIVE IMPERATIVES

Our Deepened Spirituality
The noble and matured spiritual character of our Synod Ministers and Laity is demonstrated by the way we see the peaceful state of our Synod. Our Retreats, Convocations, interactions and as well as encouragement to handle their pastoral
work is praiseworthy. There is a noticeable sense of good relationships between Ministers and Lay Leaders which adds to the spiritual enigma of our Church membership.

Justice and Service in Church and Community
Mission work is the face of our Synod. We have taken a deliberate intention to strengthen justice interventions and established child and healthcare desks to intervene in various challenges, especially the abuse of women and children. The Young Men’s Guild have a three-year engagement project on the intervention of abuse of women and children and LGBTQi members. They have created an awareness programme about dangers of Social Media.

Evangelism and Church Growth
The Grahamstown Synod owes its existence and growth to evangelism. It is a Synod where both Ministers and Laity, including Youth, prioritise the mission of evangelism through proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for healing and transformation of communities. We practically evangelise in the following ways:

• **Repairing and building the properties of the poverty-stricken elderly people**
  Where there is a Convention, our Organisations identify homes of the poor needing to be built or repaired. After a warm service, they provide clothes, groceries and take care of basic human needs.

• **Music Association is an anchor of evangelism**
  Our Circuit Church Choirs show an immeasurable sense of understanding that their renditions are a fundamental Wesleyan evangelism. They have demonstrated that any service without a passionate choir destroys the whole Church. Worth reporting is that besides anchoring the Church spiritually and providing evangelism almost every Sunday, the Synod Music Association has a vibrant mission outreach programme which includes home visits, reviving youth through sport, donating books and learning materials to Circuits where they hold Conventions.

• **Preacher’s Association**
  Preachers of our Synod continue to evangelise through taking a prominent lead in our seasonal lectionary services within Circuits. The LPA in particular, is playing a critical role in encouraging education initiatives of preachers in the Synod. They support schools through their DRD model where support services are provided such as sanitary towels, planting seedlings at schools and contributing to the Synod Bursary fund, etc.

• **Moral Regeneration Movement**
  On the 28 July 2019, the Synod organised a Moral Regeneration Movement (MRM) Service, in partnership with the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Council, to address the moral ills of our society. The offertry was dedicated towards the initiative of establishing the new Camdeboo Mission Synod.
• The Women’s Manyano, Women’s Auxiliary, Men’s League, Women’s Association and Order of Evangelism.

These are vibrant historical Organisations which provide immeasurable evangelism so as to witness growth and development in our Church.

Empowerment and Development

The Synod has taken Ministerial and Lay Empowerment and Development as a top priority. Various workshops organised by Synod Treasurer, Mrs Mnconywa, in equipping the Circuit Treasurers; is yielding fruitful results. The Synod is also blessed to have sound leadership in our Lay Leader, Mrs Nonzolo Khonya, who has passionately organised various successful Regional Lay Leadership workshops in all regions of the Synod.

The process of Review of Ministry is continuing with positive results on the growth and development of Ministers. The Synod has also sought to identify and develop our Women Ministers, by appointing them into critical leadership positions. For example, Rev Vuyokazi May has been appointed as Synod Supervisor of Studies from 2020, while Rev Pamela Mbombela has been appointed as Synod Youth Coordinator. Our Synod has observed with much appreciation, the work of development done by Rev Rod Burton, in developing our student Ministers, as shown by the quality of Candidates and Ordinands testimonies we heard.

Involvement of Synod in Education

Circuits are seriously involved in leading both moral and spiritual instruction to our membership, especially youth. Bible Studies, family life lessons, youth and children ministries are taking the form of Christian Education. We have established a Synod Bursary Fund, resourced by Organisations, for the support of financially struggling children at tertiary institutions.

The Young Men’s Guild have taken it upon themselves to have as their major project, to visit schools for this very basic purpose of Christian education in schools. Through their teachings, they inspire the young ones and teachers, to live a Christian life of love and family values. They are also taking lead in helping to inculcate human values in the rituals of rites of passage such as traditional circumcision processes, and Christian teachings about human sexuality.

They have decided to take seriously the issue of drug related problems, especially in schools. Addressing challenges of depression, and reviving the moral fibre of our society (which include teaching about domestic and school’s violence.) They are also looking into the exclusion of Christianity in schools, as well as donating uniforms to those in need. Men’s wellness programmes are also on the agenda.

Our vibrant Youth have a library which was launched in 2017 at Coega Primary School. To assist the under privileged leaners, a computer laboratory was established
at Fezeka Primary School, to which twenty computers were donated. Books, chairs, and tables were donated to the Tyhume Crèche.

The Women’s Manyano (WM) have identified a needy child from Garden Route and sent her to Rhodes University. They are in a process of building a library at Kwa-Zakhele Circuit for the educational support and development of children. They have adopted a needy school in Uitenhage called Nomathamsanqa where they repaired computers for skills development and bought stoves to assist in baking development for unemployed women.

**Bicentennial Celebrations**

As the Methodist Church of Southern Africa will be celebrating its Bicentennial Heritage, which marks 200 years of existence in Southern Africa, Grahamstown Synod will also join in this Heritage Celebration which will be launched at May 2020 Synod to be held in Grahamstown Circuit 201. The Synod will take a form of celebration through the Service that will mark this important history in the life of Mission in Southern Africa. After this heritage launch, the surrounding Circuits like Salem Circuit and Alexandria Societies and Port Alfred and Bathurst Societies will have their local celebrations in consultation with the General Secretary and Presiding Bishop. We pray for the success of this Mission event that is reminding us where we are coming from, we will not faint in our mission purpose for the future.

**Grace and Peace!**
QUEENSTOWN SYNOD REPORT TO CONFERENCE 2019

Bishop Mthobeli Matyumza

Introduction
Queenstown Synod strives towards living its Vision and Mission of making our Synod an ‘Oasis’; and the Conference mandate of “Shaping Tomorrow Today” with special emphasis and focus on young people and children.

• Where all are welcomed irrespective of race, colour, gender, ethnic group without prejudice. This we strive to achieve through encouraging team work amongst Ministers and co-operation between Ministerial and Lay Leadership.

1. The Synod Theme for 2019 is “Repositioning the Church in shaping the Future”
The task and the challenge at hand:

• A mind-set-shift in terms of how we view ourselves and each other as Africans (image) and begin to see that there is something good in Africa: the negativity, mud-slinging, competition we demonstrate against each other, points to the fact that we have a tainted-image about ourselves and others.

• A challenge of raising our nation, more especially the youth and the young from the depths and abyss of hopelessness: a people who destroy what they have when they complain of service delivery, who resort to drugs and alcohol abuse, which in turn leads to violence and senseless killings and raping of elderly women and children.

• A challenge of taking responsibility for our liberation and the rebuilding of our nation. A need to find ways of helping our communities to proactively participate on matters of reconstruction and development, entrenching an attitude of becoming the change that we want to see. Encouraging a spirit of activism more especially in the light of the recent polls where the majority of young people did not turn up to vote.

• A Kind of education that will liberate the African people to be creative and independent, that does not continue the false belief that all need to be employed by someone else in order to be successful. An approach that seeks to address the effects of Colonialism and Apartheid Bantu education.

• A challenge within the church is to strive to be Wesleyan Methodists rather than being mere Methodists. Generally, Methodists are very happy to be members but show reluctance to be Wesleyans, in terms of Spirit, doctrine and discipline; some of our membership demonstrate reluctance when lead towards the path discipleship.
2. Renaming of the Queenstown Synod
I am pleased to report that Queenstown Synod after consultation has unanimously agreed to rename this Synod as “KUMNKANI HINTSA SYNOD”, and has recommended this to MCSA Annual Conference 2019 for endorsement. This will be launched officially at the Synod 2020 to be held in Butterworth, as we will also be celebrating 200 years of Methodists’ existence in the area since 1820.

3. Leadership Development and Empowerment
- Ministerial: The Queenstown Synod continues to empower its Ministers through Spiritual and personal Retreats (Rev. Nkosinathi Mananga led the Ministers’ retreat this year). The Ministers’ Convocation focussed on the Theology of Ordination for 2019 and was concluded with the affirmation of the Ordination vows. uMhlangano meets once quarterly as a space for mentoring each other on contemporary, pastoral, contextual, cross-cultural and administrative challenges.

Lay Leadership: We have spread the discipleship courses Workshops and Seminars by grouping Circuits into regions – in order to make them accessible to as many Lay and Class leaders as possible to minimize long distance travelling. The meetings are budgeted for by the District and the following are focus areas:
- Leadership and Governance
- Circuit and society Financial Administration
- Methodist Spirituality and Class Meetings
- Mission of Organisation and Ecumenical partnerships
- Conflict Management and Resolution
This programme is first run for all Circuit Superintendents, Circuit Stewards, Ministers and Circuit Treasures over two days at the beginning of the year. Then spread regionally for all leadership. It has produced good outcomes and is generally well attended.

4. Mission
- Bursary Fund: Queenstown Synod continues to pride itself through Rev. Dr. TSN Gqubule Bursary Fund, meant as an access to tertiary Education for Children coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Bursary Board recommended funding that we continue with the 25 scholars in the system for 2019 (2nd and 3rd year students), this fund currently has funded about 100 plus students since its inception 12 years ago. We continue to value our Circuits and Organisations for their valuable commitment and contribution to the Fund.
- Mission Work and Organisations: It is worth mentioning that the Organisations have made Mission work a priority and have come up with initiatives and established Mission Funds that are specifically meant for Mission Work. All Organisations within our Synod work under the direction,
and in co-operation with the Synod Mission Unit. They are Primary Funders of the Rev. Dr. TSN Gqubule Bursary Fund, and they continue to identify and build houses for the people in need for members and non-members. In addition to such projects, the following specifics are being done:

- **The Synod Youth Unit**, continues to utilise the Rev Mvume Dandala Mission Fund established in 2002 to fund Annual Sanitary towels and School Uniform project and Leadership development programme.

- **Young Men’s Guild** through the Rev Vuyani Nyobole Mission Fund established in 2014, are funding the following mission projects: A programme called “**Man in the Making**, meant to mentor young boys in preparation for Initiation rites, and to be responsible men and adults. This initiative is also targeted at curbing abuse of the initiates and unlawful initiation schools. The Synod Young Men’s Guild has also started a programme where men are encouraged to start livestock farming initiatives, by subsidising members from across the Synod with five goats or sheep, as a tool for economic empowerment.

- **Local Preachers Association** Zandile Jakavula Mission Fund (2016-by District Local Preachers Association). A Programme of empowering and sharpening Local preachers on Bible study tools and preaching skills, sermon preparation and delivering, Pastoral visitations.

- **The Synod Women’s Manyano** re-named their Mission fund after Mrs. Nomzamo Yako who was a pioneer of Christian Citizenship Service within the District Women’s Manyano. Women’s Manyano has voluntarily taken the responsibility of funding the building of a Synod Manse, which will be used as a Residence for Bishops of our Synod in Mount Coke. **This project has been completed and the Manse will be dedicated on the 24 September 2019 by the presiding Bishop (Rev. ZD Siwa).** The Women’s Manyano also runs a programme of “Mentoring Young Girls” – which includes life skills.

- **Young Women’s Manyano** has officially launched and named their Mission Fund after Rev. Thami Rweqane, as from convention 2018. Partnership with Women’s Manyano on a programme of “Nurturing the girl Child”.

In addition to the above, the Organisations have taken a decision to explore sustainable Mission Projects to ensure revenue for mission work and Synod Administration, as the assessments model continues to be a challenge. We praise God and sincerely appreciate these initiatives and sacrifices by Methodist people within our area of jurisdiction and the Visionary and Courageous Leadership who implement them.

5. **Evangelism and Church Growth**

The District continues to use the strategy of combining the Evangelism and Biblewoman Convention with the Mission Outreach, where all ministers converge
into a particular Circuit identified by Mission Unit and the Order. Pastoral visitation would be done by minsters and door to door evangelical campaign conducted by the members of the Order, and concluded by an Organisational revival at the end of the week. This approach to Evangelism has yielded positive results, as it has pulled Tsojana, Centane, Ngqamakhwe and Kei Circuits out of non-viability status and has stabilised Wesleyville as a newly established Circuit.

6. **Land Development and Church Buildings**

This is one of the significant areas of Mission in a rural context, because a congregation that has no place to worship struggles to grow and eventually disappears.

- It is worth noting that the District has claimed the Mount Coke Hospital Land from government and is in constant consultation with the Mount Coke community in consideration of how best this land could be utilised for the benefit of all.
- The Queenstown and Lesseyton Circuit 302 has begun a project of fencing and rebuilding the Methodist Land where the first Methodist Seminary was situated in partnership with the government.
- King Williams Town Circuit 312 has completed the project of rebuilding Zwelitsha Methodist Church and renamed it after the Rev. VG Ntshinga.
- East London 313 has completed the project of extending Amalinda Methodist Church building.
- Mount Coke Circuit 315 will be dedicating 4 Church hall buildings in Mhlehlo, Jubisa, Madliki, Tyata and Kuni societies will be dedicated in October 2019.
- Queenstown Circuit 302 has completed building of a Church hall at Nenceba society in Lesseyton.
- East London Circuit 314 is progressing well in the building of its 1000-seater hall and 4 Sunday School class-rooms at the Rev. Dr. EJ Mqoboli Methodist Society.

I praise God and congratulate the leadership of these Circuits both ministerial and lay for their leadership and achievements, more especially celebrating that this work has been achieved without raising loans.

7. **Connexional, Synod and Circuit Boundaries**

I am pleased to report that the Queenstown Synod has responded positively on the structures’ conversation and resolutions. The Synod has affirmed the recommendation and formation of the Aliwal North Synod, and has of now agreed to release 5 Circuits (Queenstown 301, Queenstown and Lesseyton 302, Molteno and Stormberg 303, Kamastone 305 and Fransbury 319) towards the formation of the new Synod, whilst recommending a further consultation with Lukhanji 304.
Furthermore, Synod has unanimously agreed and recommended to Conference 2019 for the formation of 7 New Circuits, 2 societies out of King William’s Town 312, 2 out of East London 313, 2 out of East London 314 and 1 out of Kei Circuit 310. And Circuit Boundaries have been revisited and redrawn where necessary based on the principles agreed upon by Conference.

It is worth reporting that the Kei Circuit 310 has for the first time in its history moved towards Cross-cultural Stationing as both agents (Rev. Douglas and Rev. Mtapane) in that Circuit minister across racial and linguistic divides cooperatively. This Circuit joins East London 313, King William’s Town 309 and Queenstown 301 in this commendable direction.

8. Conclusion
I am pleased to report Presiding Bishop and Conference that the Queenstown Synod of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa is mission centred and focused, and has embraced the call of shaping tomorrow today.

I humbly express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all Circuit Superintendents and Ministers, Circuit Stewards, Organisation Leadership and All Methodist people in this Synod – in particular Circuit 314 where I am currently stationed-for the enormous and unwavering support they afforded me thus far-also for their affirmation and encouragement.

We continue to stand on his shoulders.
Introduction
The guiding theme for our work has been “Shaping Tomorrow Today”. This theme emanated from the Presiding Bishop’s address at the Conference of 2018. To this theme we added the subtheme “Reimaging Our Lives Together”. We have acknowledged that “Shaping Tomorrow Today” is a journey that compels us to re-imagine our lives together if anything is to be realised. The main theme as pointed out above has been embraced by the Methodist people in the KNB Synod. This theme has guided most of the work of mission groups and local churches.

What follows below is a summary of some of the work that has taken place in this Synod since the last report.

Boundaries Conversations
Conversations on boundaries was a major engagement of the Synod since the last report, as was directed by Conference. These conversations took place within the various regions of the Synod as well as engagements with the relevant sister Synods. We thank the boundaries conversations facilitators, Rev. O. Tiroyabone and Mr. T. Ngekakani for their enthusiasm and commitment to this task.

As of next year, 2020, Namibia region will become a Synod, and John Wesley and Upper Karoo Mission Circuits will become part of a new Synod. These proposals were sent to the relevant bodies of the MCSA for endorsement.

The participation of all Circuits in the KNB Synod was commendable. However, it must be pointed out that the boundaries conversation has put a lot of strain on the Synod financial resources.

Youth and Children Ministries
The work with youth and children continues to be an important part of the mission engagement in the Synod. Whilst there is still a lot of work to be done in this area, we celebrate the progress that has been made. Childcare practitioners continue to show high levels of commitment in working with children. We have had several outreach programmes by mission groups. The area that still remains a challenge is the establishment of solid childcare programmes. We are intending to strengthen this area of ministry in our Synod.

We celebrate the fact that Methodist Children and Youth Unit held its first Synod gathering as an umbrella body for work with children and youth. The MCYU was
held in the Vaal River Circuit. We were saddened by the loss of two young people in an accident on their way back from the gathering.

**World AIDS Day**
A significant milestone was reached in December 2018. The Synod, for the first time, held a successful World AIDS Day in Thaba-Nchu. We were graced by the Mission Unit from the Connexional Office and Provincial Government Departments as our partners. We hope to continue this partnership as we engage with health issues.

**Aldersgate Retreat Centre**
In the last report it was indicated that efforts to resuscitate this Retreat Centre formed one of our strategic objectives. We are glad to report that significant progress is being made in this regard. The Synod Trust Properties Committee is spearheading this process. Our gratitude goes to the Synod Women’s Manyano who provide the financial resources to upgrade this important asset.

**Mission Work**
It is never possible to capture all the work that mission groups and local congregations are engaged in. Going through the reports of Circuits and Mission Groups, it is evident that mission engagements in different forms continue to take place. They vary from context to context, from childcare ministries to food parcels, to home visitations. These expressions of mission engagement always meet the needs of an individual, family or a community, and they are to be appreciated.

However, we also note that the impact of a mission engagement is much greater when it is sustainable over a period of time. Such a possibility is restricted by lack of financial resources and proper mission planning. Herein lies the opportunity for the Synod to continue striving for the empowerment of Methodists through training workshops on mission planning – when financial resources permit.

**Challenges**
One of the major challenges in the Synod relates to financial resources. It is disheartening to see the struggles of Circuits in meeting their assessments and Synod levies. Part of the reason for this situation is the state of the economies of the countries that make up our Connexion. The ripple effect of this is felt at Synod. It must be acknowledged that the lack of financial management and transparency at Circuit level is partly to blame. We applaud the efforts of the Lay Leader and the Finance Committee in encouraging Circuits to meet their financial obligations.

**Conclusion**
We thank God for our life together and the milestones that have been achieved – big or small, evident and not so evident.
NORTHERN FREE STATE AND LESOTHO SYNOD REPORT TO CONFERENCE 2019

Bishop Bana Setshedi

I must start by appreciating the cordial working relations I am experiencing within the Northern Free State and Lesotho Synod since I took the leadership reins in the Bishop’s office. As you will recall, my term of office is practically new, and you will understand the importance of my office to expedite its mandate in order to deliver what the Church expects of me.

As a leader, it is paramount for me to recognise values of responsibility, accountability, fairness and transparency. To care for the personal interests of the people, to encourage others to follow the good behaviour a leader can demonstrate. Other key attributes that are important in this context would include Communication: as a leader one must be able to clearly and succinctly explain the church goals. Motivation: The church needs to inspire the congregants in order to go the extra mile for the church. Delegating: delegating is a sign of strong leadership attributes, so the church must identify the skills of each church member and assign duties to them; these are the three Key Performance Attributes that I subscribe to.

I therefore present the Lesotho Regional Report. The report will focus on the five Circuits, Semonkong Children Centre and the Mission Unit activities. As a general background, the Lesotho region has 5 (five) Circuits being Mokhotlong Circuit, Leribe Circuit, Maseru Circuit, Mafeteng Circuit and the Quthing Circuit. The Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA) in Lesotho experienced a long tormenting phase of division and conflict that lasted for 14 years (2002 -2016) In this time the church regressed in many ways. But the will of God prevailed in early 2017 when a new era emerged and the Church came together as one. The Presiding Bishop, Connexional Bishops and many Superintendents came to Maseru Circuit to grace and bless the rededication service as a sign of a new beginning. It has been hard work since then to induce reconstruction and realignment of the church principles, and the progress has been positive.

The purpose of this report is to give a general background on the developments in the Lesotho region especially after the merger of the two groups.

Regional Matters

Positive developments include the following.

1. Church organisations have elected regional committees that are functional. Their key role is to work together in projects (fundraising projects), Revivals, to address regional administrative matters; where Circuit executives, Superintendents
Ministers, Treasurers and Circuits secretaries sit together to discuss the regional matters.

2. Projects are steadily in progress; Maseru is on brick making project, Mafeteng is preparing to start a chicken project, Quthing is also to start on brick making project. Leribe and Mokhotlong are to identify their projects.

3. Women’s Manyano held a regional retreat on the 14th to the 16th September 2018.

4. Young Men’s Guild were able to hold 4 revivals and fundraising activities

5. Children Ministry is also growing well, they were able to attend their convention in Welkom last year in August of 2018

6. The Wesley Guild has a regional structure/committee. They hosted a Synod in March 2017, a regional opening in Leribe from the 22nd to the 24th of February 2019.

7. There were two regional Synods held in the region, one in Maseru in 2017 the other one in Quthing in 2019

Schools Reports

*Metho**d**ist High School report:* The school board’s term of office will end in 2020. The long acting principal Mrs. Malitsoanelo Thamae tendered her resignation from school on the 25th June in 2018 (2012-2018). End of year (2018) examinations results for JC and COSC have maintained an impressive pass rate, for JC: one top 10, twenty one Merits, forty-nine 1st Classes, eighty-one 2nd Classes, no 3rd Classes, no failures. The school has a lease for its premises. The old school van bought in 2005 was replaced with a new one this year (2019).

*Matsepe High School report:* The school Management has sought audit in order to keep proper books of accounts so as to disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the school.

*Hlotse Methodist Primary School report:* The school has a roll of 1720 learners which is a very high number. The school also has a high number of orphans. Parents have introduced a building fund where each parent will contribute M100.00 towards building new classrooms. Circuit has acquired a new site for the Hlotse Methodist High School.

*Patiseng Methodist Primary School report:* The school has applied for proper documents for the school site from the local authorities, and they are awaiting their response. The school is also raising funds in order to renovate and build a kitchen for the school. The school has no financial report.

*Matsepe Methodist Primary School report:* Peace Corp volunteer donated M29,557.00 to the school in order to purchase Laboratory equipment.

*Semonkong Children Centre:* The centre has a newly elected Board of Directors. Rev. Thlakgane has been granted early retirement due to poor health. A new director
has been appointed to the centre. A successful strategic planning workshop was held in November 2017. Different church Organisations at Synod level, at Regional level and certain individuals donated various items such as food and clothes, as well as money to the centre. Proper administration is gradually being put in place at the centre; proper financial auditing of the finances is also on track. The Board is working towards securing a lease for the centre. Several meetings have taken place with the Ministry of Health basically to forge working relations with them and the process is in progress.

**Regional Mission Unit Activities:** The Lesotho Mission Synod held two meetings this year (2019) one in Maseru and the other one in Quthing. The Lesotho region Mission Unit has structures in place and activities are ongoing. A resolution reached by the regional consultation agreed on the following areas on reporting:
1. Sexual abuse and gender based violence
2. Health issues
3. Child and Youth empowerment
4. Power: Use, misuse and abuse
5. Patriarchy
6. Education
7. Unemployment
8. Femicide
9. Corruption

**Circuits**
The Mokhotlong Circuit completed the church building construction and the Synod Bishop held an opening ceremony in January 2019. Mokhotlong has been assigned a resident Reverend who has resumed work already after many years. All the Circuits have resident Superintendents. The Mafeteng Circuit held a successful youth conference this year. The Maseru Circuit held a successful YMG convention from 24th-28th of April 2019. The Maseru Circuit is to hold a Music Association convention in May 2019. Plans are going ahead regarding placement of Reverends at Qacha’s Nek and Mohale’s Hoek. The litigations are still ongoing as the church and its Lawyers finalise the complete ousting of Rev. Rantle from the church, especially in Quthing and Qacha’s Nek societies where he still has a grip on the church property.

**Spirituality**
Our primary reason for existing is that we have a unique approach to the human condition which moderated because of our relationship with Christ. The class meetings, Sunday schools, Youth work, Prayer meetings, Bible studies, healing services, revival services remain the foundation stones of spiritual development in this Synod. Consistent in most congregations are prayer meetings and retreats. Innovative approaches to Bible study and children’s church instruction have been gifts to a deepened spirituality in different constituencies.
Those who have been gathering at our Laity training sessions decided to equip our leaders. It was also discovered that some of the Circuit stewards are not hands on and don’t perform according to their mandate e.g. invitations to their ministers who have been stationed by the Conference. There is a need of continuation of trainings. The attendance was good and engagement by participants has been energising and motivating.

A unique opportunity for spiritual nurture has been given to the children throughout the Synod. The minister’s retreat which was held at Modderpoort spends most of the mornings in prayer meetings and bible studies. Many of the ministers have been chosen to use these encounters as opportunities for friendship and deepen commitment to one another. Some of the ministers have been prepared to risk the telling of their struggles and this powerful instrument is an intrinsic part of the Methodist heritage and has been an invaluable support and encouragement to those who have taken it seriously.

According to the reports from Circuits, people are being trained and exposed to various spiritualties. They realise and notice the burning bushes of God in this Synod and they also realise that our spirituality needs to be universal, contemplative and contextual.

**Evangelism and Church Growth**
Organisations mission groups and our local preachers make evangelism a priority. There is a greater passion and commitment to develop new strategies for evangelism and in equipping people for this task. However there are a few Circuits where their membership declined greatly.

**Justice and Service**
Our synod is part of ecumenical bodies. We work together with other churches on issues of crime, poverty alleviation, skills training, trauma counselling etc.

The prophetic voice of the church on issues of justice in the province and in Lesotho is very loud.

The Synod HIV/AIDS task teams and training has been completed in partnership with the department of health. Some of our ministers are still reluctant to speak openly on HIV/AIDS, to get involved and help see HIV/AIDS as an important illness. This results in many members dying alone, and/or in denial, and on health issues in general.

**Economic Empowerment and Human Development**
It is in our plan to establish a database of projects and ministries in our Synod and this will be coordinated by the synod mission secretary Rev Nombula. The mission secretary has planned to continue to give support to Circuit as they seek ways to empower God’s people in partnership with the Organisations.
Methodist Children and Youth Unit
The Synod must take seriously the call of the Presiding Bishop to make this year, and beyond, a year of Children and Youth, but moreover make our societies and Circuits Children and Youth centered. The MCYU has made serious contributions to the Synod particularly in terms of resolutions that seek to shape the Church into a youth and children centered Synod signifying their presence and care for the future of this Synod. The MCYU is being a catalyst in responding to the Connexional call to begin to own mission by ensuring that they participate in the call to rename our mission Synod. The Children and Youth Unit in the NFS&L Synod has already responded to the call and submitted a recommendation with the hope that the recommended name, Rev ZR Mahabane Synod, will capture the sentiment and identity of this part of the Connexion.

With this being said, the reality is that Children’s Ministry is not taken seriously by the superintendents as in some Circuits Children are still not accessing the means of grace through Holy Communion. This is unacceptable and a chargeable contravention of the Laws and Discipline of our church. Ministers are to ensure that Children participate fully in the Eucharist and this is not negotiable. Children in some Circuits are still expected to pay pledges or for any form of ministry offered by the church. The MCYU has thus proposed a motion to Synod to consider ensuring that children enjoy church and its fullness without being burdened by its financial obligations. We pray that Synod will respond to this motion and endorse it as a resolution of the Synod to pursue the aim of bringing Children to the centre of our ministry.

Synod, it is my firm belief that, even though there are numerous other issues that could be brought to the table, these stated above are critical and if corrected will assist in uplifting the work of the MCYU in the Synod.

Synod and Circuit Boundaries
Synod must start an internal conversation on demarcation to come up with proposals moving forward to ensure smooth running and its effectiveness. MCO mandated us to meet as regions that are based in our synod. NFSL and KNB met to discuss the focus on mission issues that needs to be endorsed by the general Synod to measure our objectives.

Challenges:
Financial Viability of the Synod
The follow up practice of Circuits in arrears either with synod or MCO has given us tremendous results in reducing the said arrears. Though the fact of some ministers having not received stipend at some periods remains a major concern, but this is also an area which one cannot simply justify by the fact of shortage of funds, it sometimes go beyond that.
Conclusion
We remain committed to proclaim the gospel of Jesus through the whole of Lesotho and on the mountains, through the Free State and in the mines. We are committed to proclaim the gospel even though we feel that there is very little that is changing but we believe that if we are faithful to Christ and do what we can, healing and transformation is and will take place.
In the short, but not exactly uneventful period during which I have been Bishop in the MCSA, I have been regularly and deeply heartened by the widespread sense that the MCSA, for all the problems that beset it, is poised for serious growth and renewal.

The essence of this is in the fact that the people called Methodists, have recognised that there are many ways in which the reality of church can exist. In this report, I shall highlight some of those instances.

Judging by how the Methodist Church has evolved since the arrival of Barnabas Shaw in 1816 to this 203rd year of Methodism in this country, we in Natal Coastal Synod are grateful for the opportunity, time and space which God has blessed us with, and to be part of God's great missionary work in the Connexion.

Coming out of what was just an amazing Synod, where the bold “faithfulness” of the Methodist people was displayed when the Rev P.N. Malinga was elected unanimously to become the first woman, and black woman in particular, to be the Presiding Bishop of the MCSA, it really felt great to be a Christian, but even prouder to be called a Methodist in spite of the many challenges that continue to beset us.

Beginning with the Convocation which was mostly premised on all Presbyters affirming their calling and each other’s calling, Ps 139 becoming the Convocation calling motto which was spread over the other two days. Among many other great hymns that were sung at Synod 2019, was that well known 18th century hymn, in which we are able to easily recognise allusions to incidents in the Exodus narrative: Ndakhukhole O’ Jehova:

The manna from heaven, the water from the rock
The pillar of fire by night and
The pillar of cloud by day.

As we deliberated on the theme “RECLAIMING THE VILLAGE, PUTTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT THE CENTRE OF THE SHAPING TOMORROW TODAY”. As we explore and engage with each other in the various commissions of Synod, both the theme and this hymn illuminated our life-pilgrimage as it also continues to provide us with opportunities to reflect on the types of life we as people called Methodists have lived since 1816 and how our lives have been shaped by the models found in scripture.
Rev B. Timmer was helpful, when through the Bible Study, she assisted us to acknowledge how we can read our own lives in the scripture.

We are inspired by the proverb: “As a person believes in his/her heart so is he/she.” Generally, meaning that what determines the outcome of one’s life is not what they have or don’t have. It is what they believe about themselves that matters most.

So, in spite of the racial and the socio-economic divide, and the imbalances that continue to manifest through our stationing model, often leaving black Ministers having to deal with unbelievably huge Circuits to care for, and massive distances to cover, the Natal Coastal Synod strongly believes that our life together can be better and that our sometimes shallow and selfish attitudes can be reversed. We strongly believe that since 2020 is Jubilee Year, we need to make enough time next year, to listen well and hear each others’ stories, heed a call to a different way of life, as we endeavour to RECLAIM the Village with its old idea of common good, “SHAPING TOMORROW TODAY”

Though Synod is not a vacation, it provided space for us to pause from our daily and sometimes rough routines, and the ministerial tasks that we hustle for daily. We had time to fill the basic needs of the soul. We acknowledge that life is about complete well-being. So other than the Bible Study, we had a Youth Hour on Saturday morning wherein a focus was given primarily to children and youth related matters. This is where the Children and Youth Unit finds time to report to Synod on the various activities, including the resolutions coming from the Youth Synod. This hour allocated to children and youth, is a true demonstration of a church that seeks to put its children and youth at the centre as its shapes tomorrow today.

Mission

Over the past year our attention has been on developing and building capacity and understanding that the effectiveness of mission largely depends on how we understand the dynamics of each and every local context – understanding the urban, semi-urban, suburbs, village, rural, etc. I am glad to report that Synod has mandated us to explore all relevant avenues that can be used to assist Circuits that are struggling with assessments as a result of companies and industries that have closed down thus shedding lots of jobs.

- Unused land is being identified – for productive use, such as farming, ploughing and rental purposes.
- Plans are being hatched for finding ways of manufacturing our own uniforms
- We have a plan to establish our own printing house
- We plan to buy a tent fit for most conventions, purpose so as to make sure that money is circulated internally and mission is resourced.

This we understand, will only happen with careful and professional planning, continuous and diligent supervision, proper management and a disciplined application of sound business principles guided of course by good Christian ethics.
Otherwise God’s mission continues to find expression through the many ECD, old aged homes and computer and skills development centres that are run by our Societies.

We celebrate the commitment of the many individuals who work tirelessly in making sure that heaven can be seen on earth through mission.

Over and above these wonderful efforts by God’s people, I am overwhelmed and humbled by the work done by the Rev S. Khuzwayo, and the Children and Youth Unit of the NCS, who at a time of his leadership as Youth coordinator, embarked on a massive project to build proper class rooms for John Wesley Kosi Bay School in Manguze.

We are grateful to all donors who responded positively to the call made by Rev Khuzwayo for such an amazing ministry of witness among the people of Manguze. I am proud to report that, God willing, the NCS could be handing over 6 classrooms before the end of the year’s school calendar.

iNatal Coastal Synod iyabonga ngomsebenzi wakho Mnguni magobugotho: iNkosi iKubusise”.

**Growth and Evangelism**

With the economy in decline, it has become a race for survival for most people, including our members, because job losses have not only affected the congregant’s vital contribution to the mission of God, but there are signs of demoralisation and sometimes lower church attendance. So whilst there are Circuits which have shown growth, we still have very little taking place in terms of Evangelism.

In spite of the challenges we have to deal with as a church, we do have a lot to celebrate.

- We celebrate life as a gift from the Almighty
- We celebrate the opportunity to be trusted by the Lord to be His servants.
- We celebrate being part of, and members of this great Wesleyan Movement and we celebrate the fact that during our time of witness, the Methodist people have collectively discerned and responded to a call to transcend boundaries of gender and race. This as the recent gathering of Synod unanimously elected the Rev P.N. Malinga to become the first woman minister to occupy the position of the Presiding Bishop of the MCSA.

**Justice and Service**

The Youth of our Synod continue to advocate for and campaign against acts of violence, particularly which are directed toward women and children. Because of the seriousness and the pain that is caused by these widespread killings, young people through the Synod exco’s support, are now working hard towards registering an NPO which will, amongst other things, focus not only on advocacy, but also on offering the necessary support to those who have become victims of abuse.
We are grateful to God for the opportunity to do mission in this part of the Connexion where we are blessed with strong ecumenical bodies such as Diakonia, Vuleka Trust and KZNCC. We work together very well and we partner with each other on issues of justice, crime, poverty alleviation etc.

We collaborate on issues of racism and gender based violence. A number of our churches have partnered with the Department of Health and registered as dispensary points for outpatients to have easy and quick access for the collection of their medication.

Together with the member churches of the KZNCC, we have supported many of those who became victims of xenophobic attacks as well as the victims of the flood which caused a lot of damage and destruction to people’s property.

HIV/Aids continues to be a great challenge in our communities. We are however, grateful to God for the commitment and dedication of our Synod co-ordinator Mrs N. Phewa and her team for their passion and service in this regard.

We also wish to acknowledge the unwavering support we receive from Mrs Pearl Moroasui at MCO. Indeed people’s lives are being saved and their dignity restored.

**Conclusion**

We remain committed through God’s grace to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, not only through words but also through deeds, touching lives for Christ for healing and transformation – “SHAPING TOMORROW TODAY”

The demands are great and sometimes it feels like there is very little that is changing. However we remain faithful to Christ to do what we can.

We also understand very well that as the Natal Coastal Synod, it is not that we are the people who have well informed opinions about the burning issues of our time. Indeed this report does not intend to portray us as a people who are in touch with the contemporary issues only, however important that is. But as the Natal Coastal Synod we endeavour to lead people in a rooted and permanent relationship with the incarnate word, Jesus Christ, in whom we will be able to find the source for wisdom advice and guidance.
NATAL WEST SYNOD REPORT  
TO CONFERENCE 2019  

Bishop T William Dlamini  

Introduction  
Reflecting on another year of fruitfulness and Grace within our Synod as we stop to ponder on the successful, peaceful National and Provincial elections, given our context as a Province of political instability, we give God all the glory and honour for his sufficient grace.  

The Connexional theme of “Shaping Tomorrow Today” with a particular focus on youth, has been an inspiring one for us. At Synod the youth were challenged to think of ways of re-imagining and doing church differently.  

Spirituality, Evangelism and Church Growth  
Ongoing spiritual formation and strengthening is happening in our Synod, at Synod Conventions and Regional Consultations, within all Synod Organisations and Worship services. Evangelists and Biblewomen continue to conduct evangelism during their Conventions and special evangelistic campaigns in Circuits within our Synod, and this has led to a steady growth within the Synod. KAIROS ministry is taking place in some Organisations within our Synod. “Our faith and our actions must work together so that our faith may be made complete by what we do.”  

Human Empowerment and Economic Development  
• As a Synod, we have partnered through Kwa Zulu Natal Christian Council (KZNCC) with the South African Council of Churches (SACC), Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) and Private Security Industry Regulation Act (PSIRA) to run workshops for the young and unemployed on Security Grade E and Computer skills. Attendees will receive certificates which will enable them to secure jobs.  
• This year, workshops on Democracy were run in the different regions to ensure active citizenship of our communities, and as Methodists begin to spread Scriptural Holiness throughout the land.  
• Three Child Practitioners from three crèches were taken through Early Childhood Development (ECD) training by the Synod Mission Unit (SMU). This could assist them in the long run to start their own pre-schools as a way of sustainable living. One of these practitioners was offered a two year scholarship for ECD Level 4.  
• The Synod Women’s Manyano (SWM) selected 40 girls from Circuits and provided them with Life Skills Training over a weekend.  
• The implementation of our Vision of “ONE CRÈCHE, ONE GARDEN, ONE
**ORCHARD AND ONE JOJO TANK!**” is to ensure food security which is everyone’s responsibility.

- The Synod Women Auxiliary (SWA) transported school children from rural areas to a REUSE-REDUCE-RECYCLE Happy Earth Festival.
- Our Womens’ Organisations are supporting the elderly and abused children, as well as the Crisis Centres for women within our Synod.
- They are working together with South African Police Service (SAPS), the Ambulance Services and The Family Violence Units, Child Protection and Sexual Unit (FCS) by supplying teddy bears and “Rape bags”. Bread tags for wheelchairs and stamps are collected for Zumat.
- Thursdays in Black is implemented although this still needs to be further emphasized within Circuits and Organisations.

**Education and Christian Formation**

- As reported to Conference last year, Indaleni School for the Deaf and their Skills Training Centre, continue to operate under the auspices of the MCSA in cooperation with the Department of Education.
- The Synod Vision 2018-2022 of “**ONE CRÈCHE, ONE GARDEN, ONE ORCHARD AND ONE JOJO TANK!**” in every Circuit, specifically in rural areas, is implemented by the SMU (Synod Mission Unit) through the Synod office. Four crèches in different stages of development were selected to pilot this vision.
- In all places of education Christian formation takes place on a daily basis.

**Natal West Synod Wellness Desk**

The Natal West Synod in the Umgungundlovu District, (Circuits 801, 802 and 805), entered into a partnership with Kwa Zulu Natal Christian Council (KZNCC); DOH (Department of Health) and PEPFAR (Presidents Emergency Plan for Aids Relief) to implement the SURGE Programme. The Synod established the Wellness Desk to provide a supportive environment and programmes to address wellness issues that reduce the burden of lifestyle diseases, improve care, treatment and support and create a community and church climate and culture that is conducive to wellness.

The three groups that will be involved with this operation are:

- Local Faith Based Organisations (FBO’s) who will work with all churches in the given area, appointing one Minister to represent them.
- Faith Based Leaders, Traditional leaders and healers, who will use their influence to decrease the stigma, discrimination and gender based violence (GBV) as well as to increase demand for HIV, and all communicable disease testing and linkage to treatment.
- FB (Faith Based) Community Advocates (CA’s) will be equipped and mobilised to provide support to individuals and communities seeking HIV testing services and linkage to treatment.
Members of the Desk are: NW Exec. (Ex-officio); Revds. N Mpuqa (Convenor); B Zulu; V Dlamini; M Memeza; Sr N Dladla (Programme manager); Dr N Nkosi; Deac. W Dugmore; N Mntungwa; M’ Madlala and members of the SMU (Synod Mission Unit)

Synod
Our 48th Annual Synod continued its journey of Shaping Tomorrow Today with a particular focus on the youth by meeting at SMMS. The clergy convocation engaged in the Medical Aid Roadshow, and had an opportunity to attend to their wellness needs. They also listened to the Ordinands engagement with Theological and Pastoral questions.

Apart from completing the administrative business of Synod, we experienced many Holy moments, in what John Wesley termed “Holy Conferencing”. Amongst these were the inspirational bible studies led by Rev. Luvuyo Sifo. The Synod dressed in black on Thursday in support of the Thursdays in Black Campaign against the Abuse of Women and Children. Four Supernumerary ministers were celebrated for their 25th or more Anniversary of Ordination.

Conclusion and Acknowledgement
Following elections and appointments at our Synod, we are challenged by the changes in leadership personnel, but are blessed with competent abilities and willing servants who are committed to taking over key functions. We acknowledge and give thanks and appreciation to the following retiring officials: Revds. Martin Beukes (SS) and Zakhele Radebe (SSS). We seek God’s guidance and blessing for those taking on new responsibilities: Rev Vuyo Dlamini (Bishop-Elect); James Fakude (Vice-chair); Thembeka Mkabeni (SS); Fiona Calverey (SSS). We look forward to a new and somehow changed leadership team developing. We give God the glory for what is happening in our midst. Allow me to express my deepest gratitude to all the women and men who have worked tirelessly within our Synod, in Circuits and Organisations to bring the kingdom of God to fruition! Well done good servants of the Lord!
The Central Synod strives towards becoming the embodiment of God’s transforming love and being missional in our way of expressing our faith. In order to do this, we need to continually address contrasts that exist in our Synod. Although there is still a long way to go, 2018/2019 has seen the various structures within our Synod make strides towards finding healing, having an inclusive approach towards leadership and sharing of human and financial resources.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Spirituality and Discipleship
It is our conviction that to Shape Tomorrow Today, we have to begin by teaching discipline to young people and children, so that they can learn to embody the character and values of Christ. This is happening through various retreats, revival services, teaching series, Bible Studies, seminars and Conventions, as well as camps and holiday clubs.

Human and Economic Empowerment
Restoration of human dignity and the empowerment of Youth and Children is at the heart of our Synod. This can be been seen through:

- The School of Leadership, where we shape and mentor transformational leaders of tomorrow
- Partnerships with sectors such as NYDA, which encourages young people to start small businesses.
- Sanitary towels are collected and distributed amongst underprivileged young girls, to restore their human dignity.

Education and Christian Transformation

- The Bursary Fund continues to open doors to tertiary learning and education for many underprivileged youths. We proudly raised +- R80 000 annually towards this fund.
- Partner with local schools to ensure every child has a school uniform and stationery.
- At Wits University and the University of Johannesburg, we offer pastoral care and support to students, especially during times of crisis. Focussing on food security and accommodation, we are in the process of cooperating with neighbouring Circuits to avail unused properties for student accommodation.
Evangelism and Church Growth
We continue to engage in modern ways of attracting young people back to Christ while ensuring that discipleship programmes are made available to them to assist to them to grow and mature in their faith.

MISSION

Wellness and HIV/AIDS
Our greatest challenges include the vastness of the Central Synod. With many centres spanning across Circuits, we have found that distance has a direct impact on progress. Going forward, we will partner with INOVA and other relevant stakeholders to extend our reach.

Education
The Mondeor Project is a successful support for students, providing classes in Maths, English and Physical Science, while a gap has been identified for the Education Desk to pioneer care of Grade R’s in the Vryburg area.

Spirituality
A working group has been established to formulate guidelines for confirmation classes and class meetings. As places of spiritual transformation, these classes and meetings have been identified as requiring revival and restoration.

Justice and Service
Circuits are encouraged to facilitate Youth Dialogue Indabas, to address various concerns our young people face such as gangsterism, violence, marginalization of LGBTQi, and homelessness.

Clergy Care
A working document is in place to implement ways of supporting Clergy and Laity in service.

EMMU
2018 was a fulfilling year for the EMMU in the Central Synod.

Candidates
The Central Synod has received three candidates after hosting the Candidature Examination for the neighbouring Synods, HISWA and Limpopo. Two Candidate Tutorials were held, led by the EMMU Committee and Ministers.

School of Vocation
Held for all prospective candidates with individual consultations at various times. Those nominated were also allocated mentors to journey with them through the Candidature process. This has helped to better prepare the candidates.
Probationer Mentorship Committees
Circuits with Probationers were trained on establishing Probationer Mentorship Committees. This was well attended and highly appreciated by both Probationers and the Mentorship Committees.

Examination and Assessment of Probationers
All examinations and assessments for the Probationers were held. The idea was to help Probationers grow and be further formed for ministry.

The Retreat held at the beginning of the year, helped to induct the Seminarians into Circuit life. We spent time equipping Probationers on maintaining acceptable academic standards when doing their IST projects. A joint IST was held in August with HISWA and Limpopo Synods. This encouraged fellowship, sharing of experienced and standardised formation in the region.

Laity
The office of the Lay Leader achieved greater empowerment in leadership, a stronger focus on education, sensitising and informing members on critical church and social matters emanating from the MCSA mission imperatives, and implementing the ‘Every Member Ministry’ approach allowing us to add value and impetus in mission in Circuits. A highlight was the establishment of the Circuit Stewards Annual Consultation.

Challenges
- Manipulation and division in Circuits caused by leadership.
- Some Circuits still operate in Sections, even though Conference cancelled this practice.
- Current stationing committee of 5 x Society Stewards and Circuits Stewards is creating huge division in the Circuits especially where Circuits have more Societies.
- Lack of clarity between a Resident Minister and Circuit Ministers within the MCSA.

Objectives
Going forward, we aim to create a space for leadership to share their experiences, have a greater understanding of their roles, and build towards better unity.

Synod
Circuit Questionnaire Reports to Synod
The system of Circuit Questionnaires helps the Synod and the Connexion to keep a good trail on all necessary information relating to the entire body of work concerning the Circuits and those who labour in them, both Lay and Clergy, paid and unpaid.
The Circuits need to take careful consideration in completing and submitting these questionnaires as the Conference decisions of the Church depends on this system. Some of the Circuits seem to send through similar questionnaires yearly without putting the effort in to submit the correct information. Information reflects the realities of the Circuits and inaccurate information does not assist the local or Connexional Church.

**Synod Planning**
The Synod Meeting preparation and seating were challenging, but it did run smoothly, had well thought through plans and timeous Organisation. The preparedness of the host Circuit, Vryburg, helped the Synod to run efficiently and swiftly. Vryburg showed understanding of Methodist Connexionality by graciously and sacrificially welcoming and supporting the Synod.

**Elections**
2019 has been honour bound with elections: RSA countrywide and MCSA Connexion-wide. The Synod congratulates Rev Faith Whitby on her nomination as the Bishop Elect of the Central Synod. This is a culmination of a long journey in seeking gender-balanced leadership in the MCSA. We anticipate and encourage the spirit of oneness in the MCSA to continue to form new pockets of fresh leadership.

**Statistics**
With a mandate to collate and interpret Synod Statistics and analyse membership trends in the Synod over the years, our objective has been to ensure that we receive credible and mostly accurate Synod Statistics, as well as to have Societies and Circuits collate their Statistics on a quarterly basis.

**Achievements and Challenges**
A highlight in the Statistics Desk was the Membership and Statistics Workshop with Society and Circuit Stewards. As a result thereof, there was a slight improvement in the reporting of statistics from Circuits. There is, however still room for much improvement. Going forward, we envisage a situation where Circuits will record statistics electronically.

**Trust Properties**
The Synod Trust Properties Committee approves applications from Circuits and Societies for loans, alterations, erections, purchases, sales and leases. We also make recommendations to the Connexional Trust Properties Committee for further approvals ratifications and provide advisory services to Circuits on matters such as insurance, National Building Regulations, safety protocols and compliance as well as signage. All this is done in the Spirit of Ubuntu.
Applications
A total of 15 approval-seeking applications were received by the Synod Trust Properties in 2019, with one seeking to build a church to the value of R9.2m. However, 90% of applications from Circuits are seeking to rent out or lease church property with the aim of generating income. This is an indication of the dire financial constraints that our Circuits are under in the Synod.

Finances
Central Synod had a challenging 2018 from a financial point of view. This is evidenced by an increase in the number of Circuits that fell behind on their Connexional Assessments as well as their Synod Levies.

The overall financial health of the Synod came under pressure resulting in a deficit of R445 000, which is a significant increase from the deficit of R50 000 in the previous financial year. This reflects the difficult economic conditions which South Africans currently find themselves.

The deficit increased due to lower recoveries in Synod Levies, as well as unplanned mission expenditure. In 2018, the Central Synod extended unbudgeted funds amounting to R366 000 towards supporting ailing schools, unaccompanied minors and tertiary student support. Although this expenditure resulted in an increased deficit, the Synod felt it was necessary to prioritise missional objectives.

In 2019 the Synod will continue to look at alternative means of raising funds and supplementing income with the view of alleviating the pressure of struggling Circuits. Furthermore, the capacitation of leaders will be prioritised with the aim of improving compliance and accountability.

Conclusion
The work of Christ and His Church is never done, but I feel confident that the people we call Methodists in the Central Synod have worked tirelessly towards the goals of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. And I hope to see us all continue to make strides in the name of our Lord.
It is a privilege to report on yet another year of the life and mission of the Highveld and Swaziland Synod. While it has been a year of real struggle and challenge as we seek to deal with the realities of our time and to respond missionally to them, it has also been a year of much progress, joy and faithfulness amongst Gods people. Also, I report on much that is ongoing, many dreams and hopes, and some plans completed.

As was the case with respect to the previous year, this year was affected by my health and consequent availability. In September 2018 I was fortunate to receive a stem cell transplant. This procedure and the chemotherapy associated with it necessitates a prolonged period of resting and recuperation. The good news is that I was officially declared to be cancer free in January 2019 and have been able to resume all my work. On the resumption of my work I celebrate the contributions of those who stood in for me in different ways. Many of them have been seen to grow as leaders of substance. I returned to a Synod in good order with only a few conflict hotspots to which I have had to give attention.

The Conference lead to focus our attention on ministry to children has proved a real blessing to us. Our Synod has always had a strong emphasis on mission to children. We retain and manage a large number of children’s homes and other institutions, and have been incentivised to review much of what we do. Much is being done, and needs to be done about the key issue of how we treat children and receive them into the life of the church.

**Synod Mission Desk**

The work of the Synod Mission Desk continues to grow under Rev Ntsikelelo Zabeko. Approved funding from the Synod has resulted in the team making more intentional plans to increase our mission footprint. The plans include a mission information day where Circuits will be invited to receive input on the resources available through the desk. The inclusion of Rev Peter Mosia as Justice and Services Coordinator promises more effective motivation and leadership in this high priority area. Justice and Service has in the past been seriously neglected in the life of our Synod.

Under the strong leadership of Mr Quinton de Beer the Paradigm Shift Programme continues to expand. This year included a very successful introduction of the programme into eSwatini (Swaziland).
Mission Progress to Children

We now have five residential facilities within the Synod for Children. Epworth Children’s Village (Germiston), John Wesley Home for Girls (Kempton Park) the Boys Orphanage in Manzini (eSwatini), the Girls Orphanage in Hlatikulu (eSwatini) and the recent eBholi Home in eSwatini.

Epworth celebrated its centenary in 2018 resulting in its profile being raised. Our mission week became a significant part of these celebrations. This was concluded by a celebration service on the Sunday where Connexional leadership graced us with their presence. While the village continues to struggle with the on-going realities of reduced Government funding, a more optimistic and hopeful environment has emerged.

Similarly, the John Wesley Children’s Home for Girls struggles financially, and needs to function very creatively to keep its doors open due to decreased Government funding. This institution celebrates its twentieth anniversary during the year under review.

The Boy’s Orphanage (Manzini) and the Girls Orphanage (Hlatikulu) continue to struggle with a lack of resourcing. The promise of substantial financial assistance as a result of the Methodist Church in Germany collecting donations for eSwatini children has raised hopes for a meaningful cash injection to our orphanages We eagerly await the release of these funds.

The story of Ebholi Residential Care Facility is an amazing one. Many years ago children from a small village (Lunkuntfhu) in eSwatini were too far from any school to be able to attend. Some kindly people saw the need and made available accommodation for them near one of our schools. Over time the involvement of adults decreased to the point that the children ended up caring for themselves. This child headed community was recently discovered and we have been able to offer the children some much needed care and supervision. On-going effort to improve the situation continues.

We continue to run 37 day schools and boarding schools in eSwatini. At our recent Mission Synod improved Government examination results were reported in all three Circuits. In several schools capital improvements were reported. These included new classrooms, ablution blocks and teachers’ houses. Many of our schools are old and remain in need of repairs. Again, it is hoped that the promised funds from Germany will make a significant difference.

An increased number of communities run aftercare facilities and pre-schools for children. This is particularly pleasing when previously under-utilised buildings are used for the purpose.

In respect of our worship offering to children many Societies are speaking about being more innovative and inclusive. For the first time a Junior Manyano Convention
was held. Run by the Synod Young Women’s Manyano, our children seemed to have a wonderful time.

Mission Week
Our second Mission Week, held in October 2018 was a great success. This event has grown quite strongly and seems to have captured the imagination of people. The Mission was held in the greater Germiston area. Particular focus was placed on poverty affected children and informal settlement communities. Several schools received visits and various improvements were made to buildings in need of repair. Needy girls received sanitary pads whilst others received hampers. A highlight was a visit to a school for the deaf who ministered very meaningfully to the team. Several churches (mostly in informal settlements and newly developing areas within the community) were visited and services conducted. Visits to the homes for the aged was made, including a visit to Primvilla, a Methodist home which specializes in the care of those affected by dementia. A highlight was the centenary celebration of the Epworth Children’s Village (referred to above).

The Future
The Synod looks forward to celebrating 50 years of its existence in 2020. We anticipate a good and meaningful time of celebration. Accompanying this is an awareness that we are unlikely to exist in our present form for much longer. Robust and complex conversations on Boundaries and Structures has led to the decision of the eSwatini region to become a Synod on their own. This comes with quite complex conversations concerning the restructuring of Circuits and other structures within that country. Our five Mpumalanga Circuits and the Mashakane (Free State) are also in conversation that is likely to mean that they will form part of another new Synod with other Circuits in Mpumalanga (presently located within the Limpopo Synod). Many of these conversations remain a struggle for some but we hope that such changes will lead to the church becoming more missional and effective.

Conclusion
We move into the future sustained by hope that only God can give. We remain much encouraged by the many positives evident on God’s work and rejoice in the powerful faithfulness of those who remain in Christ. Yet we remain aware that struggle will continue as we struggle with human sin, poverty and injustice. Yet we proclaim that God’s Grace and provision are more than sufficient.
LIMPOPO SYNOD REPORT
TO CONFERENCE 2019

Bishop Sidwell Mokgothu

Introduction
The Limpopo Synod has experienced the coming into office of both the Bishop and the Vice-Chair who continue to settle well into their responsibilities and have established a partnership to provide oversight and missional leadership.

There is within the Synod, an acknowledgement that Synod leadership is a collective and cooperative business that straddles and includes the Synod Management Team, Circuits, Societies, Classes and Organisations/Mission Groups. There are many Christian values that must guide this leadership collective but three are paramount: selfless service, corporate discernment and mutual accountability.

The 2019 Synod Gathering, hosted by the Ysterberg Circuit, was held in Polokwane and had as its theme: The Incarnational Church: With Christ Amongst the People. The theme was a critical reflection on the social distance the Church has with the people of God and sought to encourage and mobilise the Church to be rooted with Christ amongst the people. The Bishop reminded the Synod leadership of the Methodist heritage of Public Ministry.

Lay Leadership
The Synod Lay Leader continues to participate in several initiatives and events in the life of the Church. The Lay Leader hosted the first Synod Lay Leadership Seminar in the morning before the official opening of the Synod Gathering. The Seminar, attended by Synod lay delegates and laity from the neighbouring Circuits, was addressed by the Lay President, Mr James Nkosi who presented on Every Member Ministry, and former SACC General Secretary, Rev Mautji Pataki who presented on Ethical Leadership.

The work done by the Synod Lay Leader amongst God’s People is great and must be supported more. There is need to assist the Church to recognise the role of the Lay Leadership in general not as an appendage of clergy but more as a collaborative and complimentary partnership where the gifts and talents of all must be shared for the glory of God.

Children's Ministry
The Limpopo Children and Youth Unit, influenced by the Presiding Bishop’s theme, Shaping Tomorrow Today, took a progressive bias towards Children’s Ministry.

A partnership with Penreach, a development or mission outreach entity of the Methodist-associated Penryn College, has been established. Penreach has several
impact programmes from which the Methodist Church can learn. The first two programmes that are being piloted in the Northern Region are SmartStart and the Reading. SmartStart is a simple, cost-effective and yet effective ECD programme designed for poor areas where parents cannot afford fees. The Reading Camps Programme is designed for youth in particular to assist learners in improving their reading skills. It is envisaged that these two programmes will be rolled out to the other regions of the Synod in due course.

The Limpopo Synod Gathering partnered with Save the Children and set aside considerable time focusing on Children. The Saturday devotion was led by two little girls who moved the Synod delegates. There was a panel that included children that focused on different aspects of child development.

**Gender Justice Desk**
The Synod has established the Limpopo Synod Gender Justice Desk to coordinate, facilitate and mobilise for all initiatives that are related to gender justice and transformation. The Desk, chaired by the Synod Vice who works with an appointed Convenor is also meant to “…reflect on our role as Limpopo Synod in the face of Gender Based Violence that is rampant in our communities and church.” Key focus areas of the Desk are:

- Offer “Magnify”: Women in Leadership Training
- Host an annual Women’s Dialogue on 9th August
- Offer Anti-Bias Training which is planned
- Annual Men and Boys’ Dialogue was held
- Promote the MCSA Sexual Harassment Policy

The Desk has already held a successful “Magnify” Training for Executives of Women’s Organisations and other potential trainers. The trainers are rolling out the programme in the regions. The 2019 Men and Boys’ Dialogue was held on 15 June 2019 in Pretoria. Ms Nancy Herron presented the Sexual Harassment Policy at the Clergy Convocation and regional training for laity is planned.

**The Annual Stanley Mogoba Synod Lecture**
The Limpopo Synod Gathering endorsed the Bishop’s proposal to introduce the Annual Stanley Mogoba Synod Lecture to honour our former General Secretary and Presiding Bishop, Rev Dr Stanley Mmutlanyana Mogoba. The objectives of the Annual Lecture are to:

- Preserve the legacy [thoughts and practice] of our Elders
- Celebrate Pan Africanism in general and Africa Day in particular
- Mobilise against Xenophobia and other forms of discrimination
- Promote the healing and transformation of Africa.

**Synod Boundaries**
The Limpopo Synod has taken seriously, the Conference directive to birth two new Synods. The Botswana Mission Synod was held on 2 March 2019 in Gaborone. The
new Synod, named Molopo, will officially be launched by the Presiding Bishop in the beginning of 2020. Plans are in place to set up structures, elect and capacitate leadership including that of Organisations/Mission Groups. Plans are in place to resource the Office of the Bishop who will be stationed and serve in the Gaborone Circuit.

There is an ongoing process to birth the second Synod in the Mpumalanga Synod which will include the Eastern Region of Limpopo with parts of the Highveld and Swaziland Synod.

The Mozambique Relief Effort
The Limpopo Synod launched an appeal to prayerfully and practically assist the people of Mozambique who are victims of the devastating cyclones Idai and Kenneth. The task has delegated this to the Order of Deacons under the leadership of Deacon Douw Grobler to coordinate. The Synod partnered with a relief Organisation called Mercy Air to airlift the collected food, clothes and medication to the parts of Mozambique that could not be reached through ground transport.

Mission Pillars' Highlights of Organisations and Circuit Work
Work on the Mission Pillars finds expression in the different organs of the Synod. The highlights include the following:

- **The Children and Youth Unit** held a Children’s Indaba with special focus on assisting clergy to minister to children
- **The Women’s Auxiliary** had Ebuhleni Home for the Elderly in an informal settlement in Mooiplaas as their annual Synod project.
- **The Women’s Association** held a World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women on 20th October 2018. They also participate in the Holiday Club Programme ministering to children.
- **The Women’s Fellowship** is in solidarity with People with Albinism and support hungry students in Universities, especially at the Pretoria University.
- **The Women’s Manyano** is building an ECD Centre at Maféfe, a rural village in the Mphahlele Circuit.
- **The Young Women’s Manyano** has undertaken Anti-substance Abuse initiatives.
- **The Music Association** held a Music Festival promoting multi-lingual liturgies and hymn singing.
- **The Local Preachers’ Association** report of the Lobatse branch that participated in the renovation of a local Church.
- **The Young Men’s Guild** has the distribution of shoes to school learners as their flagship project. It is reported that 750 pairs of shoes were donated to 8 schools in Mokopane in 2019.
- **The Order of Evangelism** is reviving the Malihambe Mission Programme. Kasane in Botswana has been identified to host the inaugural mission week.
- **The Methodist Order of Deacons** have partnered with the British Connexion and were represented at the World Diakonia Region: Africa Europe.
**Review of Ministry**

The Bishop, the Vice Chair and the Vice Chair-Elect of the new Molopo Synod embarked on a new process of Review of Ministry. The process which went fairly well served as platform for the leadership to assist Superintendent Ministers to reflect on their ministry, and determine their personal ministerial formation. The exercise assisted the leadership to know and understand clergy better.

**Strengthening Mission Work**

Whereas great mission work is done by individual Methodist people and organised structures to which they belong, there is need to strengthen this work. There is also recognition that plans on paper are illusions until they are translated into practical interventions.

The strengthening should include the following:

- Help move the church from events to more sustainable programmes that can be implemented, monitored, evaluated and accounted for
- Empowering Leadership training and accountability
- Resource mobilisation that recognises the difficult economic context we are in.

There is a need to upgrade our Synod Statistical Secretary Offices to convert the quantitative data they collect and other qualitative research outputs into evidence-based information that influences, guides and strengthens our mission.

There is, furthermore, the need to review and strengthen our Synod structures to ensure representivity, transformation, good governance and accountability. This should reflect the racial, gender and age diversity of our being. Part of this includes ongoing rotation to draw from available talents and gifts.

**Synod Mission Planning Workshop**

A Synod Mission Planning Workshop is planned for after Conference. The workshop, to be attended by the Synod Management Team, Leaders of Organisations/Mission Groups and Circuit Superintendents, is meant to receive Conference and Synod directives and align the work of all Mission Groups in the Synod. This includes managing the Synod Diary in a more responsible way.

**Conclusion**

Whereas this report has focused on macro level activities happening within the Synod, great mission work continues to happen at Circuit and society levels as well as within Organisations. There are also many committed Methodists who are serving in their vocations and as volunteers within Non-Governmental Organisations and other philanthropic initiatives.

It is the role of leadership to mobilise and inspire Methodist People to shine bright in the corners where they are.
Introduction
We serve the God of possibilities. History has been made by having the MCSA Conference realised in Maputo, Mozambique. The 129th Conference that our Synod hosted was the first to take place in our beloved Country. That made our people and nation proud; we felt that we are indeed part of the Connexion. We give thanks to God for the success of this great event and to the people called Methodists for embracing the challenge of coming to Maputo after 128 Conferences. The event was indeed historical and a reviving moment for our Church in Mozambique. We also hope that it was an eye opener for our Connexion concerning the reality of Mozambique in general and challenges of Mozambique Synod in particular. Certainly and hopefully, the Connexion understands that Mozambique has changed for the better, and we hope to begin harvesting the results soon.

Country Overview
Not without challenges, we successfully held our 5th Municipal Elections in 2018 and are heading to the 6th General/Presidential and Provincial Assemblies Elections in October, 2019. Your prayerful support will be much appreciated, especially with all the challenges that the instability and violent conflict in the Northern Province of Cabo Delgado poses to the Country, as well as the efforts being made for an effective Peace. We are challenged to do our best to preserve the image that our Country managed to gain amongst the Nations as a “success story” in peace achievement and peace preservation along its history.

With the launch of the Campaign “Zero Malaria starts with me” by His Excellency the President of the Republic at a National Malaria Forum last year, all sectors of Society have embraced the fight against Malaria more seriously, and that gives us hope that we are on the right path in the battle against eliminating this disease that kills more than any other disease in the Country as well as in the Sub-Saharan Region. Our hope is that the international community in general and the Region in particular, will be with us in this process; not only in prayers but also physically, in order to witness the event.

Annual Synod
Galvanized by the spirit of the 129th Conference theme “Shaping Tomorrow – Today”, we held our 37th Annual Synod at “Guidione Sithoe” Local Society – Macie Circuit in Gaza Province, from the 16th to the 19th May, 2019 under the theme: Let
us build our Tomorrow today, engaging the New Generations for a “life in all its fullness” (John 10:10b).

We are challenged to bring the New Generations (Children and Young People) into the centre, just as the Master did. Children and Young People are not to be kept on the peripheries or on the margins, they must be in the centre of our agenda, and above all, they must be “objects” and not just “subjects” of God’s Mission entrusted to the Church.

This theme constitutes a paradigm shift for a Church and Society that loves to see but refuses to hear the voices of Children and Young People. They are not “Tomorrow’s Church” as we often call them. They are “Today’s Church”, meaning that for them to do well tomorrow, we must allow and get them involved right now. So, to have them involved here and now is not an option... it is a “must”. In fact the Church will benefit and learn a lot by getting Children and Youth involved in the affairs of the Church that is also theirs.

The Youth Synod which was held in Ka-Tembe, focused on the place and role of the Younger Generations on shaping the Mission that God entrusted to the Church. They reflected on what it means to “shape tomorrow today” for them. They also assumed that the reflection will continue throughout the year in the spirit of celebrating the Year of Children and Youth launched by the Presiding Bishop at the 129th MCSA Conference held in Maputo. On the other hand, they also assumed that to be in the centre is both a privilege and a responsibility.

1. Achievements/Major Celebrations
With the support of our South Korean Friends we continued to provide pure/clean water for our Communities. During the period in reference we managed to drill four more boreholes in Communities where people were drinking water improper for consumption, which was a blessing to those Communities.

We thank God and our Partners for the conclusion of the first phase of our Secondary and Vocational School in Ka-Tembe (the 1st five Classrooms, the Administrative block, the toilets, and the borehole that provides the water system for the investment and to supply pure/clean water for the surrounding Community). We held a dedication ceremony which occurred with the participation of representatives from the Korean sponsor Church led by its Bishop (The Bishop of Seoul Methodist Conference). We are now working with the Department of Education in order to have the School start functioning beginning of the 2019 Education cycle to minimise the demand in Ka-Tembe.

We dedicated a newly-built Church in Santaka-Brazil (Matutuine Circuit), in Intaka (Mavalane Circuit) and in Chicualacuala (Limpopo Norte Circuit). This was indeed a remarkable achievement considering that it was the first Church building to be built in that area in a three months’ record time. The laying of the first stone for the building of a Church in Tete city marked a historical endeavour of our expansion effort in the Central Region of Mozambique.
1.1 **Spirituality**
The revival spirit characterises the approach of Circuits and Organisations/Departments throughout our Synod. It is overwhelming to realise that the spirit of evangelism, expansion and Mission characterises the activities of our Mission Groups. We witnessed growth of Groups of Prayer and Intercessors in our Circuits who concentrate on prayers for morality and ethics, and prayers for Peace and Reconciliation.

We held reflective “INDABAS” to analyse the spiritual life of our Synod and capitalise on the momentum and enthusiasm gained during the preparation for the Connexional Conference of our Church which took place in our Country for the first time. These “INDABAS” will be replicated at Circuit level.

1.2 **Evangelism and Church Growth**
The work of God in the new Expansion Zone in Tete Province referred to in our previous report is showing growth, hence the breaking of ground for the building of a Church. The enthusiasm of our people there is very encouraging and promises to be a strategic point from where we will be able to spread the Good News and reach new areas.

With the support of the Korean Church we were able to provide Motorbikes for two Evangelists, one in Zithundo and the other one in Chicualacuula, to minimize the distances that they have to travel to carry out their responsibilities.

The effort to provide shelter for those worshipping under trees or in precarious conditions continues to be the focus of our interventions and that of our Circuits.

unreached areas in their surroundings, bringing Christ to the people and people to Christ.

1.3 **Justice and Service**
The Water Project mentioned above has helped us to address the injustice of having people drink improper water that in turn leads to preventable diseases. It was fulfilling to hear a Community Leader in Zithundo (near Ponta d’Ouro) during the dedication of a borehole there saying: we give thanks to God for the Church that solved the problem of water that this Community was facing. Since we started drinking this water which is as clean and pure as mineral bottled water, even the Health Department has been reporting a decrease in the number of admissions caused by stomach related diseases.
With the devastation provoked by IDAI and Kenneth cyclones we mobilised ourselves to donate whatever we could (both monetary and in kind) to minimize the suffering and need of our compatriots. The kind of solidarity that was manifested from within and from outside the Country gave hope to the Victims that life continues even after such catastrophic disasters. With the support of our partners we managed not only to send our support but also to go there and be with and pray with them. That helped us to meet the real needs on the ground, which responds to the expectations of the Victims. We are now working to supply Agricultural implements including relevant seeds for the affected areas to allow the Victims to restart their survival strategies.

It cannot be over emphasised that after these destructive cyclones a lot needs to be done with the affected Communities to bring life back to stability again. It includes providing Agricultural implements and seeds, helping them to re-erect their shelters and the whole infra-structural system that was destroyed, but above all, to re-build their souls through Counselling and Pastoral Accompaniment. That will, undoubtedly, require your accompaniment, support and prayers.

1.4 Economic Empowerment and Human Development

Through PIRCOM (the Inter-Religious Initiative on Combating Malaria, we capacitated Religious Leaders and Volunteers on methods and practices to prevent Cholera and other water related diseases in the cyclone affected areas.

With the support of our Korean Mission Partner we offered 200 partial scholarships for primary, and secondary School Children. These Scholarships helped to provide uniforms and school materials. We also supported 4 University level Students with school materials.

In our capacity as President of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation of the Christian Council of Churches we have embarked in Peace Education, focusing on Religious and Community Leaders to create Dialogue Spaces at Community level, and with Young People to create a New Inclusive and Embracing Generation, free from prejudices, entrusting them with the responsibility of Reconciliation, as Ambassadors of the Prince of Peace.

1.5 Education and Christian Formation

The training of new Sunday School Teachers and refreshment of the existing Sunday School Teachers as well as equipping them with the necessary material for their work continues to be our priority.

The Local Preachers course by Extension is gaining acceptance with our Members, where new and old Local Preachers adhere to the training with greater enthusiasm.
We also continued the various capacity building workshops for the Synod Executive members, Ministers and Evangelists, Circuit Stewards and Finance Committee members, Treasurers and Class Leaders on their Duties and Responsibilities as well as on the concrete themes and challenges that came out of the “INDABAS”.

2. **Perspectives**

   Responding to the challenge posed by our theme, we commit ourselves to embark on the following initiatives:

   2.1 We are projecting to train Young People on building a “Culture of Peace” to overcome the cycle of violence by engaging Young People to work for Peace (Youth for Peace project) – towards an Inclusive Generation, in the context of celebrating the Year for Children and Youth launched by the Presiding Bishop at the 129th Annual Conference of our Connexion.

   2.2 Intensify encouragement of Young People to join the Ministry as a long term project to address the shortage of Ministers that our Synod is facing.

   2.3 We hope that the initiative of building a new house (manse) per year with the support of the Connexion will start taking shape this year.

   2.4 Establishment of Chaplaincy at Matola Port.

   2.5 Strengthen our work at “Zona Centro” and “Tete” expanding it as well as to Beira in order to form respective Circuits (in Tete and Sofala Province).

   2.6 Envisage to transform Inhaca Section into a Circuit.

   2.7 And we project to hold Circuit “INDABAS” to further reflect on the Spiritual life as well as on our members’ commitment for the growth of our Synod.

3. **Conclusion**

   As a Church that commits herself to bring Children and Young People from the peripheries and the margins to the Centre, let us build our Tomorrow today, engaging the New Generations for a “life in all its fullness”. That is to be intentional about the well-being of our Younger Generations, holding them in the centre of our attention in doing Church. That is to be a Child-centered Church which is indeed a paradigm shift that is pleasing not just in our own understanding, but also in God’s eyes. May the good Lord help us to be and to do, as a Church that truly cares about Children and Youth, and is not just concerned about her own immediate well-being.

*Justice and Peace for all!*

Kanimambu/Thank you
This year marks the 137\textsuperscript{th} Annual Synod of Clarkebury started as a result of the work begun 200 years ago by William Shaw. This is the spiritual home to some 66 000 members throughout 54 Circuits. These Circuits are our centres of Mission, Ministry and Worship. They are served diligently and faithfully by 61 Presbyters, 19 Evangelists and Biblewomen and 980 Local Preachers.

This Synod stretches from Mbashe River in the South to the Mzimkhulu area in the North, Indian Ocean in the East and Mt Hargreaves in the West. The geographic context of this Synod is filled with mountains, hills and valleys, rivers and dams, fauna and flora, fertile soil and nice breezes of the Indian Ocean. This is a Synod which is pure black, predominantly rural, engulfed with poverty, crime and a high rate of substance abuse and different tribes.

\textbf{Spirituality}

Most Circuits focused on Methodist Spirituality. Bible study groups are taking place in most Circuits. Confirmation classes and class leaders meeting have been resuscitated. Healing services and revival services are taking place in a number of places.

On Thursday and Saturday Women’s Manyano Prayer Services are taking place in all our Circuits. On Wednesdays the Young Women’s Manyano is conducting their services. On Saturdays the Young Men’s Guild conduct their services with the intention of uplifting their spirituality. Presbyters and Local Preachers conduct their Sunday services diligently and faithfully. Worship teams and church choirs are trained to lead the services well.

\textbf{Evangelism and Church Growth}

Our Synod is growing both in number and financially. New Societies have been established and built. King Victor Poto Memorial Circuit built the following 13 Societies namely: Misty Mount Society, Moyeni Society, Maxhaka Society, Masameni Society, Dokodela Society, Mdina Society, Mthombe Society, Mthombe-Tsitsa Society, Jamani Society, Nolokoza Society, Mpindweni Society, Nkonkoni Society – as well as a kitchen and playground for children. Etembeni Circuit built the following 5 societies: Gideon Baqwa Memorial Society, Bosch Fontein Society, Teekloof Society, Ev NW Keswa Memorial Society and Diepkloof Society. Umtata Circuit 1306 built two societies, Fair Field Society and Lindile Society as well as a manse. Fletcherville Circuit built a church and a manse. Osborn Circuit built two
societies, Mnxekazi Society and Mkhonqo Society. Emvubukazi Circuit built a church and renovated the manse.

Evangelists and Biblewomen had two revival and church growth services in two Circuits at Engwaqa and at Mbalisweni Circuits respectively. They have started a campaign “Every home for Christ”. Methsoc is established in Institutions of higher learning. Different Organisations of our Synod embarked on outreach programmes that addressed social ills and gave hope to the broken and vulnerable people. A massive zonal Evangelism Campaign was held in Durban by Natal West, Natal Coastal and Clarkebury Synods.

**Justice and Service**

Thursdays in Black Campaign is done by most Circuits to raise awareness of children and women abuse. Marches are done by men to say to the abusers “Not in our name”. A service is organised for Supernumerary Ministers and the aged, where presents were given to them. Screening is done for those dealing with children. School uniforms, sanitary towels and toiletries are provided by various Organisations to schools. Three houses were given to three families by the Youth, Women’s Manyano and Local Preachers Department.

**Human Economic Empowerment and Development**

To address the issues of unemployment and poverty, a computer training centre, a bakery and a Skills Development Centre were established in the Palmerton Circuit. The Women’s Manyano conducted training on basket and bag making, fabric painting, carpet making, fine beading, crop production, hat making and starching. Gardening projects were run by the Young Men’s Guild. A fun walk was organised at all gatherings to promote wellness, enhance social cohesion, and to instill discipline and entertainment, sport and indigenous games are played by our youth.

**Education and Christian Formation**

All Organisations are contributing towards the bursary fund. The Synod has five recipients of bursaries this year. We have established a newsletter called “Isivivane” as a tool for communication. All Circuits have adopted a school and during the YMG Convention, the YMG members visited schools in respective hosting areas to offer prayers. The Health Desk have established the Community Advocates Programme and 103 Community Advocates have been employed.

Workshops on stewardship, leadership, church growth and multiplying, were conducted this year.

God is good all the time. May the peace of the Lord that passes all understanding be with us always. I humbly express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all Circuits, Organisations and Ministers for the outstanding work we have done this year.

May God bless us.
CHAPTER 1
MESSAGE TO THE METHODIST PEOPLE
CONFERENCE 2019

The 130th Annual Conference of the MCSA congregated in Cape Town in the Cape of Good Hope Synod with the invitation, ‘SHAPING TOMORROW, TODAY – WALKING HUMBLY WITH GOD.’

OUR GATHERING
We gathered:

- In the city of Cape Town, a place rich in its cultural heritage, and a place of many contrasts. A place of pain and hope, and a place of so much beauty and hazardous settlements.
- At a time of great pain in our Connexion and in South Africa, particularly.
- With our heads hanging in shame, eighteen days after the horrific rape and murder of Uyinene Mrwetyana at a local Post Office; and on the day when an eight year old girl testified in the Pretoria High Court of her rape in a popular restaurant; and on the day when many buses left Gauteng to take away our African brothers and sisters to their countries because of the senseless violence and looting of their businesses.

OUR CONFESSION
We confess that:

- We have allowed darkness to no longer hide itself in the shadows of the underworld, it brazenly turns out the lights.
- We have often not acted as accountable and responsible stewards of God’s financial resources.
- We have hindered our mission effectiveness by being a divided church, by our lack of practical servant leadership and by normalising our abnormal and unacceptable moral behaviour.
- We are a violent people: We rape and we murder our mothers, sisters and daughters. We are also inhospitable: We are prejudiced against our fellow African sisters and brothers. Noting that 84.2% of South Africans claim in a recent Household Survey that they are Christians, then we can accept that: It is the Body of Christ that is raping; It is the Body of Christ that is murdering; It is the Body of Christ that is destroying property and looting.
- We are missing the children and youth in our congregations. If the majority of the African population are Youth and we only have 16% under the age of 35, then we are the Church of the older minority.
OUR LAMENT
We cry out to God:
• We as a Church, have spent so much time dancing around the golden calf of our own comfort and have not responded appropriately to the scourge of abuse and violence against women and children.
• Even though we have a theological position of the MCSA on same sex relationships and the LGBTIAQ+ community, we have been so slow to find common ground on the matters of same sex marriage and ordination.
• We have failed to disrupt the culture that continues to terrify children, mothers, and daughters of our nations.
• For our failure not to let mission run through our veins, for not being open to the world around us, for not being concerned for all creation and for not aching for every person who is bruised and battered by life in whatever way.
• For the continuing rejection and conflict that has beset too many of our communities and more especially between laity and clergy.
• To deliver us from amnesia and to turn our memory into hope, our gratitude into energy and our well-being into impatience.
• For the great pain in many parts of Africa. This pain is acutely expressed in the death of more than five million compatriots from the Democratic Republic of Congo through violent conflict since 1997.

OUR JOYOUS CELEBRATION
We celebrate with great joy:
• That despite our many failures, there is improvement in gender representation at Conference.
• The affirmation of women leadership symbolised by more women leading in the different spheres of our church.
• The appointment of our very first female Presiding Bishop.
• There are still people we can honour who act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.
• That we are living our intention of being shaped for mission with the establishment of three new Synods and two others to be finalised in 2020.
• As we remembered the many ministers, deacons and local preachers and gave thanks to God for their lives and ministry, we were reminded of the Christ who understands our humanness and cares deeply about our pain and the Christ who lifts the stones out of our lives and lightens our load.

GOD’S CALL
We heed the call to walk humbly with God by:
• Witnessing to the truth, binding up the broken, living the alternative and replacing evil with good.
• Being present with and among the poor.
• Mobilising safe spaces in our churches for women to share their pain.
• Disrupting all acts of evil and violence by all humans against each other.
• Intentionally teaching and preaching messages to men that condemn patriarchy and promote transformative masculinity.
• Being a praying Church and by living out our faith. We are reminded that even if we cannot talk about Christ, we can live like Christ.
• Appealing to governments of the countries of our Connexion to realise the discontent and unhappiness and thus to act on violence. Riot is the language of the unheard.

OUR BENEDICTION
May God bless us with just enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in the world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done: To walk humbly with God, to bring justice and kindness to all our children and all our neighbours'
CHAPTER 2

RESOLUTIONS OF CONFERENCE 2019

1. Conference Resolutions Referred to Ecumenical Affairs – 2018
Conference Resolves that the Ecumenical Affairs Unit continue its work on the 2018 Resolution -2.33 Fourth Industrial Technological Revolution, for reporting to Conference 2020.

2. Affirmation of the 2014 Conference Resolution
Conference affirms the 2014 Conference Resolution (“Miscellaneous Conference Resolutions” in the Book of Order: 17, pg. 227) and calls upon the Methodist people to exercise sensitivity towards the LGBTIAQ+ community.

3. Ban on single-use Plastics
Conference notes that our mandate as stewards of creation is being severely compromised by the extensive use of single-use plastics. Given that globally, between 5.3 million and 14 million tons of plastic finds its way into the ocean each year (2015, Jenna Jambeck) and the alarming incidence of micro-plastics in every ocean and on every shore (excluding the land-based pollution), it is imperative that we repent from our destructive and life-destroying habits using plastics.

The Methodist Church of Southern Africa therefore calls on the Governments of the countries within our Connexion to follow the lead of other countries such as, Kenya, Tanzania and others and ban the use of single plastics in the spirit of the Resolution taken at 2018 Conference regarding plastic bottles.

Conference directs the Ecumenical Affairs Unit to call upon Ecumenical Partners and civil society to lobby against the use of single-use plastics.

4. Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
Noting Israel’s ongoing ill-treatment and oppression of the Palestinian people, and the historic Prophetic role played by the Church and International Community in fighting apartheid, and any form of discrimination and injustice;

As an act of solidarity with the people of Palestine, Conference affirms the 2013 Resolution (2013 Yearbook, 3.4, pg. 93-95), and directs the Methodist people to boycott, disinvest and sanction all businesses that benefit the Israeli economy; that all future Holy land tours organised by Methodist clergy or persons affiliated to the MCSA, to boycott all Israeli operators and tours, and to deliberately seek out tours that offer an alternative Palestinian perspective.
Conference resolves that the Mission Unit establish a working team to develop awareness programmes, including the dissemination of the Kairos Palestine document, and conscientisation across the Connexion.

5. Statement on Marriage
We, the Methodist people in Southern Africa have been on a journey in search for grace and truth with regards to human sexuality, marriage and family life. Our conversation, discernment and common experience have confirmed our commitment to our being a community of love and acceptance that celebrates the unity and diversity expressed in our Methodist spirit and Connexional existence.

To recognise the milestones on this journey, Conference 2016 affirmed “A profession of the MCSA’s unity and diversity within the context of the Church’s conversation on same-sex relationships” (Book of Order 2016:227-228). We also note the developments across the global Methodist family and in particular the work done by the British Conference on a Methodist doctrine of marriage. In light of this work, Conference notes the following statements from the British document as contributory to the MCSA’s conversation on Christian marriage:

1. The Methodist Church of Southern Africa recognises that there is a distinct difference between the legal definitions of marriage (held by the respective countries that comprise the MCSA Connexion) and the religious understanding that the MCSA holds. Primarily, legal definitions of marriage pertain to a form of contractual relationship entered into by individuals, describing the legal nature of their relationship and the accompanying determinations as set out by law. Whilst recognising the legal aspect of marriage, the MCSA believes that marriage is a covenantal relationship between two people, shaped and founded in God’s love for them and that this love is expressed as a divine gift to each other.

2. Christian marriage is an exclusive relationship between two people who, united through God’s Spirit, provide each other with a life-long commitment of love, affection, care, companionship, trust and faithfulness.

3. In a context where there are cultural, historical and socio-economic factors that have contributed to the fracturing of the family, there is a need for reconstructive work and pastoral focus on marriage and the emergence of new forms of family life.

4. As Methodist people we believe that married life is a vital means of grace for the development of individual, children and the strengthening of human society. The Words of the Methodist Marriage liturgy capture this goal of marriage: “Through such marriage children may be nurtured, family life strengthened, and human society enriched.”

Conference notes the work done by DEWCOM on an understanding of Christian marriage; and refers the matter back to DEWCOM to formulate a document for engagement at the 2020 Conference.

6. LGBTIAQ+ Community Task Team
Conference acknowledges with grave concern that for 20 years the “debate” about human sexuality and LGBTIAQ+ persons, in particular, has unfolded within the MCSA without seeking the deliberate input of the LGBTIAQ+ community. As a result, the “same sex debate” has, by and large, been dominated by divergent hetero-normative perspectives that have missed the nuances and dynamics of queer and non-heterosexual identities as well as the complex justice issues that confront the LGBTIAQ+ community in the church and in public institutions (such as, for example, violence towards queer persons, medical rights, adoptive rights, etc.).

Conference reaffirms its decision in 2018 that urged us as a Connexion to seek to create safe spaces for LGBTIAQ+ persons within the greater life of the church.

With this in mind, and noting the inherent prophetic nature of the Church to prioritise the voices of marginalised group/s in its journey toward seeking justice,

Conference directs the Office of the Presiding Bishop to set up a task team including LGBTIAQ+ persons and allies to listen, pastorally support and advocate for all affected persons, for reporting to Conference 2020.

7. Bursary Fund
In response to the crisis of education in South Africa which resulted in the #FeesMustFall campaign throughout South Africa in 2015, the office of the Presiding Bishop convened a meeting. The meeting was held with the following: The Presiding Bishop of the MCSA, Connexional Children’s and Youth Unit, Mission Unit and MethSsoc representatives.

Conference notes the need to resource education at tertiary institutions and therefore directs the Human Resource Committee in consultation with the Finance Unit, Mission Unit, Children and Youth Unit (with powers to co-opt if required), to undertake necessary feasibility assessment and propose solutions for reporting at the 2020 Conference.

8. Wesley Guild Constitution
It has been noted that the Wesley Guild constitution clearly identifies binary gender categories when describing membership and its uniform.

Noting that the church is still in conversation on matters of LGBTIAQ+ inclusion etc., Conference resolves to refer the discussion on Gender binaries in paragraph
7.1 and 7.2 of the Wesley Guild Constitution and replacing it with a list of uniform options, to the LGBTIAQ+ Community Task Team, to understand the implications of enforcing gender binary principles on uniformed Organisations, for reporting to Conference 2020.

9. Finances Youth Unit at Synod Level
Noting the financial burden that is carried by MCYU in ensuring effective operations of the Unit at Synod level, fundraising for their budgets through children and youth who are majority unemployed, makes the mission and ministry of MCYU not to be feasible and effective.

Conference resolves that every Synod shall budget for Children and Youth Unit annually, the practice to be standardised across the Connexion that it is executed in all Synods.

Conference therefore resolves that Synods make annual provision for the Children and Youth Unit.

10. Psychological Evaluations for CMP’s: Amendment of Chapter 8.10.8
8.10.8 “Children’s ministry leaders and prospective Sunday school teachers must be properly screened, undergo psychological evaluations, be trained and should have the following qualities:”

Conference resolves that MCYU arrange workshops such as debriefs at Synod/Connexional Indabas.

Conference refers the issue of psychological evaluation to the Child Care Desk for further discussion, considering the financial implications in the implementation.

11. Harassment Policy of the MCSA
Conference adopts the Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy as a draft working document, and directs the Human Resource Unit and Revision Committee to finalise the amendment to the Policy for adoption by the 2020 Conference, whilst the current Harassment policy remains in force.

12. Threefold Pattern of Deacons, Presbyters and Bishops
Conference acknowledges that the Theology of Ministry which was adopted in 2003 puts forward a threefold pattern of ministry (Deacon, Presbyter and Bishop) that is contrary to the twofold understanding of Ministry, Conference rescinds the 2003 definition and requests DEWCOM to make the appropriate doctrinal amendments as part of the discussion document for Conference 2020 (see DEWCOM Report 1.5).

13. Young Men's Guild Representation at Synod Gathering
Conference, noting that the legislation as set out in the Constitution of the
YMG (10.10) setting forth the number of members required to attend the Synod gathering differs from that which is set forth in the Book of Order (6.4.15), recommends that the Revisions Committee, in consultation with the YMG and other Organisations (if necessary), consider the following amendment to the Book of Order:

6.4.15 Delete: “the District President” and
   Insert: “and one other Synod Executive Committee Member”.

14. **Communications Unit Representation at Synod**
Conference in recognising the increasing need of a Communications facilitator at Synod level who will circulate information about the life and work of the Synod within the Synod, tasks the Communications Unit in consultation with the Revision and Structures Committees to:
1. Develop the appropriate guidelines that would inform the work and parameters of the Communications Facilitator and
2. Advise on subsequent amendments to the L&D 12\(^{th}\) Ed, Revised.
3. Consider the financial implications of such implementation.

15. **Amendments to all MCSA Organisations' Constitutions**
Conference acknowledges the need for all Constitutions of all Organisations within MCSA to comply with our current legislation with regard to the duties of Ministers: (4.73–4.77 and 7.40-7.41) and with the gender inclusive values and legislation of the MCSA. Conference refers this to the Revision Committee in consultation with the leadership of all Organisations.

16. **Name Change of District to Synod**
Conference noting the confusion regarding the ecclesiastical interpretation of the word “Synod”, tasks DEWCOM to develop theological input to guide the reflections of Synods and Circuits.

17. **Renaming the Office of the Vice-Chairman**
Conference adopts the amendment from Chairman to Chairperson in the interim whilst Conference refers the “function” to Structures Committee for review.

18. **Guidelines for Naming of Methodist Buildings and Entities**
1. Any change or new name of a building or entity, must be approved by the Circuit Quarterly Meeting before submitting to Synod.
2. If named after a person it may only be done posthumously. This does not refer to buildings or entities which have been named prior to this guideline being adopted by Conference. The families of deceased persons are to be consulted.
3. Methodist Buildings or entities named after theological or biblical or ecclesiastical names or concepts shall be in line with Wesleyan tradition.
4. When a church located in a town where the town’s name has changed and the church is named after the town, such church should reconsider the name.

19. Covenantal Relationship between Church and Ministers be outlined in the Book of Order

Conference affirms the covenantal relationship between Ministers, Presbyters, Deacons, Order of Evangelism and the Connexion. However, we note the concern to clearly quantify and outline the expectations and parameters held within covenantal commitment and the need to articulate implications thereof for all concerned parties. Conference directs the Revisions Committee in consultation with DEWCOM, to develop a theological framework that would speak to this need and advise on any amendments or additions to the Laws and Discipline.

DEWCOM is also directed to consider the covenant with its Sister Churches in the CUC.

20. Legal Rights of LGBTQI Methodists

Preamble – Noting the foundation principle in the “Same Sex Debate” adopted by the 2001 Conference of the MCSA, “that the MCSA seeks to be a community of love rather than rejection and the statement of belief accepted by the 2014 Conference that any form of victimization, hatred or violence towards homosexual people should be condemned in the strongest possible terms, as well as the re-affirmation that the MCSA is not yet ready to apply for its ministers to officiate at same-sex unions because there is still a need for further conversation in relation to the theology of marriage, the exercise of conscience, pastoral implications and the perceived marginalisation of people in same-sex relationships (“Miscellaneous Conference Resolutions” in the Book of Order: 17, pg. 227),

And whilst recognising that there are ongoing deliberations in the development of the theology of marriage within the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, Conference affirms that the foundational principle in the conversation about LGBTIAQ persons is the value that the “MCSA seeks to be a community of love rather than rejection” (Conference 2001) and affirms the ethos and conviction of the 2014 Statement of belief (Conference 2014: L&D, p 227:17)

Conference acknowledges:
• that within in the South African context, the Same Sex Act (2006) makes provision for any citizen to enter into a legal Civil Partnership and as such upholds the legal rights of persons choosing this partnership;
• that the legal provisions Civil Union Partnership are separate from the religious function of solemnising and blessing a marriage.

In light of these recognitions, Conference resolves, that while the MCSA continues its development on a theology of marriage, no citizen of a country within the Connexion that allows Civil Union, shall be prevented from entering
into a legal Civil Union Partnership, which may include opposite sex couples or same–sex couples, presided over by an official of the department of Home Affairs, Magistrate or other official representing the countries within the Connexion that allow Civil Unions.

Conference refers the above to Synods for discussion and to feedback to Conference 2020 for decision. (L&D, 5.6.4: pg 55)

21. Women in Leadership

In our endeavour to correct the marginalisation of women in our leadership, Conference formally expresses its commitment to gender inclusivity and the embracing of the leadership of women in the church. The Church shall appoint women to the offices of the Connexion including Bishops, Presiding Bishop and General Secretary and Lay President, ensuring 40% representation is maintained. If a Synod or the Connexion nominates or elects a man into such office at a time that less than 40% of its Bishops, Presiding Bishop, General Secretary and Lay President are women, Conference shall be required to make an appointment of a Bishop, Presiding Bishop, General Secretary or Lay Leader who is a woman.

22. L&D Amendments and Necessary Appendix Amendments in light of Women in Leadership Resolution

22.1 Inclusivity of Leadership

Add new point:

| 1.45: | “The MCSA is committed to inclusivity and as such the gender balance among the body of Bishops, Presiding Bishop, General Secretary and Lay President will express this commitment therein that at all times no less than 40 percent of the Leadership mentioned above shall be women.” |

22.2 Chapter 5 – Officers of Conference

5.7 Add after: “…according to the provisions of Appendix 10.”

Insert: “…read together with paragraph 1.45.”

The Presiding Bishop:
The Presiding Bishop is the official head and chief pastor of the Church and shall exercise the powers, privileges and authority of that office subject to the directions of Conference and the laws and usages of the Church. The Presiding Bishop shall be a Minister of the Church and be elected according to the provisions of Appendix 10 read together with paragraph 1.45. The Presiding Bishop shall normally assume duty on the 1st January some 18 months after election and shall continue in the office for a five (5) year term, but is eligible for re-election for one (1) further term. He/she shall be inducted by the Presiding Bishop who most recently vacated the office and who is available.
22.3 Appendix 10: Procedure for Electing a Presiding Bishop

Insert under 1.: “When the Presiding Bishop to be elected is required to be a woman in accordance with provisions of paragraph 1.45, the General Secretary will make such announcement no later than 3 months before the election.”

Insert under 2.: “In the event that the Presiding Bishop to be elected is to be a woman in accordance with paragraph 1.45, the three (3) women who received the most votes in the first ballot of Connexional voting will be the names presented for voting in the second ballot.“

Amend 7: “The Synods shall then, if necessary, immediately vote again on the three (3) persons who secured the greatest number of votes in the first ballot, or if it is a woman who must be appointed, the names of the three (3) women who secured the highest number of votes, and transmit the result of the ballot to the General Secretary.”

22.4 Chapter 5

5.8 The Lay President:

5.8.1 Add after: “…to the provisions of Appendix 12.”

Insert: “read together with paragraph 1.45.”

Conference shall elect a Lay President according to the provisions of Appendix 12 read together with paragraph 1.45. The Lay President assumes office on the 1st January after election and holds office for a term of three (3) years, up to a maximum of two (2) terms;

22.5 Appendix 12: Procedure for Electing the Lay President

Insert point after 1: “In a year that according to the provision L&D 1.45, the Lay President must be a woman the General Secretary shall communicate this with the Synod Secretaries by the October Circuit Quarterly Meeting in the year preceding the elections. Only female Members of the MCSA shall be eligible.

5.10 The General Secretary:

5.10.1 Add after: “…according to the provisions of Appendix 13.”

Insert: “read together with paragraph 1.45.”

The General Secretary shall be a Minister and be elected by the Conference according to the provisions of Appendix 13 read together with paragraph 1.45.

22.6 Appendix 13: Procedure for the Election of the General Secretary

Insert point after 2: “In a year that the General Secretary is elected, the General Secretary shall assess the number of women in leadership and in the event that the provision of paragraph 1.45 requires the election of a woman, the General Secretary will announce at least three (3) months before the election that only woman Ministers in Full Connexion in the said election shall be eligible for election.
22.7 **Chapter 6**

6.11 **Election and Appointment of Bishops**

6.11 **Add after:** “…according to the provisions of Appendix 11.”

**Insert:** “read together with paragraph 1.45.”

The following regulations and procedures shall govern the election and appointment of Bishops.

6.11.1 The procedure for electing a Bishop shall be in accordance with Appendix 11 read together with paragraph 1.45

22.8. **Appendix 11: Procedure for Electing a Bishop**

**Insert: After item 1:** “At the time that nominations for a Synod Bishop are called for, the General Secretary shall assess the number of women Bishops and in the event that the provision of paragraph 1.45 requires the election of a woman, the General Secretary will make such announcement to reach the circuits for the first quarterly meeting of the elective year that only nominations for women Ministers in Full Connexion in the said election shall be eligible for election and any nominations of men will be disqualified in such an election.

**Add: New point under new 2.:**

“In the event that a number of Synods in the Connexion vote at the same time and a percentage of the Bishops to be elected must be women, the following process is used to determine which of the Synods will be required to vote for women Bishops:

The women in leadership in each affected Synod are counted as follows: Vice Chair; Secretary; Statistical Secretary; Lay Leader; Treasurer; Synod Supervisor of Studies; Mission Co-ordinator; Ecumenical Affairs Secretary; Youth Coordinator and Superintendents. The Synod/s with the fewest women in leadership, as calculated above, will be the Synods who shall elect Bishops who are women.

23. **Representivity**

Conference affirms that the following bodies of the MCSA shall be comprised of at least 40% women and 20% percent of youth (aged under 35 years):

1. Society Stewards and leaders meetings
2. Circuit Stewards and Circuit Quarterly Meetings
3. Synods (including Mission Synods)
4. Synod Executives
5. Conference
6. All mixed gender Organisations
7. All committees, commissions and task teams
8. Gender exclusive Organisations are to ensure the 20% representation of youth
The Chairperson of all the above structures shall be responsible and held accountable to ensure adherence to the spirit and letter of this resolution. If in any of these Organisations, structures or committees the representation is not met, the minutes of each of these bodies, shall include a strong motivation as to the reason why the representation was not attainable and in addition report each time to the Synod Bishop, Connexional President or Presiding Bishop, as appropriate. The report must include what measures are being explored to correct this imbalance.

24. Youth Unit Directorship
Conference affirms the work done by CYC and refers to the Human Resource Unit the development of guidelines for the appointment of a Youth Unit Director in consultation with MCYU, such as qualifications and a passion for youth work and relevant experience in youth work.

25. Financial Transparency
Conference refers to all Synods the proposal to publish Clergy Stipends in the Synod Blue Book, to include stipend, additions and travel allowance. For discussion and reporting to Conference 2020.

26. Stipend Augmentation Fund to assist with Total Stipends of Stationed Ministers who are incapacitated due to Ill Health
Conference resolves that a Minister incapacitated due to Ill-health for more than two months, with necessary Medical treatment, the Stipend Augmentation Fund may take over the payment of Stipend according to the Stipend Augmentation Fund calculation including Pension contributions for 3 to 12 months or as medically necessary during this time. This will be subject to the availability of funds in the stipend augmentation fund.

27. Stipend Augmentation Fund for Ministers in Mozambique
Conference resolves that the Stipend Augmentation Fund makes the Employer Contribution to the Pension Fund of Ministers in Mozambique. It further resolves that Stipend Augmentation for Ministers in Mozambique be increased by an amount equal to their member contribution to the Pension Fund.

28. Augmentation of Pension Contributions for Ministers in Mozambique
Due to the fact that ministers in Mozambique have not received the benefit of pension contributions in any form towards their pension fund accounts for nine (9) years, Conference resolves that all active ministers stationed in Mozambique who are on the pension fund, receive into their pension account, from the Supernumerary Reserve Fund, an amount equal to the current church and members contributions for every year in which no pension contribution was made on their behalf, subject to the availability of funds.
29. **Connexional Boundaries Changes Requirement for Further Funding towards the Structures Work**

Conference directs the Finance Unit to allocate funds for 2020 (Ref Resolution 2.38 Yearbook 2019) from the Church Reserve Fund, to fund the Structures work and also partly assist with the establishment of new Synods.

30. **Property Office**

The MCSA has a large property portfolio, most of which is used for the mission and ministry of the Church, such as church buildings and manses. However, there is also property which offers opportunities for the generation of income for the mission and ministry of the church, either through the sale of unusable property, the development of property, or the purchase of property for the purpose of income generation. Having considered models of church property management in other African countries:

The Conference of the MCSA resolves that the church seek resources for the already existing “Methodist Property Company” to create a vehicle to utilise resources, land and property to generate income for mission and ministry at Society/Circuit, Synod and Connexional level. The required resources to create the vehicle will not place any additional burden on the church, as possible sources of finance, such as Queenswood Trust, have been identified. This work is to be coordinated at a Connexional level in cooperation with Societies/Circuits and Synods to generate income from such properties, either through the purchase or sale of properties or the development of existing properties in partnerships, or joint ventures with developers.

31. **Furlough**

Conference considers the issue of the MCO retaining monies for Ministers Furlough for payment at a future date and refers it to the Finance Unit to investigate the registration status of the Finance Unit, in relation to the PBO status for feedback to the 2020 Conference.

32. **Equitable Distribution of Ministry**

Conference affirms the work and report of the Finance Unit in pursuing missional ways of assessment. Conference resolves that the MCSA is to station agency as per the need for such agency instead of the current approach which is largely informed by affordability. Conference furthermore affirms the Mission Resource Fund for agency stationing, and directs all Synods to consider the application of this fund. In consideration of applications, all resources within a Circuit will be taken into consideration.

33. **Childcare at Synod Gatherings**

Acknowledging that many delegates to Synod gatherings often have to seek child-care support for children in their care while they attend these moments
of Christian Conferencing, Conference encourages Synods to provide Childcare options (which comply with our childcare and safety standards) and family and child-centred programming be seriously considered and built into the planning of all Synods in the Connexion from 2020 onwards.

Conference notes the standards regarding child safety and encourages hosts to request who will be bringing children to the gathering in the registration form.

34. Youth and Children-centred Church
Considering how we respond to and envision a youth centred church, how we reconfigure and re-imagine the new possibilities, Conference notes the need to write inclusive liturgies, relevant to the spiritual holistic development of young people and children.

Furthermore, acknowledging the work done by Conference 2017, on the Resolution 2.3 of the 2018 Year Book titled Strategy For Youth where Conference directs DEWCOM in consultation with the Youth Unit to develop liturgies that are conducive and relevant to all ages.

Conference resolved to enhance youth and children ministry, EMMU to develop a module that speaks to youth and children ministry with the sole purpose to capacitate prospective ministers about Youth and Children’s Ministries. This module is to be compulsory in the academic formation of our Ministers.

Conference affirms the work and progress on this issue by SMMS and EMMU. Liturgies to be available by January 2020.

35. Treatment of Ministers

36. Recognition of Women's Fellowship
Conference recognises the Women’s Fellowship as an official Organisation of the MCSA and refers this resolution to the Revision Committee to further facilitate a process with the Women’s Fellowship to align their operations with the Church rules, processes and procedures. The Women’s Fellowship Constitution to be presented to Conference 2020.

37. Establishment of an Archive of Papers, Articles and Dissertations written by Methodist Ministers
Conference recognises the valuable research and writings being done by Methodist Ministers. In order for the church to benefit from this research, Conference resolved to:
• Establish a dedicated page on the MCSA website for archiving research papers and dissertations.
• Request the Communications Unit to publish in the New Dimension the titles and internet location of new research papers and dissertations.
• Noting that the SMMS has established the Simon Gqubule Archive Centre, the Communications Unit is directed to work with SMMS on this initiative.

38. Exchange Programs
Conference notes the skill and exposure shortage amongst the members of the church in the Lesotho area. Conference encourages the introduction of exchange programmes with other countries, to afford members of the church a chance to go out and learn, to acquire skills that can be useful to the church. Conference refers the matter to the Mission Unit for implementation.

39. Private Students from Seth Mokitimi Seminary
Conference resolves that when Private Students candidate from Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary, they shall be required to include a Formation Certificate or Report from the Seminary with their documentation, which shall be considered by the Synod Screening Committee.

40. Candidates’ Screening
Conference resolves that Psychological Profiling consisting of Personality and Emotional Intelligence tests shall form part of the selection process of the Candidates for the Ordained Ministries. The tests shall be done by those who have passed the Candidates’ written examination, before the Readiness Screening. They shall be conducted by the EMMU appointed Clinical Psychologists who shall give reports to the Synod Screening Committees.

41. Synergising the Orders
Conference endorses the work done by the Committee: In response to various Conference Resolutions of 2016 and 2017 regarding the Orders of Deacons and Evangelism, Conference has agreed to bring the leadership of the two Orders together in cooperation with the Church Leadership and to consider these Orders including their history, their purpose and their function, and how they relate to one another and to the structures of the Church.

We recognise that the Orders all have origins that relate to the history of this sub-continent, and that it is important to recognise these beginnings, as we understand the nature of the Orders. Issues that the Synergising Committee is untangling include questions of theology, justice, history, mission, recognition, structures and relationship.

The work of the Orders is critical to our Mission, and central to the implementation of igniting Missional Communities in parts of the Connexion where we have long not had ministry.
The committee brings the following report, acknowledging that there is more work to be done once Conference has expressed its mind on progress to date.

The Committee proposes to Conference a new structure, possibly named the Order of Ministry and Service, with one Warden (ministerial). The Order is to embrace and oversee the Deacons, the Evangelists and Bible Women, and when the church is ready for the next step, the Lay Pastors. (Currently we have about 26 active Deacons, 110 Bible Women, 115 Evangelists and 100 Lay Pastors or Youth Pastors).

This Order is to be described in one chapter of the Laws and Discipline (drawn from the current Chapters 13 and 14) supported by a Connexional Committee, which should meet annually, the membership of which should be:

- Presiding Bishop (Ex-officio),
- General Secretary,
- Warden,
- 2 Deacons,
- 2 Bible Women or Evangelists,
- 2 Lay Pastors,
- 2 Ordained Ministers,
- Director of HR,
- an EMMU representative,
- Mission Unit Director.

The Order will have one identity (but retain the current uniforms), one budget and one chapter in the Laws and Discipline.

The Order may have 3 sub-committees (or more if the work expands), one for Bible Women and Evangelists, one for Deacons and one for Lay Pastors, each including 2 members of the other sub-committees.

Each Ministry within the Order should have its annual Convocation, whether Connexional or Synodal, but the Connexional Committee is encouraged to consider having a Convocation or gathering for the full Order in each Synod, at least once in three years.

**Candidature:**
The screening committee of Bible Women and Evangelists as well as Deacons must include a Connexional presence. Testimony as to Call to the Order and vote to be done at Synod.

**Training:**
All training done by and directed by EMMU

**HR issues:**
Issues such as Candidature age, retirement age, medical assistance, stipends, ensuring that all are registered with MCO on a Pension Fund are to be dealt with by the Connexional Committee, ensuring equity and justice.

**Commissioning/Ordination:**
Bible Women and Evangelists to be Commissioned at a Synod event, Deacons Ordained at their Convocation, Lay Pastors when we are ready to bring them under this umbrella, commissioned at Circuit level.
Conference approves the proposal of the single Order and its Connexional Committee, in order that it may begin its work after Conference 2019, for further consideration of its developments at Conference 2020.

42. **Part-time Category Order of Evangelism**

Conference notes with concern an economic decline and prevalent poverty which negatively impacts mission and financial viability of Circuits, especially those in rural areas. Conference agrees to the resuscitating of the part time category or equivalent.

Conference directs EMMU to resuscitate the part time category, in consultation with the Finance Unit in terms of allowances. The age limit for Full-time Candidates is 50 years, but this regulation will be relaxed for part-time Candidates.

43. **Biblewomen and Evangelists who are not recognised**

The deliberate practice of some Circuits who appoint and robe Bible Women and Evangelists without following proper procedures is a serious concern.

The Conference notes with disappointment the continuous noncompliance of some Circuits in registering Bible Women and Evangelists to MCO and also not paying the allowances as prescribed by the Conference. This situation undermines the rights and values of our ordinary servants of God. It further violates the decisions and regulations of our church.

We therefore resolve that the Conference apply serious measures against all Circuits who fail to comply. Conference resolved that those members who are robed by local arrangement, and therefore not on the database of the Order, would not qualify for any allowances including medical assistance.

Conference notes and affirms that Synods should ensure that procedures are followed. Conference refers this resolution to the Warden of the Order, and to Synods.

44. **Secretaries of Order of Evangelism**

Having noted that in some Synods, Secretaries of the Order of Evangelism are not members of the Synod Executive, Conference recommends that all Synods include the Synod Secretaries of the Order of Evangelism as members of the Synod Executive in order to apprise the Synod Executive of the activities of the Order and also deal with concerns that may arise within the Synod.

45. **Establishment of New Synods**

Conference affirms the Conference 2018 Resolution 2.40 (b) on the establishment of New Synods effective 1 January 2021 in Aliwal North and Mpumalanga and instructs the Connexional Structures Committee to facilitate the implementation of these Synods with the affected Synods, Circuits and all Units and Organisations of the MCSA.
Conference further resolves that the following Circuits shall comprise the New Synods:

**Aliwal North Synod:**
- 301 Queenstown Circuit
- 302 Queenstown and Lesseyton Circuit
- 303 Molteno and Stormberg Circuit
- 304 Lukhanji Circuit
- 305 Kamastone Mission Circuit
- 318 Mount Arthur Circuit
- 319 Fransbury Circuit
- 513 Transgariep
- 520 Aliwal North Circuit
- 523 Zastron Circuit
- 524 Bensonvale Circuit
- 526 Blikana Circuit
- 527 Wittebergen Circuit

**Mpumalanga Synod**
- 1015 Majuba Circuit
- 1017 Masakhane Circuit
- 1019 Mkhondo Circuit
- 1020 Msukaligwa Circuit
- 1022 Mpuluzi Circuit (Contestation)
- 1024 Mahamba Circuit
- 1026 Central Swaziland Circuit
- 1027 Hhohho Wesley Circuit
- 1108 Middleburg Circuit
- 1109 Escarpment Circuit
- 1121 Mbombela Circuit
- 1122 Mhluzi Circuit
- 1123 Sabieand Shatale Circuit
- 1124 Lowveld Circuit
- 1125 Nkomazi Circuit

46. Natal West, Natal Coastal and Clarkebury Synods' Boundaries
Conference receives the report and resolutions from Natal West, Natal Coastal and Clarkebury Synods and instructs the Connexional Structures Committee to facilitate the conversations between these Synods and that a final report be tabled to Conference 2020.

Conference resolves that:
(a) The Grahamstown and Queenstown Synods continue their conversation in respect of the Alice Region to be facilitated by an External Facilitator and
that a final report thereon be tabled through the Synods to the Conference of 2020.

(b) That Ulundi Circuit (327) be included in the conversations in respect of the Clarkebury Synod division.

(c) The Central, Kimberley, Bloemfontein and Namibia and the Northern Free State and Lesotho Synods continue their engagement on boundary changes in respect of Kgatelopele Circuit under the direct facilitation of the Structures Committee and submit a final report to Conference 2020.

**47. Resolution from Connexional Executive to Conference 2019**

Affirming previous MCSA resolutions addressing gender violence and emphasizing the MCSA Sexual Harassment Policy, CE meeting at Conference 2019 resolves to:

1. Grow the capacity of Circuit Victim Support Teams (Anti-harassment teams) by securing resources for training, and partnering with Organisations who can assist;

2. Mandate EMMU to coordinate the training for the Anti-harassment teams as stipulated in the MCSA Sexual Harassment Policy, as well as ministerial students at SMMS, Organisations and Circuit based volunteers, for completion by July 2020;

3. Have Circuits offer trained volunteers to assist at local police stations or church based Trauma Centres with:
   - Counselling
   - Support
   - Logistical assistance
   - Mediation
   - Victim empowerment initiative
   - Engage in restorative justice
   - Creating safe spaces for men to unburden
CHAPTER 3

MINUTES OF CONFERENCE 2019
as per Laws and Discipline 12th Edition

PRESIDING BISHOP: Rev Ziphozihle D Siwa
PRESIDING BISHOP-ELECT: Rev Purity N Malinga
GENERAL SECRETARY: Rev Charmaine Morgan
LAY PRESIDENT: Mr M James Nkosi

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE SYNOD:
Ministerial Reps: Rev Sanele Ncobeni; Rev Steven Lottering; Rev Ayanda Mokwena
Lay Reps: Mr Reuben Radcliffe; Mr Henry Crathorne; Mr Sivuyile Giba; Ms Zintle Moya

GRAHAMSTOWN SYNOD:
Ministerial Reps: Rev Rev Kenneth Carr; Rev Pamella Mbombela; Rev Xolani Nomandla
Lay Reps: Mr Sebenzile Langa; Mr Zukile Madlebe; Ms Babs Mancgu; Ms Tamzyn Van Eeden

QUEENSTOWN SYNOD:
Ministerial Reps: Rev Ian Howarth; Rev Thami Mdingi; Rev Sisanda Qengwa
Lay Reps: Mrs Busisiwe Nxitywa; Ms Pumeza Mcgnita; Ms Thabisile Nomnganga; Ms Michelle Christoffels

KIMBERLEY NAMIBIA AND BLOEMFONTEIN SYNOD:
Ministerial Reps: Rev Roland Greenland
Lay Reps: Mr Tsietsi Matsoso; Mrs Magareth Solomons; Ms Kea Sebate
NORTHERN FREE STATE AND LESOTHO SYNOD: Bishop Bana Setshedhi; Mr Reginald Mutsi (Lay Leader)
Ministerial Reps: Rev January Zinqayi, Rev Mxolisi Mnaba, Rev Zacharia Mainama, Rev Philisiwe Ntshapha
Lay Reps: Ms Molelekeng Majoi; Dr Vusi Chuta; Mr Makonyane Motsumi, Mr Bonga Bucibo. Mr Makonyane Motsumi

NATAL COASTAL SYNOD: Bishop Linda Mandindi; Mrs Phumzile Kunene (Lay Leader)
Ministerial Reps: Rev Philippa Cole, Ayanda Mbaza; Rev Lauren Matthew
Lay Reps: Mrs Lindiwe Mazibuko; Mr Phumlani Shinga; Mr Ayanda Dlamini, Mr Sbongimpilo Ntshangase

NATAL WEST SYNOD: Bishop William Dlamini; Mr Sibusiso Mchunu (Lay Leader)
Ministerial Reps: Rev Nomvuyo Mpuqa; Rev Thembeka Mkabeni, Rev James Fakude
Lay Reps: Mrs Cynthia Zondi; Mr Bonginkosi Xulu; Mr. Nkosinathi Choncho; Ms Khanyana Mhlungu; Ms Nothando Maphanga

CENTRAL SYNOD: Bishop Gary Rivas; Mrs Thuli Nkomonde (Lay Leader)
Ministerial Reps: Rev Faith Whitby, Rev Lea Marumo; Rev Shibbllette Rampa
Lay Reps: Ms Yolisa Mfaise; Mr Xhanti Mhlubulwana; Ms Onele Nkolongwane, Mr Akhona Masiza

HIGHVELD AND SWAZILAND SYNOD: Rev Sondlile Nkwanyana (Vice); Dr Zolela Ngcwabe (Lay Leader)
Ministerial Reps: Rev France Mabuza; Rev Thabo Shabalala; Rev Burnett Manne, Rev Nomathemba Mnanzana
Lay Reps: Mrs Thembekile Mndzebele; Mr Ayanda Xaba; Mr Sedumo Rannoi; Ms Zoleka Maki; Ms Johanna Mohlamme
LIMPOPO SYNOD: Bishop Sidwell Mokgothu; Prof Rambelani Malema (Lay Leader)
Ministerial Reps: Rev Wesley Olivier, Rev Lebogang Tube; Rev Storia Seiitiouso
Lay Reps: Ms Nosipho Lesolang; Ms Milcah Bogatsu; Mrs Marilyn Setlalentoa

MOZAMBIQUE SYNOD: Bishop Dinis Matsolo; Dr Carlos Fumo (Lay Leader)
Ministerial Reps: Rev. Sbongil Mingana; Rev. Nelson Pene; Mr. Alson Dos Santos; Mr. Azarias Muchanga; Ms Noemia Domingos

CLARKEBURY SYNOD: Bishop Mongameli Noqayi; Mr Tembelani Gwantshu (Lay Leader)
Ministerial Reps: Rev Mtiwoxolo Mkabeni; Rev Sweetness Magadla; Rev Mtutuzeli Ndlaku
Lay Reps: Mrs Pumeza Seti; Ms Thokozani Soji; Ms Maureen Konyana; Mr Prince Mancotywa

FINANCE UNIT: Mrs Thini Ngonyama
MISSION UNIT: Rev Musi Losaba; Mrs Pearl Moroasui; Prof Stephen Hendricks
EMMU: Rev Purity Malinga; Rev Pumla Nzimande
SETH MOKITIMI METHODIST SEMINARY: Dr Rowanne Marie
ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS UNIT: Rev Mike Vorster
HUMAN RESOURCES UNIT: Mrs Nombasa Hlathi
COMMUNICATIONS UNIT: Mrs Bonginkosi Moyo-Bango
CHILDREN AND YOUTH UNIT: Rev Simphiwe Mthembu
MEN’S WORK: Rev Nathi Geja, Mr Tommy Bunguzana
MUSIC ASSOCIATION: Rev Mandla Vika
LOCAL PREACHERS: Rev Morapedi Diutlwileng; Mr Magic Hlatswayo
WARDENS OF THE ORDERS: Rev Nompitizelo Sibidla; Deacon Douw Grobler
DEWCOM: Rev Luvuyo Sifo; Rev Jenni Samdaan
WOMEN’S WORK: Mrs Mary Ellerbeck
WOMEN’S AUXILIARY: Mrs Gretta Makhwenkwe
WOMEN’S MANYANO:
ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR CONFERENCE 2019
The 130th Conference of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa was held at the Rosebank Methodist Church, Cape Town and hosted by the Cape of Good Hope Synod. The proceedings began with the Presiding Bishop welcoming delegates and guests, and expressing gratitude for all who made it possible for Conference to congregate in this manner. The Conference gathered, singing “And are we yet alive”.

CALLING OF THE ROLL
The roll of Conference delegates was called as per the record in the attendance list. A special welcome was extended to the Conference Guests: Ms Pumla Mnganga – Chair of Board, SMMS; Mrs Hyreath Anderson – MPH General Manager; and Rev Maurice Fears, former General Manager of MPH. Permission was given to the Official Observers who attended Conference in their capacity as Bishops-elect, Rev Dr M Molale, Molopo Synod and Rev L Williams, Camdeboo Synod.

CONSTITUTION OF CONFERENCE
Having satisfied the provisions of Para. 5.5.14-29 (L&D, p. 54), the Presiding Bishop declared Conference 2019 properly constituted and officially opened (47% of Delegates are women and 16%, youth.)

APPOINTMENT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEES AND OFFICIALS
Assistant Secretary: Rev Michel Hansrod – General Secretary Elect
Recording Secretary: Ms Vanessa Peters
Logistics: Mrs Nokwanda Nyobole
Letter Writer: Ms Cathy Robyn
Resolutions Committee: Rev N Geja (Convener), Mr X Mhlubulwana, Bishop M Noqayi, Rev S Seitishe, Rev P Cole, Mr B Bocibo Vilakati, and the Commission Facilitators during the discussion of their commission business.
Scrutineers: Rev Ayanda Mokwena (Convener), Rev Wesley Olivier, Ms Pumza Seti, Mr Bofelo Lethoko.
Precentor: Rev France Mabuza
Facilitator of Commissions: Rev P Ntshapa
Mission and Ministry: Mrs Gretta Makhwenkwe
THE HOURS OF SESSION
The Hours of Session were adopted as appearing on the Agenda.

THE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION DOCUMENTS
The General Secretary, Rev Charmaine Morgan tabled the printed and electronically distributed Report Book, including Resolutions and Finance Unit reports, and moved for their acceptance as working documents including the hours of session. Conference received all the documents and adopted the hours of session as proposed in the agenda. It was also noted that it is Conference operational procedure to follow a consensus decision making process.

Reports from the office of the General Secretary, the office of the Lay President, the General Treasurer, Units and Committees together with Discussion Documents were received by Conference.

THE ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP AND OPENING SERVICE
During this service the Presiding Bishop addressed Conference on the theme “Shaping Tomorrow, Today; Walking Humbly with God”.

During the opening service, Conference recognised the following people for their service to Church and Community: Deacon Philip Ata Kgosana; Mrs Leanne Stellenberg and Mrs Nomabelu Mvambo-Dandala.

1. **WHAT IS THE REPORT OF THE LAY PRESIDENT?**
   Contained in the Yearbook 2020.

2. **WHAT IS THE REPORT OF THE LAY GENERAL TREASURER?**
   Contained in the Yearbook 2020.

3. **WHAT IS THE REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY?**
   Contained in the Yearbook 2020.

4. **WHAT ARE THE REPORTS OF THE SYNODS, UNITS, COMMITTEES, ORDERS, SEMINARY AND ORGANISATIONS?**
   All reports, as printed in the Yearbook 2020, were adopted by Conference 2019. Conference received the reports of all Organisations.
5. **WHOM DO WE RECEIVE AS ECUMENICAL GUESTS TO CONFERENCE?**
   Conference received greetings from the ecumenical fraternity from the Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church Right Rev Peter Langerman; The Roman Catholic Church, Rev Sylvester David, Auxiliary Bishop Elect; Dutch Reformed Regional Moderator Dr Frederick Marais.

6. **WHOM DO WE APPOINT TO CONNEXIONAL COMMITTEES?**
   The appointments to Connexional Committees were made by the Connexional Executive.

7. **WHOM DO WE APPOINT AS UNIT DIRECTORS?**
   Conference endorsed the following appointments for the period 2020-2024: Mrs T Ngonyama – General Treasurer and Rev NNP Nzimande as Director for EMMU. The HR Unit is to make an appointment in 2020.

8. **ARE THERE ANY UNITS TO BE CLOSED?**
   No Units are to be closed.

9. **ARE THERE ANY UNITS TO BE ESTABLISHED?**
   No Units are to be established.

10. **WHAT IS THE REPORT OF THE CONNEXIONAL BOUNDARIES COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF SYNOD BOUNDARIES?**
    Conference receives and endorses the Connexional Structures Boundaries Committee report as contained in the Yearbook as an addendum to the Structures Report and authorises the implementation of all processes contained therein. Two new Synods will come into effect in January 2021, and further conversation will continue regarding further parts of the Connexion as per the Resolutions contained in Chapter 2 of the Yearbook.

11. **WHO DO WE APPOINT AS OUR BISHOPS?**
    **For the period 2020/2024:**  
    Rev Yvette Moses, Cape of Good Hope Synod  
    Rev Charmaine Morgan, Namibia Synod  
    Rev Louis Williams, Camdeboo Synod  
    Rev Matshedesho Molale, Molopo Synod  
    **For the period 2021/2025:**  
    Rev Faith Whitby, Central Synod  
    Rev Vuyo Dlamini, Natal West Synod

**OTHER APPOINTMENTS:**
12. **WHOM DO WE ELECT AS THE GENERAL SECRETARY?**
Rev Michel Hansrod was elected at Conference 2019, effective 2020 to 2024.

13. **WHOM DO WE ELECT AS THE LAY PRESIDENT?**
No appointment this year.
Mr James Nkosi was elected for the term 2018-2020 in the 2017 Conference.

14. **WHICH MINISTERS ARE REMEMBERED AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE WHO HAVE DIED SINCE LAST CONFERENCE?**
The names are contained the Obituary Section of the Yearbook 2020.

15. **WHO ARE APPOINTED AS PRESIDENTS OF ORGANISATIONS?**
Mrs Thini Ngonyama as General President of the Young Women’s Manyano for October 2019-October 2022.

16. **WHO ARE THE ORDINANDS APPROVED TO BE ORDAINED AND RECEIVED INTO FULL CONNEXION AT THIS CONFERENCE?**
The names are listed in chapter 6 of the 2020 Yearbook.

Conference received 26 Ordinands – 26 Presbyters, 0 Deacons, and 2 Presbyters changing category. The questions of discipline were asked of them in preparation for their ordination and reception into Full Connexion on Sunday 15th September 2019.

17. **WHAT IS THE STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE CONNEXION?**
The Statistical report is contained in the Yearbook as an addendum to the Minutes.

18. **WHAT IS THE FINAL DRAFT OF STATIONS?**
The final list of stations for 2020 as prepared by the Connexional Executive, was proposed by each of the Bishops in turn and was seconded by the Synod Lay Leaders. The stations as proposed were received and affirmed by Conference. A deviation was allowed and the New Synods of Camdeboo, Molopo and Namibia stations were proposed and accepted.

19. **WHAT ARE THE RESOLUTIONS OF CONFERENCE?**
The Resolutions of Conference are contained in Chapter 2 of the 2020 Yearbook.

20. **AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS AND DISCIPLINE**
Conference received the amendments made to the Laws and Discipline by the Connexional Executive as they appear in Chapter 4 of the Yearbook.
21. **WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE NEXT CONFERENCE BE HELD?**
Bishop Ketshabile invited the Conference to the Mokalamontle Synod (previously KNB) for the 131st Conference to be held in 2020.

22. **WHAT ARE THE DECISIONS RELATING TO ALL REPORTS AND DISCUSSION PAPERS?**
The Harassment Policy was endorsed by the Conference and referred for further work.

23. **WHAT IS THE MESSAGE TO THE METHODIST PEOPLE?**
The Message to the people of God was adopted and is contained in the Yearbook 2020 Chapter 1.

24. **CLOSING CEREMONIES**
Conference formally adopted all Conference Reports as contained in the Report Book, together with the Connexional Executive report book, Draft of Stations, appointments made on the floor of Conference and Connexional Executive. Conference paid tribute to the outgoing Presiding Bishop, the Rev Ziphozihle D Siwa and the outgoing General Secretary, Rev Charmaine Morgan, the outgoing Bishop of the Cape of Good Hope, Rev Michel W Hansrod, the outgoing EMMU Director, Rev Purity N Malinga. These together form the record of the 130th Conference of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synod:</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Ministers</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>638</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Deacons</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Bible Women</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>143</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Evangelists</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Ordained and</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>999</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioned</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Local Preachers</td>
<td>992</td>
<td>1926</td>
<td>1911</td>
<td>1216</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>652</td>
<td>1386</td>
<td>1231</td>
<td>1224</td>
<td>1865</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>2674</td>
<td>16136</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Lay Pastors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(employed)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>103</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children's</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>1234</td>
<td>4409</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practitioners. For youth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>up to Confirmation Class.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Societies in</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>1216</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the Synod</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Preaching</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>167</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Preaching Places &amp;</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>591</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>1383</td>
<td>5309</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Societies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>that have closed this</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Societies this year</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Members total</td>
<td>52401</td>
<td>40053</td>
<td>32330</td>
<td>31692</td>
<td>21011</td>
<td>20313</td>
<td>37421</td>
<td>48515</td>
<td>57320</td>
<td>51021</td>
<td>3559</td>
<td>66743</td>
<td>462379</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On trial members</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>1432</td>
<td>1893</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>1503</td>
<td>2055</td>
<td>1370</td>
<td>1502</td>
<td>1429</td>
<td>1921</td>
<td>15558</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Those in Confirmation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Members</td>
<td>6268</td>
<td>7303</td>
<td>4769</td>
<td>4765</td>
<td>1125</td>
<td>3388</td>
<td>8159</td>
<td>9557</td>
<td>6282</td>
<td>8160</td>
<td>1849</td>
<td>14993</td>
<td>76618</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Those in Sunday School,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Groups, cradle Roll)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of the above</td>
<td>59654</td>
<td>48079</td>
<td>38531</td>
<td>38350</td>
<td>22511</td>
<td>24071</td>
<td>47082</td>
<td>60127</td>
<td>64972</td>
<td>60683</td>
<td>6829</td>
<td>83657</td>
<td>55456</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wider community/adherents</td>
<td>2986</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>1144</td>
<td>2603</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>1687</td>
<td>4604</td>
<td>5041</td>
<td>1741</td>
<td>5117</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1578</td>
<td>27933</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total members and</td>
<td>62640</td>
<td>49069</td>
<td>39675</td>
<td>40953</td>
<td>22893</td>
<td>25758</td>
<td>51686</td>
<td>65168</td>
<td>66713</td>
<td>65800</td>
<td>6889</td>
<td>85235</td>
<td>582479</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adherents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptisms (+)</td>
<td>1328</td>
<td>1119</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>946</td>
<td>1527</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>1741</td>
<td>1727</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>11842</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth by Confirmation</td>
<td>1050</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>958</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>1403</td>
<td>2290</td>
<td>1207</td>
<td>1176</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>11546</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(+) (youth &amp; Adult)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth by conversion</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>821</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>5047</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(+) (First time believers)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss by death (-)</td>
<td>728</td>
<td>867</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>697</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>587</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>5781</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss by ceased to meet (-)</td>
<td>2310</td>
<td>714</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>1541</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>1088</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>7781</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 4

AMENDMENTS TO THE METHODIST BOOK OF ORDER
(Laws and Discipline 12th Edition – revised 2016)

LAWS AND DISCIPLINE TABLE OF CONTENTS: (Amended 2018)
CHAPTER 9: THE FINANCE UNIT, to read The General Treasurer

MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT
GENERAL

4.1 to read: Except where the context indicates otherwise, ‘Ministers’ shall include Ordained Ministers, Supernumeraries and Probationer ministers who have been collared. (Amended 2017)

4.7 A Candidate shall have the minimum credits as prescribed by EMMU from time to time and be a fully accredited Local Preacher. (Amended 2018)

4.1 Points 1-4 move from 4.1 to 4.25 (Amended 2017)

New Heading

4.54 TRANSFERS FROM CUC or WMC CHURCHES

An Ordained Minister from a CUC member church or a World Methodist Council member recognised by the MCSA who desires to enter the Methodist Ministry shall apply to the local Bishop or, if they are from outside the Connexion, the General Secretary.

Before the Connexional Executive accepts their application or otherwise, all such applicants shall:

4.54.1 Provide a letter of recommendation from their church.
4.54.2 Possess the basic education qualification (Grade 12) or equivalent and at least a theological Diploma equivalent to that which was offered by the Joint Board until 2005, or a Diploma or degree in Theology from a Seminary or University recognised by EMMU.
4.54.3 Complete the relevant application forms provided by the General Secretary.
4.54.4 Be interviewed by a District Screening Committee chaired by the Bishop and including the Director of EMMU or the General Secretary or their representative.
4.54.5 The report of the Screening Committee interview is presented to Synod (appointed by the General Secretary if the person is from beyond the Connexion) for deliberation and recommendation.
4.54.6 If recommended by Synod, the name and report of the person wishing to transfer is sent to the Connexional Executive for decision and stationing.

4.54.7 The person undergoes the same two years On Trial as all other Ministers transferring in.

A Minister seeking to transfer from any other church goes through the process as described in the Laws and Discipline. (4.53) *(Amended 2016)*

4.68 Delete the whole paragraph referring to Ministers without appointment being deemed to have resigned after two years. *(Amended 2017)*

4.69 Ministers ‘Without Appointment (Marriage)’
Delete the Sentence: “If so classified, the Minister’s category is to be changed to that of “Non Itinerant and Non Stipendiary.” *(Amended 2018)*

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

4.110 A Minister may apply for Leave of Absence for vocational and personal reasons annually, up to a maximum of 3 years. No Minister shall be without an appointment or be absent from the Circuit, other than on leave provided for by the Connexional Executive, without being granted Leave of Absence by the Connexional Executive or….” *(Amended 2018)*

4.121 In the Holy Scriptures in Mark 10 verse 5ff Jesus responds to the Pharisees saying “it was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this Law” that permitted a man to divorce his wife. Then Jesus teaches against divorce as he goes on to refer to the book of Genesis 2 verse 24.

The Church, in realising the realities that certain marriages are painful and complex, recognises that marriages do fail, and when that happens the Church should approach this reality pastorally in responding to the Ministers and their families who are going through divorce.

While exercising this ministry of caring, the Church’s position is clear that divorce shall not be viewed as normative. The Church shall strengthen its pastoral and counselling ministry in respect of family life, with particular attention to the Minister, his or her Spouse and Children. However, in seeking to deal pastorally with Ministers who divorce, the Church shall not surrender to the idea that divorce should ever be an easy option.

It is therefore permissible in principle, subject to careful scrutiny and safeguards, to admit persons who are divorced, or divorced and remarried, as Ministers in Connexion with The Methodist Church of Southern Africa.
A Minister who considers the option of Divorce is strongly counselled to make this known to the Bishop in order for the Bishop to offer counselling and guidance or to refer the matter for counselling or guidance. *(Amended 2016)*

4.124 The District Bishop in consultation with the ex-offio members of the District Executive shall appoint a District standing committee on Divorce and Remarriage consisting of no less than three (3) and not more than five (5) persons who are skilled, knowledgeable and experienced in marriage counselling and divorce. The Committee shall serve for a three (3) year term eligible for re-appointment for two (2) more, three (3) year consecutive terms. The Bishop shall also appoint a Convener of this Committee. *(Amended 2016)*

4.125 The District Standing Committee shall interview the parties involved in, and or affected by, the proceedings, to investigate and make an assessment within twenty one (21) days of the suspension of the Minister. *(Amended 2016)*

*The functions and duties of the District Standing Pastoral Committee on Divorce and Remarriage shall include:*

4.125.1 To meet with the divorcing Minister within twenty one (21) days of suspension, individually or jointly with the spouse, to determine the cause of divorce or explore any possibility of reconciliation and professional assistance.

4.125.2 To investigate if there was any act of misconduct by the Minister. If the Committee concludes there was alleged misconduct then the Committee shall recommend to the Presiding Bishop that disciplinary procedures be followed.

4.125.3 To determine what pastoral assistance is needed especially towards the children (if there are any), to minimise the negative impact of the divorce.

4.125.4 To determine the state of negotiations with regard to a divorce settlement with special attention to the Church Pension Fund and Medical Aid as it affects the children and the vulnerable Partner in the marriage, and how fair this settlement is for the whole family.

4.125.5 If the divorce is inevitable, what are the implications on the calling and stationing of the Minister, and the state of the two individuals’ readiness especially in relation to the future welfare of the children, and their future as individuals.

4.125.6 The impact the divorce may have on the congregation and what remedial measures are necessary.

4.125.7 The advisability of forfeiture of emoluments to be made by the Presiding Bishop.
4.126 The District Standing Committee on Divorce and Remarriage is also to consider cases of re-marriage in the following instances:
(a) An application for reinstatement of a former Minister who has been divorced,
(b) An application to marry by any Minister who has been divorced,
(c) An application by any Minister to marry a person who has been divorced,
(d) The candidature of any person who has been divorced or who is married to a divorced person.

4.127 The Standing Committee on Divorce and Remarriage makes recommendations to the Connexional Executive and/or the Presiding Bishop as to the readiness of the couple to re-marry and to recommend permission to be granted or otherwise. Re-marriage shall normally only be considered after two (2) years have passed since divorce. (Amended 2016)

4.128 In the case of a. and d. above, the Standing Committee shall report to the Bishop, for reporting to Synod.

4.129 In the case of (b) and (c) above, the Standing Committee shall report to the Presiding Bishop who may approve any application in regard to remarriage, reinstatement, candidature of a divorced person, subject to ratification by the Connexional Executive. (Amended 2016)

REGULATIONS FOR FULL-TIME NON-ITINERANT ORDAINED MINISTERS

4.132 Delete clause relating to selection of non-itinerant ministers. (Amended 2017)

4.137 (a) Delete clause relating to procedure of appointment of non-itinerant ministers (Amended 2017)

5.5 MEMBERSHIP OF CONFERENCE
5.5.30 Add to the membership: “Chair of Connexional Trust Properties Committee” (Amended 2018)

5.5.16 MEMBERSHIP OF CONFERENCE
Amend to read: The Lay General Treasurer and the Senior Accountant of the Finance Unit; (Amended 2018)

5.7.1 THE PRESIDING BISHOP
5.7.1.6 Add point AFTER 5.7.1.5:
“A Minister may be suspended when the Presiding Bishop is satisfied that the Minister is instigating dissension or strife in the Society/Circuit or District, or the Minister is bringing the Church into disrepute”. (Amended 2017)
5.10 THE GENERAL SECRETARY
5.10.4.2 To be the custodian of Connexional documents including property deeds in conjunction with the General Treasurer (ref 9.11) (Amended 2018)

5.11.8 CONNEXIONAL EXECUTIVE
Membership: Delete: Finance Unit Director (Amended 2017)

5.12 The functions and duties of the Connexional Executive include:
Add clause: ... “receiving the report on all Ministers Beyond the Connexion and their answering of the Discipline questions through the Office of the General Secretary; together with a statement of where they are stationed, as well as a report from their Conference /Synod annually.” (Amended 2017)

5.13.1 THE CONNEXIONAL REGISTRAR
Amend to read:
5.13.1 The Conference shall appoint a Registrar in the office of the Presiding Bishop who shall be a member in good standing with knowledge of both Church polity, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and Law who shall:
5.13.1.1 assist the Church in legal proceedings;
5.13.1.2 work in conjunction with the Presiding Bishop and General Secretary to ensure that appropriate and proper instruction takes place in legal, ADR and disciplinary matters;
5.13.1.3 be the point of reference for procedural matters relating to church discipline and alternative dispute resolution;
5.13.1.4 prepare and maintain manuals of procedure for disciplinary hearings and training. (Amended 2017)

6.4.2 Add: “The District Lay Leader” (after 6.4.1) (Amended 2016)

6.4.9 MEMBERSHIP : (SYNOD)
Add after current 6.4.9: “District Secretary.” (Amended 2017)

6.11.3 ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF BISHOPS
6.11.3 The District Secretary shall invite all Circuit Quarterly Meetings within the District to nominate any Minister(s) in full Connexion, whether in the District concerned or not, at the January Quarterly meeting. These nominations are to be submitted to the General Secretary by 31st March. (Amended 2017)

6.23 Election and Appointment of District Lay Leader
The District Lay Leader shall be nominated, with motivation, at District Synod for election and appointment for a 3 (three) year term, and may be re-elected for a further term. The District Lay Leader is ex-officio a member of Synod and of all District Mission Groups and committees. (Amended 2016)
6.24 **Role and Functions of a Lay Leader**
Within the broad parameters of the following, each District shall determine the nature and functions of this role within its own context. (*Amended 2016*)
The Lay Leader shall operate under the direction of the District Bishop. (*Amended 2018*)

6.28.6 … to submit to the General Treasurer before 31st March a District Finance Report in the prescribed format; (*Amended 2018*)

6.28.9 … to report any matter of concern pertaining to finance and administration to the General Treasurer of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. (*Amended 2018*)

**Stationing of Ministers**
7.15.1.14 A District Stationing Committee consisting of the District officials as well as five Synod-elected lay people and five Synod-elected clergy shall meet at least once before the annual Synod. The District Supervisor of Studies shall be invited where necessary. (*Amended 2017*)

7.15.1.15 Amend to read:
“A Standing Commission called by the General Secretary shall investigate each case in which a Minister is left without a station for the ensuing year. The Standing Committee shall include representatives from EMMU and HR. The report shall be submitted, including proposals for any remedial action, to the General Secretary within 28 days of the rising of Conference for the consideration of the Presiding Bishop. (*Amended 2018*)

7.15.1.16 Connexional Stationing is the work of Conference as delegated to the Preliminary Stationing Meeting by Bishops and the Connexional Executive, and the final affirmation of stations shall take place at Conference. (*Amended 2018*)

7.25 No Circuit, Society or organisation shall overdraw any account of the Church or enter into a hire-purchase agreement in the name of the Church without the permission of the General Treasurer. (*Amended 2018*)

7.46 **MEMBERSHIP OF SOCIETY LEADERS MEETING:**
Add after 7.46.4 further members: “Secretary of the Leaders’ meeting, the Treasurer, and the Trust Committee Convener, when applicable”. (*Amended 2017*)

8.10 **METHODIST CHILDREN AND YOUTH UNIT**
8.10.1 Replace 8.10 entirely, with: CE 2018
CHILDREN AND YOUTH UNIT IN THE MCSA

8.10 Methodist Children and Youth Unit

8.10.1 Conference establishes the Methodist Children and Youth Unit and allots its Mission work on Youth and Children’s Ministry to the Unit. The Youth and Children’s Ministry shall operate at Connexional, District, Circuit and Society levels and its control shall be through Conference, Synod, Circuit and Society.

8.10.2 Conference notes the distinctive nature of this Unit, in that it has entities within it and thus allows it to operate in accordance with the Appendix 6A.

8.10.3 An annual Connexional Youth Conference shall be held, under the general direction of the Conference.

8.10.4 Conference or Connexional Executive shall appoint a Connexional Coordinator/ Director as nominated by the Connexional Youth Conference to the Unit on a Full time or Part time basis to hold Office for a three (3) year term, renewable for one final term.

8.10.5 Connexional Youth Conference shall elect a Connexional Youth Committee to oversee and manage the work of the Unit as directed by the Connexional Executive and Conference.

8.10.6 The Children and Youth Unit shall be represented at Connexional Executive by the Connexional Co-ordinator/Director. At Conference the Unit shall be represented by the Coordinator/Director and the General Secretary.

8.10.7 The Presiding Bishop or Bishop deputed by him or her shall be the Chairperson of the Connexional Youth Conference, and the Connexional Youth Committee shall be responsible for all secretariat and administrative work of the Unit. The Unit may have part time or full time Staff to assist the Unit in executing its duties.

8.10.8 In each District an annual Youth Synod shall be held under the general direction of the District Synod.

8.10.9 The Youth Synod shall be the decision making body within the District to formulate resolutions and recommendations regarding Youth and Children’s work in the District. All matters affecting policy and strategy shall be sent to the Connexional Youth Conference and matters that have been referred by Conference to the Unit.

8.10.10 Scope and Responsibilities of the Unit

The Children and Youth Unit shall comprise of the following Ministries:

8.10.10.1 Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry shall be responsible for the following:

(a) All Youth work as informed by the doctrine and ethos of Methodism.
(b) Co-ordination of all Youth Entities recognised by the Church from time to time.
(c) The scope of the said Youth work shall be determined by the Connexional Youth Conference and approved by Conference or Connexional Executive from time to time.
(d) To ensure that all the Youth Entities shall operate in accordance with the MYU Appendix as approved by Conference from time to time.

8.10.10.2 Children’s Ministry
(a) Conference appoints the Children and Youth Unit to be responsible for all Children’s Ministry in accordance with the Methodist doctrines and ethos.
(b) In executing this responsibility Conference directs the Children and Youth Unit to coordinate all forms of Children’s Ministry in the Church and to consult the Mission Unit in regard to internal and external legal protection of Children’s rights, Children’s policies and Children’s homes.
(c) The Children and Youth Unit is responsible for providing ongoing training of Children in Christian faith through dedicated Sunday Schools or Children’s Church or any other recognised formations that provide Children’s programmes.
(d) To develop forms of worship conducive and relevant to “All Age Worship” in all the contexts of the Connexion.
(e) To encourage all parents, Congregations and Ministers to be involved in the Ministry of Children.
(f) To establish robust Child care programmes that promote just treatment and welfare for children.
(g) To encourage the Church at all levels to provide all the necessary resources for the success and effectiveness of Children’s Ministry in the Church.

8.10.10.3 Appointment of Children’s Ministry Leaders
(a) Conference directs the Children and Youth Unit in consultation with the Mission Unit to be responsible for the appointment of all Leaders who shall handle Children’s Ministry in all its forms.
(b) All those who evidence a call to the Children’s Ministry shall be appointed through the Children and Youth Unit in the various relevant Structures of the Church; they shall be screened and trained to determine their fitness in working with Children.
(c) At all levels of Youth Leadership the Statutory requirements regarding vetting and child safety regulations, of all member countries, must be observed.

(d) Such Leaders shall be Full Members of the MCSA in good standing, and they shall demonstrate reasonable knowledge and experience of working with Children, have skills, passion and giftedness in working with Children.

(e) Such Leaders shall possess qualities of personal commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ, regular attendance to worship and participation in the services of the means of Grace.

8.10.10.4 Youth Training
Any Christian education activities of the Youth and Youth Leadership training are done in conjunction with the lay training office of the EMMU.. (Amended 2018)

9.2 THE FINANCE UNIT: ADMINISTRATION
To read: “The affairs of the Unit shall be administered by a Finance Unit Executive Committee appointed by Conference, who shall also appoint a General Treasurer who shall act under the direction of the Finance Unit Executive Committee.” (Amended 2018)

9.4 FINANCE UNIT EXECUTIVE
The Finance Unit Executive Committee consists of the Presiding Bishop, the Lay President, the Bishop of the District in which Finance Unit is located, the General Secretary and the General Treasurer, the Ministerial and the Lay General Officers of the Supernumerary Fund, the Finance Unit Senior Accountant, Human Resource Director, Connexional Trust Property Chairperson and 4 (four) Ministers and eight (8) Lay Members nominated by Synods and appointed by Connexional Executive for a three (3) year term, renewable twice. (Amended 2017 and 2018)

9.6 In every case replace General Treasurers with General Treasurer. (Amended 2018)

9.7 THE GENERAL TREASURER:
Amend the second paragraph: “The Lay General Treasurer is appointed by the Connexional Executive after a proper search and interview process has taken place and shall hold office for a five (5) year term, renewable. The Lay General Treasurer is a member of Conference and of the Connexional Executive. (Amended 2018)
THE GENERAL TREASURER

9.7 To read: "There shall be a General Treasurer who shall become the accounting officer of all financial matters of the Church". (Amended 2018)

The duties of the General Treasurers are, inter alia, to:

Amend to read: “The duties of the General Treasurer are, inter alia,

9.8 All Mortgage Bonds or other Deeds or Documents of security for monies lent or invested by the Office or for any other cause of debt to it shall be passed in favour of ‘the General Treasurer for the time being of the Methodist Connexional Office’, who …. Amend to read: “All Mortgage Bonds or other Deeds or Documents of security for monies lent or invested by the Office or for any other cause of debt to it shall be passed in favour of the General Treasurer and the General Secretary for the time being of the Methodist Connexional Office’, who …. (Amended 2018)

9.9 The General Treasurer shall carry out the directions of the Connexional Executive in respect of the Funds the Office administers, but decisions in discretion shall be with the Executive Committee and shall be reported to the following Connexional Executive. (Amended 2018)

9.11 Amend to read: “The Office of the General Secretary is the Custodian of Deeds (para. 10.12) in conjunction with the office of the General Treasurer and has charge”… (Amended 2018)

9.20 and 9.81 to be merged:

CONNEXIONAL REMOVALS to read: (Amended 2018)

9.20 “The Unit shall meet the claims of Ministers (including Supernumeraries and Probationers) as well as Deacons, and their families, for expenses incurred in moving to new appointments, subject to the conditions determined by Conference;

• Removals of Ministers shall normally be arranged by the Joint Removal Scheme; where this does not apply, the arrangements and quotation for the removal must be approved by the Bishop of the District to which the Minister is moving, and this approval must be obtained before the removal takes place, failing which any excess costs shall be borne by the Minister.

• One grant is made for the removal expenses of a Minister who becomes a Supernumerary, or of the surviving spouse of a deceased Minister, provided the removal is within the Connexion and within a 3 year period of superannuation;

• Candidates attending the Seminary: 9.22.1 as a rule are not part of the MJR scheme. Furnished accommodation is provided at the Seminary and a minimal amount of personal belongings are allowed. Only in exceptional cases, approved by the Finance Unit, will seminarian moves be considered. These moves require approval from the Finance Unit by
the 10th October annually, through the District MJR Coordinator. No reimbursement will be considered without supporting vouchers.

- Removal expenses incurred by a Supernumerary sent by the Presiding Bishop as a Supply to a Circuit are a charge on the Removals Account.
- The Finance Unit shall not pay removal costs of Ministers taking official positions outside the Church. This includes, inter alia: Chaplaincies, Leave of Absence, Study Leave, Secondment, Resigned or Discontinued, Ministers Beyond the Connexion or Transfers Out.
- If any item is disallowed by the Bishop or by the General Treasurer the claimant may appeal to the Finance Unit Executive Committee.
- When a Circuit invites a Minister for a period of 5 (five) years and the Minister removes prematurely, due to a subsequent invitation, the Circuit making such invitation is responsible for the removal costs;
- The costs of All Risks in Transit Insurance cover shall not be included in the claim but the General Treasurers shall arrange a Group Removals Policy. In the event of damage or loss of goods, such claims should be submitted to the Finance Unit;
- Removal claims must be submitted by no later than 1 (one) month after the date of removal;
- The value of reimbursement for privately arranged transport is recorded in the Yearbook;
- When a Minister who is a citizen of one country of the Connexion is sent to serve in another country within our Connexion the cost of the required work permit and its renewal shall be borne by the Finance Unit.

Add clause: 9.81.7: ”the removal fund does not cover Ministers who take official positions outside of the church. This also excludes, inter alia: Chaplaincies, Ministers Without Appointment, Leave of Absence, Study Leave, Secondment, Resigned or Discontinued, Ministers Beyond the Connexion or Transfers Out.”

9.40 The General Treasurer is authorised to insure or reinsure any Trust Property and to arrange any type of insurance which may be required. *(Amended 2018)*

9.43 The Finance Unit may distribute to Connexional Funds, on the recommendation of the General Treasurer, any surplus that may accrue from insurance. *(Amended 2018)*

9.49 *Grant-aided Circuits and Entities*

Units, Institutions and grant-aided Circuits that wish to increase stipends above the minimum rates shall first consult the General Treasurer and General Secretary. *(Amended 2018)*
9.54.1 Priority must be given to the settlement of arrears. If a Circuit is unable to pay all arrears as well as the current month's assessments at once, it shall, in consultation with the General Treasurer, (Amended 2018)

9.55.2 Where a Circuit falls more than 2 (two) months in arrears with assessments, and does not make arrangements with the Finance Unit to bring such arrears up to date, the General Treasurer and General Secretary shall request the Bishop to...

(b) provide a written report to the Presiding Bishop within 60 days of being advised by the General Treasurer and General Secretary.... (Amended 2018)

(d) provide, as at the target date, a written report to the Presiding Bishop and General Secretary and General Treasurer, confirming specifically what action was taken and how the arrears are being eliminated. (Amended 2018)

(Add number) The General Treasurer and General Secretary are authorised, after consultation with the Presiding Bishop, the District Bishop, District Treasurer/s and any other persons,... (Amended 2018)

9.61 LONG LEAVE

9.61.1 “The first long leave for a Minister is granted after 6 (six) years of contributing to the fund. Thereafter long leave is granted after every 6 (six) years of service;” (Amended 2017)

9.61.2 Years on Secondment, Leave of Absence or Study Leave or any other non-remunerative service do not count as service for Leave. (Amended 2017)

9.61.6 The Long Leave Grant is 10% (ten percent) of the annual Stipend Assessment. (Amended 2017)

Accommodation for Ministers

9.68 In addition to the payment of minimum stipends, Circuits shall provide Ordained Ministers and Probationers with suitable free furnished accommodation. When a Circuit rents a home for a Minister’s manse, the Circuit is responsible for the full amount of the rental. (Amended 2018)

9.71 Allowances for Ministers Without Appointment

Where the Connexional Executive decides to leave a Minister without an appointment, if the Minister has not found alternative employment, and subject to any disciplinary or other circumstance, the Presiding Bishop in his/her sole discretion may decide that an ex-gratia allowance be paid to the Minister for a period of 3 (three) months from 1 January of the year immediately following. The amount of the allowance shall be revised annually by the General Treasurer. An application for the allowance must be
channelled through the Bishop to the General Secretary by no later than 31 March of that year. (Amended 2018)

9.73 Funeral Grants
Amend to read: For Ministers and their spouses who are members of the Supernumerary Fund, the Funeral grant will be determined by the Finance Unit Executive from time to time. (Amended 2017)

9.78.2 The General Treasurer is authorised to utilise the Fund at their discretion, in consultation with the Bishops where necessary. (Amended 2018)

9.79.5 The minimum sum insured on any manse is recorded in the Yearbook. The General Treasurer is authorised to vary the levies by no more than twenty percent (20%) (Amended 2018)

9.79.6 Other insurance cover is available from this Fund. Detailed information is circulated to Circuits and can be obtained from the General Treasurer. (Amended 2018)

9.82.3 Outside Loans
The General Treasurer is authorised to borrow in terms of Laws & Discipline, paras 9.6.6. and 10.7 as necessary and on terms and conditions to be approved by him or her. (Amended 2018)

Banking accounts
9.84.1 The General Treasurer, the Senior Accountant and the Administrative Officer of the Methodist Connexional Office or Deputy. The name of the account is: “The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Methodist Connexional Office”.

9.84.2 The account in the name: Methodist Connexional Office – Secretary’s Account, is reaffirmed for which the signatories be any two of:

9.84.3 The General Treasurer, the Senior Accountant and the Administrative Officer as per the decision of the Finance Unit Executive. (Amended 2018)

9.87.5 the Superintendent Minister shall be relieved of her/his Superintendency until confirmation from the Finance Unit that the Form 4C Schedules have been satisfactorily received, whereupon the Bishop, with the consent of the General Secretary and General Treasurer, shall decide whether to reinstate such Superintendency or not. (Amended 2018)

9.89 The Presiding Bishop is authorised, after consultation with the Bishops, General Treasurer and General Secretary and any other persons, to re-organise, amalgamate or disband the Circuit and remove or station the Minister elsewhere, if: (Amended 2018)
10.6  REGISTRATION OF TITLES AND FORM OF TRANSFER
All immovable property belonging to, or which may at any time be acquired by the Church for the benefit of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa shall in accordance with the provisions of Section 8 of Act 111 of 1978 be registered in the name of the Presiding Bishop for the time being.

(Amended 2017)

BORROWING OF MONEY
10.7  Conference, represented by the General Treasurer and General Secretary, may raise or borrow money by way of mortgage, bank overdraft, or in any other way, upon the security of any property belonging to the Church or otherwise.

(Amended 2017)

CONNEXIONAL TRUST PROPERTIES COMMITTEE
Membership:
Delete current 10.13 and Replace with:
10.13  The Connexional Trust Properties Chair who is a Minister appointed by the Connexional Executive, chairs the Committee, serves on the Finance Unit Executive and is a member of Conference. The Chair is appointed for three (3) years at a time, and is eligible for reappointment. (Amended 2017)

The Committee shall consist of: (Amended 2017)
• The Presiding Bishop
• Lay President
• Lay General Treasurer
• Ministerial General Treasurer
• Connexional Trust Property Chair
• Two (2) people with legal background
• Two (2) people with property background
• One (1) person with business background
• The Property Officer
• Four DTP Secretaries, serving for three (3) years at a time on rotational basis (one being replaced annually)

The functions and duties of the Connexional Committee are: (Amended 2017)
• To develop Connexional Property Strategies in terms of the missional use of buildings,
• To develop Connexional strategies for under-utilised property for income generation for Connexion, District, and Circuit
• To oversee properties that are used by the Connexion (e.g. MCO building, Connexional manses, properties owned the Connexion for income generation etc.)
• To call meetings and facilitate training for District Trust Properties committees,
• To keep the Property chapter in the Laws and Discipline current,
• To employ Church insurers,
• To develop and oversee the implementation of policies and procedures for:
  • The development of manuals
  • To develop and maintain safety guidelines
  • To develop processes for Heritage buildings and cooperate with Heritage committee and national Heritage structures
• To consider unused or under-utilised buildings, land, and glebes
• To consider business developments; Commercial properties and cooperative developments
• To deal with Land claims
• To facilitate environmental impact issues and energy efficiency
• To audit accessibility of buildings
• To consider partnerships with NGO’s, government departments, etc.
• To consider to country-specific regulations

*Property Officer* *(Amended 2017)*

10.14 *Amend to* “The Connexional Executive shall appoint a Property Officer upon recommendation from the Finance Unit who shall report to the Lay General Treasurer.

10.15 The Property Officer conducts the correspondence and business of the Committee subject to its directions.

**District Trust Properties Committees**

**Membership:**

10.16 Each Synod shall annually appoint a District Trust Properties Committee consisting of the Official Trustee – the Presiding Bishop, Bishop, the Vice-Chairperson, the District Secretary, the Statistical Secretary, three Ministers and five (5) Lay Members. The Committee shall elect its own Recording Secretary. The committee may include at least one (1) person with a property/building background, and one (1) person with a legal background. *(Amended 2017)*

**Secretary**

*Insert below heading:* The DTP Secretary is annually appointed by Synod. *(Ref App 5: 6.39) (Amended 2017)*

10.18 *The duties of the Secretary of the District Trust Properties Committee are inter alia:*

**LOCAL TRUST PROPERTIES COMMITTEES**

10.19 The immediate oversight and administration of local Church property shall be undertaken by a local Trust Properties Committee on behalf of the Official Trustee who is the Presiding Bishop. *(Amended 2017)*
Membership:

10.21 The members of a local Trust Properties Committee shall not be fewer than five or more than fifteen, including the Official Trustee - the Presiding Bishop, the Superintendent, the Minister(s) serving the Society, and the Circuit Stewards. (Amended 2017)

10.23 The Annual Society Meeting shall appoint a member of the local Trust Properties Committee to chair its meetings. (Amended 2017)

10.24 The person who chairs the Committee is a member of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting. (Amended 2017)

The functions and duties of the Local Trust Properties Committee are inter alia:

10.26.8 Insert new point: “To ensure compliance with all relevant safety regulations” (Amended 2017)

10.31 All members of Local Trust Property committees shall declare any conflict of interest that may exist in relation to all property matters. A register of Conflicts of Interest having been declared shall be kept and submitted to the District Trust Property Secretary and the General Secretary. (Amended 2018)

10.46.3 Loans from Connexional Funds shall be repaid in monthly installments which include repayments of capital, and interest at the rate determined by the General Treasurer; (Amended 2018)

CHAPTER 11 DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND MINISTERS

[In all cases replace “accused” with “defendant” and “accuser” with “complainant”.

11.3 To read: “Ministers who have an accusation against them in respect of character, doctrinal beliefs, fitness for the work of the ministry, or observance of Methodist Laws and Discipline may have a complaint laid against them by a member with the District Discipline Registrar. This shall be in writing. (Amended 2018)

11.4.1 Amend to read: Whether there is a breach of the Laws and Discipline. (Amended 2017)

11.4.4 Insert new clause:

“The DDR may request the person against whom the complaint is made to make written submission if they so wish, in reply to the DDR before it is determined whether a charge be laid, and within 5 (five) calendar days of receiving such communication from the DDR.” (Amended 2017)
11.6 If the District Discipline Registrar decides that the complaint does not demand a charge and hearing the District Discipline Registrar shall inform the accuser accordingly within Fourteen (14) days and may refer it to another appropriate forum of the Church. The Complainant may appeal to the Presiding Bishop in writing, against the decision, who will refer the complaint to another DDR. The decision of the referred-to DDR shall be final. If the DDR decides the complaint warrants a charge and a hearing, he/she refers the matter to the original DDR for processing in the normal manner. (Amended 2018)

11.6a Add point: In the event of harassment cases the complainant may appoint a member to be present without participation (refer to the Harassment Policy L&D App 15: 6.5.1). Although not required, the parties to the complaint are welcome to bring a personal supporter of their own choosing to any interview proceedings to provide emotional support and act as an observer. (Amended 2018)

11.6.1 Insert new clause: Where the complaint has been referred to another appropriate forum of the church and the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome thereof, the provisions of Appendix 14 of the L&D shall apply. (Amended 2017)

11.7.1 If a charge is laid:
In the case of a member, if the Superintendent considers the charge to be sufficiently serious and it is in the best interests of the Church, the said Superintendent shall instruct the Member in writing to cease to exercise the functions and privileges of membership and any official position pending the finalisation of the hearing of the District Disciplinary Committee and review by the Connexional Disciplinary Committee, which shall be concluded as soon as possible. The Superintendent shall forthwith inform the Bishop of the decision to suspend the member. If the period of suspension is to exceed one month the written approval of the Bishop is required. (Amended 2017)

11.7.2 In the case of a Minister, the Bishop shall inform the Presiding Bishop of the charge. If, after consultation with the Bishop, it is deemed to be in the interests of the Church, the Presiding Bishop may direct that the Minister who is charged must cease to exercise any ministerial functions until the verdict has been reached. Such direction of the Presiding Bishop shall be delivered to the defendant in writing. The Presiding Bishop shall not give the said Minister a prior hearing. (Amended 2017)

11.7.4 Insert new clause: (after 11.7.1)
“In the case of an Evangelist or Bible Woman, the Superintendent shall inform the Bishop of the charge. If, after consultation with the Superintendent, it
is deemed to be in the interests of the Church, the Bishop may direct that
the Evangelist or Bible Woman who is charged must cease to exercise any
functions of their role until the verdict has been reached. Such direction of
the Bishop shall be delivered to the defendant in writing and be copied the
Warden of the Order.” (Amended 2017)

District Disciplinary Committee:

11.8  Amend to read: Each Synod shall appoint a District Disciplinary Committee
of 7 (seven) persons as per recommendations of District Executive, having
considered qualifications and required competency. The committee comprises
three ordained Ministers and four Lay Members. The term of office for members
serving on the District Disciplinary Committee shall be three years for up to
three (3) consecutive three year terms. Synod shall appoint a Convener from
among the members of the committee. A quorum shall comprise 3 (three)
members of which at least one shall be an ordained minister and at least one
shall be a lay person. Furthermore, at least one of the quorum shall have the
applicable qualifications referred to in paragraph 11.41. (Amended 2017)

11.9  The Committee shall meet within 21 days of receiving a charge and conclude in
a reasonable period of time. If it does not meet within 21 days of receiving the
charge, the charge lapses unless the delay is caused by circumstances beyond
anyone’s control. This will not preclude the District Discipline Registrar from
forwarding the charge a second time to the District Disciplinary Committee
provided that the District Disciplinary Committee shall meet within 10 (ten)
days of such an event. If it does not meet within this period, the charge lapses
permanently. (Amended 2017)

Appointment and qualifications of the District Disciplinary Committee, the District
Discipline Registrar and Connexional Disciplinary Committee

11.10 The District Discipline Registrar who serves as the Chair of the District
Discipline Registry, and at least one member of a District Disciplinary
Committee and one member of the Connexional Disciplinary Committee
shall be persons who have the equivalent of at least five (5) years High Court
experience as an attorney or advocate or five (5) years of commensurate
litigation experience. The same person can be appointed as the District
Discipline Registrar for more than one District. (Amended 2017)

11.11 (from 11.42) Insert and Amend to read: Synod shall appoint the District
Discipline Registry as per recommendation of District Executive, having
considered qualifications and required competency. The Office of the
District Discipline Registry shall consist of three persons, a person with the
appropriate legal background as stipulated in 11.10, one Minister and one lay
person. The DDR shall operate from the office of the Minister on the team,
and shall consider all cases together under the chair of the legally qualified member. The term of office for the District Discipline Registry shall be 3 (three) years and is eligible for re-appointment. (Amended 2017)

11.10 ... hear all charges referred to it by the District Discipline Registrar and, in the event of a conviction, to impose whatever sentence it deems appropriate, which shall include the suspension or termination of the membership of the defendant, or discontinuance of a Minister; (Amended 2017)

11.11.1 The DDR shall notify the accused in writing of the terms of the charge and of the date, place and time of the meeting of the District Disciplinary Committee that will hear the charge. The charge shall be sent by Registered Post or by e-mail to the last known address of the defendant, in which case the defendant shall be deemed to have received the charge 10 days after posting or e-mail, or, in the presence of at least one competent witness, handed to the defendant or delivered to the last known residential address of the accused, leaving it in the letter box or affixing it to the front door or putting it under the front door or handing it to a person apparently over the age of 16 who resides at the said premises. (Amended 2017)

11.11.2 The District Discipline Registrar shall within 21 days inform the Bishop and Superintendent(s) of the Circuit(s) in which both the complainant and the defendant reside, of the charges that have been laid. The Bishop and Superintendent shall treat the matter as strictly confidential and shall not interfere with the process; (Amended 2017)

11.14 Amend to read: The District Discipline Registry shall appoint a member of the MCSA in good standing to present the case against the accused at the hearing. Such person shall have no interest in the matter. (Amended 2017)

11.17 Add new clause: before current 11.17

No legal representation shall be allowed in the District Disciplinary Committee hearing. (Amended 2017)

11.17 DISTRICT DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

(Amended 2017)

11.23 The verdict and the sentence shall be in writing and the finding shall be delivered as soon as possible within reasonable time to the defendant and the complainant as provided for in para.11.13.1 or 11.14.

Commencement of Sentence:

11.25 No sentence shall take effect until the Connexional Disciplinary Committee has reviewed the matter. The General Secretary shall communicate the
sentence to the accused, the Bishop and Superintendent (when relevant) and the DDR and DDC Convener. The District Discipline Structure shall correspond with the complainant. \((Amended\ 2017)\)

11.35.2  in the absence of an appeal, review every record of District Disciplinary Committees within 30 days of receipt of the record of the District Disciplinary Committee’s decision; \((Amended\ 2017)\)

11.35.5  \textit{Delete the clause:} prepare and maintain manuals of procedure for disciplinary hearings; \((Amended\ 2017)\)

11.35.10  \textit{Insert new point:} (After 11.35.9) “be empowered to condone late submissions from DDC’s;” \((Amended\ 2017)\)

11.35.11  \textit{Insert new point:} The decision of the CDC on a verdict is final. Only matters of procedure on disciplinary cases may be referred to the Arbitrator. \((Amended\ 2017)\)

\textbf{Appeals:}

11.36 Any appeal must be lodged in writing with the Convener of the Connexional Disciplinary Committee within twenty one (21) days of the date on which the decision appealed against is conveyed to the person entitled to appeal, and shall set out the grounds of appeal. The Connexional Disciplinary Committee must endeavour to finalise the appeal within 30 (thirty) days of the appeal being lodged, unless good cause is shown. Either the accused or the person presenting the case against the accused may appeal against the decision of a DDC. \((Amended\ 2017)\)

11.39 All appeals shall be decided on the written record of the proceedings before the District Disciplinary Committee and on hearing such argument by the accused and the person presenting the case against the accused as the Connexional Disciplinary Committee shall permit. No new evidence shall be heard on appeal unless the Committee decides to call for such evidence. The CDC may call for written submissions from anyone. \((Amended\ 2017)\)

12.2  \textbf{District Local Preachers’ Committee}

\textit{Amend:} Synod shall elect a Local Preachers Committee for a period of 3 years …. \((Amended\ 2018)\)

12.9  \textit{Amend to:} Only fully accredited local preachers may Candidate for Ministry. \((Amended\ 2018)\)
13.1 NON-ITINERANT CATEGORY OF THE ORDER OF DEACONS:
Insert:
13.1.1 Deacons belong to an Itinerant order of ordained ministry of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. \((\text{Amended 2017})\)

13.32 Leave of Absence
Add new point: “A Deacon on leave of absence may continue to be a member of the MCSA pension and medical aid schemes, subject to the rules of the fund. \((\text{Amended 2017})\)

14.4.6 CANDIDATING INTO THE ORDER OF EVANGELISM
Have a grade 10 or equivalent educational level. \((\text{Amended 2017})\)

Chapter 14 ORDER OF EVANGELISM
Delete the clause and replace with: “The Order of Evangelism is a lay ministry that includes Biblewomen and Evangelists called into the service of God and the Church to assist in evangelisation, church planting/growth and pastoral care. The Order shall operate subject to the Laws and Discipline and all other policies, decisions, practices and usages of the Church. \((\text{Amended 2018})\)

14.1 All affairs of the Order are administered by the General Committee consisting of a Chairman, who shall be one of the District Bishops appointed by Conference, the Warden, the Secretary who shall be a minister … \((\text{Amended 2017})\)

Add new APPENDIX: 3A \((\text{Amended 2018})\)

PRINCIPLES GUIDING THE PRESBYTERS’ CONDUCT IN THE MCSA

THE PREAMBLE:
The Methodist Church understands ministry as the task of the whole Church because all believers are baptised into Christ as His followers and servants. All Christ’s followers are called to minister, to be fishers of people (Mark 1:17), to be witnesses of Christ (Acts 1:8) and to be where Christ is as servants (John 12:26). They are also a community of priests (1 Peter 2:9). They represent the priesthood of Jesus Christ in their lives as they serve people and the world on behalf of God.

Whilst all who follow Christ must exercise ministry and priesthood, the Church sets apart Presbyters who are called by God, by the act of ordination.

Whilst the ordained share the same commission to minister, ordination places them in a relationship with Christ and with the church that is different. The Presbyters in particular, are set apart to serve as pastors and overseers of the flock of Christ and
for the ministry of Word and Sacrament. They are given authority to care, to teach, to lead and to equip the people of God for ministry and mission. They have spiritual oversight of the congregations and are to preach Christ in word and in deed, and model themselves on Him who is the good Shepherd. It is therefore incumbent upon them and expected that they be exemplary in:

- actively living as disciples of Christ,
- exhibiting exemplary moral and religious character,
- modelling humility and servant leadership,
- modelling Methodist discipline, doctrine and Wesleyan spirituality.

The following Principles are reaffirmed as the traditional hallmark of the Methodist experience and understanding of discipleship which is “watching over each other in love”. These principles also help Circuit Superintendents, Bishops and all those involved in the task of guiding and holding the Ordained and Probationer Presbyters in the MCSA, to account.

THE PRINCIPLES:

1. As Members of the Christian Community, the MCSA presbyters are guided in their behaviour and conduct by the law of Christ, “the law of Love”. (Methodist ethos) (Mark 12:30-31)

2. As Members of the Methodist Movement, the MCSA presbyters are guided in their conduct by the Rule of Life drawn by John and Charles Wesley in 1743, that of:
   - “Doing no harm, avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is more generally practiced”
   - “Doing good by being merciful after one’s own power, doing good of every possible sort to the bodies of people as well as their souls, as far as possible to all”.
   - “Attending upon all the ordinances of God”. (L&D, 12th edition Revised, 3.5)

3. As Preachers in the Methodist Movement, the MCSA presbyters are guided in their conduct by the Twelve Rules of a Helper outlined by John Wesley for Methodist Preachers in 1744:
   - Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never while away time, or spend more time at any place than is strictly necessary.
   - Be serious. Let your motto be “Holiness to the Lord”. Avoid all lightness, jesting and foolish talking.
   - Be guarded in your conversation and friendships lest you be led into temptation.
   - Take no steps towards marriage without solemn prayer to God, and consulting your colleagues.
• Believe evil of no one unless fully proved; take heed how you credit it. Put the best construction you can on everything. You know the judge is always supposed to be on the prisoner’s side.
• Speak evil of no one. Keep your thoughts to yourself till you come to the person concerned.
• Tell everyone what you think wrong in them, lovingly and plainly and as soon as may be else it will fester in your own heart.
• Do not pretend to be of high station. A preacher of the Gospel is the servant of all.
• Be ashamed of nothing but sin. Regard nothing as beneath you.
• Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our rules but keep them, and that for conscience’ sake.
• You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. And go always not to those who want you but to those who want you most.
• Act in all things not according to your own will but as a child in the Gospel and in union with your colleagues. (L&D, 12th edition Revised, Appendix 3)

4. We must meet them at least an hour every week; talk with them whenever we see any of them at home; pray in earnest for them; diligently instruct and vehemently exhort all parents at their own houses. Some will say, “I have no gift for this.” Gift or no gift, you are to do this, or else you are not called to be a Methodist Preacher. Do it as you can, till you can do it as you would. Pray earnestly for the gift, and use every help God hath put into your way, in order to attain it. Preach expressly on the education once a year.

5. As the Ones who have received the Divine call to set examples of Christ-like life for believers (1 Timothy 3: 1-7) land as ones set aside and authorised by the church to act in its name, the MCSA presbyters are guided in their conduct by the Methodist discipline obligations of:
• Exemplary Moral and Religious character.
• Believing and teaching sound Christian doctrine as held by the Methodist church.
• Observing and enforcing Methodist discipline.
• Having competent abilities for the work of a minister. (L&D, 12th edition Revised, App. 5, 5.4)

6. As the Ones Ordained to the office and work of the Ministry of Word and Sacraments, the MCSA presbyters are guided in their conduct by their ordination vows i.e.
• Being faithful in personal prayer, meditation and study of Holy Scriptures.
• Submitting to the discipline of the church.
• Providing an example to all God’s people, of one in whose life the fruit of the Spirit is seen to be growing.
• Caring for one’s own family as a sacred trust and duty.

7. As the Ones in a Covenantal relationship with the Conference /Connexion, sharing a fellowship of each other, enjoying the care and protection of the Conference, the MCSA presbyters are guided in their conduct by the undertakings they make when they are received into Full Connexion – that of:
• Adhering to the Laws and Discipline and all other policies, decisions, practices and usages of the church.
• Accepting and obeying the discipline and decisions of Conference and the Connexional Executive.
• Going to whichever circuit or station they are appointed.
• Not maligning the MCSA, its ministers, doctrines and practices.
• Not conducting another ministry in the area to which they are appointed when they leave the MCSA ministry.
• Not encouraging members to follow them when they leave the MCSA.
• Accepting the decision of CE or of the Presiding Bishop governing the termination of service and occupancy of church property when they leave the MCSA. (L&D, 12th edition Revised 4.46)

APPENDIX 5
5.4 Delete the entire clause on: Is there any objection to any Minister or Probationer?
Insert this in its entirety in Order of Business for Convocation Appendix 5A: 1 (Amended 2018)
5.4.6 Delete entire point (Amended 2018)

7. Elections
7.3 Amend: Whom do we appoint as District Secretary? (Amended 2017)

MISCELLANEOUS
8.4 Amend to read: What new legislation, adopted by Conference is now submitted to Synods for noting? (Amended 2018)

Add new Appendix 5A ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR THE PRESBYTERS’ CONVOCATION

Devotions
Calling of the Roll

Annually appoint a Secretary of the Convocation, if the District Secretary is a Lay person. (Amended 2018)
Insert (From Appendix 5 point 5):

1.1 Is there any objection to any Minister or Probationer?
   1.1.1 Is there any objection to their moral and religious character?
   1.1.2 Do you believe and teach sound Christian Doctrine as held by the Methodist Church?
   1.1.3 Do you duly observe and enforce our discipline?
   1.1.4 Have they competent abilities for our work?

1.2 Before any objection may be raised against the name of a minister in terms of para 5.4 the following shall apply:
   (a) the objector has informed the minister before-hand in the presence of a witness of the nature of the objection;
   (b) the objector has appraised the Bishop before-hand of the intention and nature of the objection;
   (c) At no stage may these questions be used to humiliate any minister of the Church. Any person who misuses this procedure in a manner which vilifies any other person may be charged.

2. What is the conversation on the clergy Vocation and virtues of the Ordained?

3. What is the report of the Convocation having heard the Ordinands’ Oral Examination concerning each Candidate for Ordination? (set by EMMU – led by the Bishop – assessed by a committee appointed by the District Supervisor of Studies and the Bishop) Relevant questions from the floor of Convocation are allowed. (A report to be given to Synod)

4. What is the Report on Continuing Ministerial Formation?

5. What is the Report on the Engagement with the doctrinal/ethical/theological/contemporary issues affecting the church? (A report is presented to Synod)

6. Presbyters’ undertaking:
   All Presbyters shall make a renewal of Ordination vows and repeat annually at the Convocation, the undertakings made at Candidature and Ordination as per L&D 4.17.
   (i) I will adhere to the Laws and Discipline and all other policies, decisions, practices and usages of the Church;
   (ii) I will accept and obey the discipline and decisions of Conference and the Connexional Executive;
   (iii) I will go to whichever Circuit or Station I am appointed;
   (iv) I will not malign this Church, its Ministers, doctrines or practices;
   (v) Should I leave the Ministry of this Church for any reason, I will not conduct another Ministry in the Circuit or area to which I was appointed;
   (vi) Should I leave this Church, I will not encourage any member or adherent of the Church to follow me;
(vii) Should I leave this Church I will accept the decision of the Connexional Executive or of the Presiding Bishop governing the termination of my service and my occupancy of Church property.

7. Is there any other business for Synod?

Closing Ceremonies
Hymn
Prayer
Benediction

Add new Appendix (Amended CE 2018)
APPENDIX 6A METHODIST CHILDREN AND YOUTH UNIT

1. FOREWORD
1.1 God ordained and established the Church to call people into communication with Godself and with one another according to the eternal purpose in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son, our Lord.
1.2 Conference establishes the Methodist Children and Youth Unit and allots its Mission work on Youth and Children’s Ministry to the Unit. The Youth and Children’s Ministry shall operate at Connexional, District, Circuit and Society levels and its control shall be through Conference, Synod, Circuit and Society (L&D paragraph 8.1)
1.3 Conference notes the distinctive nature of this Unit, in that it has entities within it and thus allows it to operate in accordance with “the Laws & Discipline” of the MCSA.
1.4 The following abbreviations as contained the Appendix shall mean
   MY Methodist Children and Youth Unit
   CYE Connexional Youth Executive
   CYC Connexional Youth Conference
   DYU District Children and Youth Unit
   DYE District Youth Executive
   CYU Circuit Children and Youth Unit
   CYUE Circuit Children and Youth Unit Executive

2. NAME OF THE UNIT
The name of the unit shall be the METHODIST CHILDREN AND YOUTH UNIT (hereinafter referred to as the “MYU”) and shall incorporate youth groups, Children’s Ministry and any other entities engaged in youth ministry within the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
3.1 To promote discipleship in Christ amongst young people and children inside and outside the Church, in particular those within the Children
and Youth Unit, through practical implementation of credible youth programmes as employed within the diverse youth groupings.

3.2 To encourage young people and children to play a vital role in the growth and development of their church undergirded by receiving and exercising the Grace of Christ.

3.3 To help acquaint young people and children with biblical knowledge and to encourage them to actively participate in Christian Evangelistic programmes that foster a Christ-like lifestyle.

3.4 To promote enthusiasm and loyalty for the work of God as exercised through the Church in particular.

4. **DIVISIONS OF WORK:**
The work of the MYU is focused on the following groupings:

(a) Children’s Ministries

(b) Youth Associations/fellowships, and related ministries.

(c) Methodist Student Societies (i.e. Student-based groups mostly in tertiary institutions, functioning with a Methodist ethos)

(d) Senior Guild/Senior Youth Fellowships/Young Adults Groups, and related ministries.

(e) Wesley Guild

(f) Girls’ and Boys’ Brigades within the MCSA.

(g) Any other organisations engaged in youth ministry within the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.

5. **MEMBERSHIP OF THE ENTITIES:**

5.1 Membership shall be open to all members of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, subject to the Constitution of the various entities.

5.2 All members and prospective members shall comply with the membership requirements of the respective entity as stipulated in the Constitutions from time to time.

6. **DISCIPLINE MATTERS:**

In seeking to win souls rather than a punitive process, the Children and Youth Unit shall observe the provisions of Chapter 11 of the Laws & Discipline, in the event that a member contravenes or fails to adhere to the discipline of any of the entities pertained in the relevant constitution or any rule of the MCSA as provided.

7. **UNIT STRUCTURES:**

A. The Methodist Children and Youth Unit consists of the following organs for operational purposes:

1. The Connexional Youth Conference, which nominates the Connexional Youth Executive for appointment by Conference.
2. The District Youth Synods, which nominate District Youth Executives for appointment by District Synods.

3. The Circuit Children and Youth Unit. Annual General Meetings elect the Circuit Youth and Children’s Ministries Executive for appointment by Quarterly Meetings.

4. The Society Children and Youth Unit Annual General Meetings which elect the Society Youth & Children’s Ministries Executive for appointment by Leaders’ Meetings.

B. 

1. Circuits may be grouped together into Regions where appropriate or necessary for purposes of effective management, fellowship, communication and mission work.

2. Societies and individual entities are encouraged to use or adapt these structures in line with their contextual demands, so long as they continue to maintain the basic concepts, such as the 4 C’s of Christ or any other programmes as approved from time to time.

3. It is recognised that Youth Ministry and Children’s Ministries are separate entities, with different needs and focuses. With this in mind, the two can either be run separately or as a single unit, but every effort should be made to ensure that the needs of all children and youth are met.

8. THE CONNEXIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE (CYC)

8.1 Composition of CYC

8.1.1 An annual Connexional Youth Conference shall be held, under the general direction of the Conference. The Presiding Bishop or his/her designated deputy, shall preside over the Youth Conference.

8.1.2 Each District shall be represented by ten (10) delegates who must be representative of all existing entities chosen at the District Youth Synod. The District Co-ordinator and District Children and Youth Unit Secretary and Treasurer, as members of CYE, are de-facto members of CYC in representing their Districts. Districts are to ensure equity in the representation of all entities in the CYC delegation.

8.1.3 The annual Conference of the MCSA shall be the supreme ruling body of the Methodist Children and Youth Unit

8.2 Functions and Duties of the Connexional Youth Conference:

8.2.1 To nominate, for appointment by Conference, the Connexional Youth Executive comprising of the following officers: The Connexional Youth Co-ordinator (who may be designated as Unit Director); The Connexional General Secretary; The Connexional General Treasurer.

8.2.2 To receive, discuss and/or formulate resolutions and reports for submission to Conference or Connexional Executive.
8.2.3 To appoint Task Teams or ad-hoc committees for specific tasks to be undertaken within clearly defined time frames and terms of reference.

8.2.4 To receive and deliberate upon reports and or recommendations emanating from the meeting or extra-ordinary consultations of the Connexional Youth Executive, entities or any other duly recognised structure or committee of the Church.

8.2.5 Envisioning, strategising and planning.

9. THE CONNEXIONAL YOUTH EXECUTIVE (CYE):

9.1 Membership and convening of Connexional Youth Executive

9.1.1 The Connexional Youth Executive shall consist of the Connexional Co-ordinator/Director, Connexional General Secretary, Connexional General Treasurer, the District Co-ordinators, the District Children and Youth Unit Secretaries and Treasurers.

9.1.2 The Connexional Co-ordinator shall be the Chairperson of the Connexional Youth Executive, the Presiding Bishop, or his/her designated deputy shall provide an oversight and shall be an ex-officio member.

9.1.3 The Connexional Youth Executive shall be convened annually sitting immediately prior to CYC. A special CYE may be convened as and when necessary.

9.2 Functions and Duties and of Connexional Youth Executive

9.2.1 Receive reports from Districts regarding past events and future plans.

9.2.2 Receive proposals and recommendations regarding Youth and children’s work within the Connexion.

9.2.3 Receive and discuss matters referred to the MYU by Conference.

9.2.4 Encourage inter-District communication, liaison or joint ventures in matters of national urgency, Connexional coherence and development capacity along shared visions and focus.

9.2.5 Facilitate and engage the youth and children in the international issues and ecumenical matters.

9.2.6 Promote Connexional unity, cross-cultural interaction and further developments for youth and children’s ministries.

10. DISTRICT YOUTH SYNOD

10.1 In each District an annual Youth Synod shall be held under the general direction of the District Synod. Functions and duties of the Youth Synod shall follow the Order of Business for Youth Synod as per the Laws & Discipline of the MCSA (Methodist Book of Order Appendix 6).

10.2 Youth Synod shall be the decision making body within the District
to formulate resolutions and recommendations regarding Youth and children’s work in the District. However all matters affecting Unit policy and strategy shall be sent to CYC and matters that have been referred by Conference to the Unit.

10.3 Representation at Youth Synod shall be ten (10) delegates per circuit consisting of the Circuit Y.U. Convener, Secretary, and eight (8) additional members who shall be representatives of all the different entities within the Circuit.

10.4 The District Youth Executive shall consist of:

10.4.1 The District Bishop, District Co-ordinator, and the District Children and Youth Unit Secretary and Treasurer who shall be elected from amongst the members of the District Youth Synod.

10.4.2 Seven (7) additional members, consisting of five (5) lay Members representing the various entities of the DYU and two (2) Ministers.

10.5 The District Co-ordinator shall be elected by the District Youth Synod and shall either be an ordained Minister or a lay person of the DYU for endorsement by the District Synod.

10.6 The District may constitute a District Youth Council where necessary, where such Council shall meet twice a year for purposes of effective management, fellowship, communication and subject to the direction of Youth Synod.

10.7 The District Youth Executive shall meet as and when necessary.

11. CIRCUIT CHILDREN AND YOUTH UNIT

11.1 Each Circuit Children and Youth Unit shall constitute an Executive consisting of:

11.1.1 At least one (1) Minister within the Circuit shall be designated by the Circuit Executive.

11.1.2 Circuit Youth Co-ordinator and Secretary or their designated alternatives, shall represent the CYU at the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.

11.1.3 At least five (5) additional members who are representative of the various divisions of work within the Circuit, who shall be not less than eighteen (18) years of age.

11.1.4 The functions of the Circuit YU Executive, which shall meet at least once a quarter, shall be (inter alia):

11.2 Functions and Duties:

11.2.1 To co-ordinate, assess and develop youth work within the Circuit and prepare reports for the relevant structures.

11.2.2 To keep the DYU Executive informed about the existing, revival or establishment of any youth and children’s work for action and pastoral guidance.
11.2.3 To ensure the election of representatives to Youth Synods and other church structure events as may be required.

11.2.4 To convene a Circuit YU General Meeting which shall be the decision making body within the Circuit to formulate resolutions and recommendations regarding Youth and children’s work in the Circuit for ratification by the Circuit Quarterly Meeting. Elections for the above Office Bearers shall be held at the Annual General Meeting for recommendation to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.

11.2.5 To organise events and programmes for the Circuit and Societies.

11.3 The Circuit YU Executive shall be directly accountable to Circuit Superintendent

12. SOCIETY

12.1 The Society Children and Youth Unit shall practically and actively implement the youth and children’s programmes as set by the Quarterly Meeting and Circuit Youth Unit.

12.2 Society Children and Youth Unit shall actively participate in church activities and be supportive of the growth and life of the church.

13. DUTIES OF THE OFFICE BEARERS

All duties as outlined below shall be the same at District level.

13.1 The CONNEXIONAL CO-ORDINATOR shall:

13.1.1 Be the Executive Officer of the Methodist Children and Youth Unit.

13.1.2 Monitor the growth and extent of youth work within the Connexion.

13.1.3 See to the various structures and systems of operation of the Connexional Unit function effectively, and assist where necessary.

13.1.4 Chair all Connexional Youth Committee meetings as per directive of the Presiding Bishop.

13.1.5 Attend Connexional Youth Forums, and District Synods when available, Connexional Executive and Conference.

13.1.6 Together with the Committee, co-ordinate inter-District and ecumenical events.

13.1.7 Oversee the work of the District/Connexional youth committee.

13.1.8 Together with the General Treasurer and General Secretary, be bank Signatories, with the General Treasurer being a compulsory signatory.

13.1.9 Be the official representative and liaison officer of the Methodist Children and Youth Unit. To also be the chief communicator, working with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and Communication’s Director.
13.1.10 Be the originator and implementer of the Vision and Mission of the Methodist Youth Unit as approved by the CYC.

13.2 The General Secretary shall:

13.2.1 Be the Chief Administrative officer of the MYU.
13.2.2 Be responsible for recording and taking minutes of all structural meetings; where necessary a Recording Secretary may be appointed.
13.2.3 See that the various structures and systems of operation of the Connexional/District unit function effectively, and assist where necessary.
13.2.4 Attend and report to all Connexional Youth Forums, and other relevant bodies
13.2.5 Together with the Committee, co-ordinate inter-District and ecumenical events
13.2.6 Oversee the work of the Connexional Youth Committee

13.3 The Children and Youth Unit General Treasurer shall:

13.3.1 Be the financial accounting officer of the MYU and be responsible for its financial management.
13.3.2 Be responsible for initiating and executing plans for fundraising, preparing annual budgets, and dealing with other financial matters related to the operations of the MYU.
13.3.3 Be the custodian on behalf of the Presiding Bishop, of all property of the MYU subject to provisions contained in the L&D on church property.
13.3.4 Prepare and present annual audited financial statements of the MYU.

13.4 If/when ADDITIONAL MEMBERS are elected, for the attainment of the Mission goals of the MYU, they shall perform all such duties as delegated to them by either the executive or the MYU.

14. ELECTIONS:

14.1 Only full Members of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa shall be eligible to vote on any matter.
14.2 Elections shall be chaired by the Presiding Bishop/District Bishop/ Superintendent or his/her appointed deputy within the respective electing structure as the case may be.

15. TERMS OF OFFICE:

15.1 The term of office for the Connexional Youth Executive shall be three (3) years, with the possibility of re-election for one final term. All office
bearers at Connexional level shall be elected at CYC for ratification by Conference.

15.2 A committee member may, with valid reasons, be suspended or withdrawn from the executive committee by the relevant structure in consultation with the Bishop/Superintendent and the Executive Committee.

15.3 The Executive Committee, in consultation with the Bishop/Superintendent and Executive Committee, has the power to co-opt a replacement for the suspended/withdrawn member for the remaining term of office, pending ratification by the Youth Synod/CYC.

15.4 If for any reason the Co-ordinator is incapacitated or cannot fulfil his/her responsibilities, the Presiding/District Bishop, in consultation with the Executive Committee has the power to appoint an interim Co-ordinator until the next Youth Synod/CYC.

15.5 Any review of the Executive Committee may only be done by the Connexional Youth Conference (at Connexional level), or by the Youth Synod (at District level), or Circuit Quarterly Meeting (at Circuit level), Leaders meeting (at society level) through a resolution by a two-thirds majority of eligible voters.

15.6 Any decision taken by the Youth Synod/CYC during such a review shall be ratified by the immediate next District Synod/Conference or Connexional Executive.

16. QUORUM:

16.1 Quorum at Youth Synods and Connexional Youth Conference shall be at least 51% of circuits and districts present.

16.2 Quorum at Circuit level shall be at least 51% of the Circuit record of active full members present. The Chairperson shall adjourn the meeting in the event of lack of quorum. After adequate notice has been given, a rescheduled meeting post the no-quorum adjournment shall sit regardless of whether a quorum is reached or not.

Appendix 8

Add question:


9.1 Add point to read: Whom does the Circuit appoint as the Circuit Trust Property Co-ordinator? (Amended 2017)

Appendix 11

Amend point 2: The District Secretary shall invite all Circuit Quarterly Meetings within the District to nominate any Minister(s) in Full Connexion, whether or not in the District concerned, at the January Quarterly Meeting. (Amended 2017)

11.7 Add bullet: The Required Majority is having 50% PLUS 1, irrespective of how many candidates stand. (50% plus 1 of those Present and voting). Simple
Majority is when there are ONLY 2 candidates, and the 1 has more votes than the other. *(Amended 2017)*

**Appendix 12**

**PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING THE LAY PRESIDENT**

2. Circuits should nominate Candidates by 31 March to the District Secretary.
   
   **Delete:** “Such candidates shall be interviewed by a Committee appointed by the District Executive. A report on each nominee shall be made at Synod” *(Amended 2017)*

4. **Delete entire clause:** “The Interviewing Committee shall brief Synod on each person nominated and answer any questions for clarification.” *(Amended 2017)*

**Appendix 14**

1. **Mediation**
   
   1.1 Connexional Panel
   
   (iv) **amend to:** all disbursements of the panelists in the exercise of their mediatory service shall be borne by the Connexion at the rates determined by the General Treasurer from time to time. *(Amended 2018)*

2. **Arbitration**
   
   2.1 Panel
   
   (iii) **amend to:** all disbursements of the panelists in the exercise of their arbitration services shall be borne by the Connexion at the rates determined by the General Treasurers from time to time. *(Amended 2018)*

**MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION PROCESSES**

Add new point:

14.2.2 (x) that only matters of procedure on disciplinary cases may be heard by the Arbitrator. *(Amended 2017)*

**Add New Appendix 16:** *(Amended 2016)*

**Order of Business for Connexional Executive**

Order of Opening:

- Devotions
- Calling of the Roll
- Constitution of CE
- Appointment of CE officials
- Adoption of the Hours of Session
- Adoption of the Agenda

1. Do we adopt the Minutes of the Previous Meeting?
2. What are the Matters arising from the previous meeting?
3. What business of Conference is referred to the Connexional Executive?
4. What report do we receive from the Finance Unit?
5. What reports do we receive from Connexional Discipline, Arbitration and Mediation Committees?
6. What report is received from the Education for Ministry and Mission Unit regarding Candidates, Probationers and Ordinands?
7. What Resolutions, Notices of Motion and Memorials are before the Connexional Executive?
8. What amendments to the Laws and Discipline are proposed by the Revision Committee and what amendments are proposed to constitutions of Organisations?
9. What matters are referred to Districts, Units, and Circuits from the Connexional Executive?
10. What matters are before the Connexional Executive relating to Supernumeraries?
11. Who is appointed (when the term of office comes to an end) as Lay General Treasurer?
12. Who is appointed (when the term of office comes to an end) as Wardens of the Orders?
13. Whom do we appoint as Connexional Registrar?
14. Whom do we appoint as Connexional Marriage Registrar?
15. Whom do we propose to the Conference for appointment as Bishops and Unit Leaders?
16. Whom do we appoint to the Finance Unit Executive?
17. Whom do we appoint as trustees of the Pension Funds?
18. Whom do we appoint to Connexional Discipline, Mediation and Arbitration committees?
19. Whom do we appoint to Connexional Committees?
20. What District and Circuit Boundary changes are accepted?
21. What changes are received of Clergy personnel status regarding:
   (a) Deaths
   (b) Applications to superannuate
   (c) Applications for Secondment
   (d) Leave of Absence
   (e) Resignations/Discontinuances
   (f) Ministers who will be deemed to have resigned if not stationed
   (g) Reinstatements or Transfers in
   (h) Change of Category
   (i) Study Leave
   (j) Transfers out and Ministers beyond the Connexion
   (k) Permission to Explore
   (l) Applications for remarriage
   (m) Divorce proceedings
2020 155

(n) Local Preachers’ status
(o) Ministers without Appointment: Marriage
(p) Ministers Beyond the Connexion

22. What is the final Draft of Stations to be presented to Conference?
23. What administrative matters are before the Connexional Executive?

Add New Appendix 17: (Amended 2016)
2019 Conference Amendments

DISTRICTS TO BE CALLED SYNODS
Amend “District” to Synod – throughout L&D (Amended 2019)

Order of Business for Conference
Calling of the Roll
Constitution of Conference
Appointment of Conference Committees and officials
Adoption of the Hours of Session
Reception of Conference Reports, Resolutions
The Address of the Presiding Bishop and Conversation on the Work of God

1. What is the report of the Lay President?
2. What is the report of the Lay General Treasurer?
3. What is the report of the General Secretary?
4. What are the reports of the Districts, Units, Committees, Orders, Seminary and Organisations?
5. Whom do we receive as Ecumenical Guests to Conference?
6. Whom do we appoint to Connexional Committees?
7. Whom do we appoint as Unit Directors?
8. Are there any Units to be closed?
9. Are there any Units to be established?
10. What is the report of the Connexional Boundaries Committee as to District boundaries?
11. Whom do we appoint as our Bishops?
12. Whom do we elect as the General Secretary (in years this is to be held)?
13. Whom do we elect as the Lay President (with nominations from Synod, in years that this should be done)?
14. Who is proposed by each Organisation as the General President Elect? (Amended 2017)
15. Which ministers who have died since last Conference are remembered at the Memorial Service?
16. Who are the Ordinands approved to be Ordained and Received into Full Connexion at this Conference?

As per Laws and Discipline, each Ordinand shall be required to give the following undertakings:
4.46.1 I will adhere to the Laws and Discipline and all other policies, decisions, practices and usages of the Church;

4.46.2 I will accept and obey the discipline and decisions of Conference and the Connexional Executive;

4.46.3 I will go to whichever Circuit or Station I am appointed;

4.46.4 I will not malign this Church, its Ministers, doctrines or practices;

4.46.5 Should I leave the Ministry of this Church for any reason, I will not conduct another Ministry in the Circuit or area to which I was appointed;

4.46.6 Should I leave this Church, I will not encourage any member or adherent of the Church to follow me;

4.46.7 Should I leave this Church I will accept the decision of the Connexional Executive or of the Presiding Bishop governing the termination of my service and my occupancy of Church property.

17. What is the Statistical report of the Connexion?
18. What is the final draft of Stations?
19. What are the resolutions of Conference?
20. When and where will the next Conference be held?
21. What are the decisions relating to all reports and discussion papers?
22. What is the Message to the Methodist People?
23. Closing Ceremonies

2019 Conference Amendments

DISTRICTS TO BE CALLED SYNODS

Amend “District” to Synod – throughout L&D (Amended 2019)

Chapter 1

Add New point after current 1.44

1.45 REPRESENTIVITY
Conference affirms that the following bodies of the MCSA shall be comprised of at least 40% women and 20% percent of youth (aged under 35 years):

1. Society Stewards and leaders meetings
2. Circuit Stewards and Circuit Quarterly Meetings
3. Synods (including Mission Synods)
4. Synod Executives
5. Conference
6. All mixed gender Organisations
7. All committees, commissions and task teams
8. Gender exclusive Organisation are to ensure the 20% representation of youth
The Chairperson of all the above structures shall be responsible and held accountable to ensure adherence to the spirit and letter of this resolution. If in any of these Organisations, structures or committees the representation is not met, the minutes of each of these bodies, shall include a strong motivation as to the reason why the representation was not attainable and in addition report each time to the Synod Bishop, Connexional President or Presiding Bishop, as appropriate. The report must include what measures are being explored to correct this imbalance. *(Amended 2019)*

**1.35** **Delete** the last sentence:

*To read:* “when a child who has been receiving Communion is transferred to another Society, the Minister should be informed.” *(Amended 2019)*

**Inclusivity of Leadership**

**Add new point after new 1.45:**

**1.46:** “The MCSA is committed to inclusivity and as such the gender balance among the body of Bishops, Presiding Bishop, General Secretary and Lay President will express this commitment therein that at all times no less than 40 percent of the Leadership mentioned above shall be women.” *(Amended 2019)*

**DIVORCE AND THE MINISTRY**

**4.124** **Replace existing clause to read:** “Connexional Executive shall appoint a Connexional standing committee. The Committee shall serve for a three (3) year term, eligible for reappointment for two (2) additional three (3) year consecutive terms. The Connexional Executive shall also appoint a Convener of this Committee.” *(Amended 2019)*

**Chapter 5 – OFFICERS OF CONFERENCE**

**5.7** **Add after:** “…according to the provisions of Appendix 10... *(Amended 2019)*

**Insert:** “read together with paragraph 1.46.” *(Amended 2019)*

**5.8** The Lay President:

**5.8.1** **Add after:** “… to the provisions of Appendix 12... “ **Insert:** “read together with paragraph 1.46.” *(Amended 2019)*

**5.10** The General Secretary:

**5.10.1** **Add after:** “… according to the provisions of Appendix 13.. “ **Insert:** “read together with paragraph 1.46.” *(Amended 2019)*

**Chapter 6**

**6.11** **ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF BISHOPS**

**Add after:** “…according to the provisions of Appendix 11..“ **Insert:** “read together with paragraph 1.46.” *(Amended 2019)*
Circuit Quarterly Meeting:

Membership:

7.8 Insert point: AFTER CURRENT 7.8.15 (Amended 2019)

7.8.16 “The Circuit Statistical Secretary” (Amended 2019)

Insert clause after current 7.9:

7.10 Which 3 (three) persons do we appoint as the Synod Harassment team to whom Woman Ministers may report? (Amended 2019)

After 7.18.7

Add new point:

7.18.8 To appoint a Circuit Steward to assist the Superintendent in overseeing all property and insurance matters in the Circuit and to report to the DTP Secretary” (Amended 2019)

7.21 The duties of the Circuit Stewards are inter alia:

Add new point: after current 7.21.13

7.21.14 to co-ordinate in conjunction with the Superintendent all Trust Property matters in the circuit, by providing a link between the Local Trust Properties Committee and the District Trust Properties Committee. To this end one of the Circuit Stewards shall be designated the Trust Properties Circuit Steward. (Amended 2019)

Chapter 8

Amend Title to: Children and Youth Unit (Amended 2019)

Amend MYU Constitution to “Appendix” (Amended 2019)

8.10.2 and 8.10.5.1 (d)

8.10.5.3 General Education

Amend to read:

“All matters relating to the general regulations of the Church with regards to education are handled by EMMU Lay Training reporting to the Conference. The Children and Youth Unit shall be represented in the deliberations of EMMU Lay Training.” (Amended 2019)

Ministerial Students’ Fund Cost of Ministerial Training

9.34.3.2 Insert: “and Deacons” after “All Ministers” To Read: “All Ministers and Deacons to contribute a percentage…” (Amended 2019)

Chapter 10

VESTING AND ADMINISTRATION

10.1 …, and local Trust Properties Committees. Amend local to: “Local”
ACQUIREMENT AND ALIENATION

10.2 Insert at the beginning of the paragraph: “Subject to the provisions of this chapter, the” Presiding Bishop

Add: “application” or other document - after agreement ...(Amended 2019)

10.3 Amend Ref: to (para 10.3)(Amended 2019)

10.4 Add: “application” before “or other document “(Amended 2019)

10.8 Delete: “shall” Insert: “will” (Amended 2019)

10.9 “… Provident Fund shall … Delete: “shall” Insert: “will” (Amended 2019)

10.13.9 The Property Officer Insert ref: “(para 10.14)” (Amended 2019)

After 10.13.10 Insert point:

10.13.11 Where required the Committee may co-opt people with the required skills and knowledge for a specific scheme.” (Amended 2019)

After 10.13.26 Insert new point:

10.13.37 All members of Connexional Trust Property committees shall declare any conflict of interest that may exist in relation to all property matters. A register of Conflicts of Interest will be kept and submitted to the Connexional Executive. (Amended 2019)

10.14 Delete: “shall” Insert: “may” (Amended 2019)


10.16 Add ref: (para 10.1), after: consisting of the Official Trustee” (Amended 2019) Insert: “District Trust Properties Secretary;” before “three Ministers and…”(Amended 2019)

10.17.1 Delete: “shall” Insert: “may” (Amended 2019)

After 10.17.9

Insert new points 10 and 11:

10.17.10 to enquire, through the Superintendent, in every case where no reduction of Trust debt has been made during the year.(Amended 2019)

11.11.11 All members of District Trust Property committees shall declare any conflict of interest that may exist in relation to all property matters. A register of Conflicts of Interest will be kept and submitted to the Connexional Property Officer and the General Treasurers. (Amended 2019)
10.18 Amend heading to read:
“*The District Trust Properties Secretary:*” *(Amended 2019)*

After 10.18.8
Add Section: “THE SUPERINTENDENT” before current 10.19 *(Amended 2019)*

19.19 *The duties of the Superintendent regarding Trust Properties are inter alia:*

19.19.1 to keep a Register of all immovable property in the Circuit, including all lease agreements and to hand such Register and all relevant documents to the successor on leaving the Circuit;

19.19.2 to forward immediately to the Custodian of Deeds the original title deed and related documents where land has been acquired and registered in the name of the Church;

19.19.3 to be personally responsible for the due return to the Custodian of Deeds of any title deed and related document that has been temporarily released by the Custodian;

19.19.4 to ensure that no building project is proceeded with until all regulations have been complied with and all necessary financial arrangements made.

19.19.5 To ensure that insurance is active and current on all properties;

19.19.6 To appoint a Circuit Steward to assist the Superintendent in overseeing all property and insurance matters in the Circuit and to report to the DTP Secretary. *(Amended 2019)*

LOCAL TRUST PROPERTIES COMMITTEES (previously 10.19, change numbering)

10.22 Delete: “shall “ Insert “may” *(Amended 2019)*
After: “…. fifteen, including the Official Trustee”
Insert: “(para 10.1),” *(Amended 2019)*

10.25 The person who chairs the Local Trust Properties Committee …Delete: “is” Insert: “shall be” *(Amended 2019)*

10.30 Amend heading to read: “The Local Trust Properties Secretary:” *(Amended 2019)*

The Superintendent appoints a member of the CQM to oversee property issues together with the Circuit Superintendent” *(Amended 2019)*

10.31 The duties of the Trust Steward(s) … Amend to read: “Local Trust Properties Steward(s) are inter alia:” *(Amended 2019)*
10.31.3 Delete: “church” Insert: “any Trust properties”; (Amended 2019)

31.32 Amend heading to read “USE OF CHURCH BUILDINGS” Delete: “shall” Insert: “will” in first line (Amended 2019)

10.33.2 “Such dancing …Delete: “shall” Insert: “will” take place … (Amended 2019)

After 10.33.8:
Insert new point:
10.33.9 “Trust Property contracts are required to be signed by the General Secretary.” (Amended 2019)

10.34 Amend Heading: REGULATIONS FOR PURCHASE, SALE, ENCUMBRANCE OR MORTGAGE OF Delete: “LANDED” Insert: “IMMOVABLE” PROPERTY (Amended 2019)

10.35 Once a …Delete: “Scheme” Insert: “proposal” has been approved ….the Quarterly Meeting it Delete: “shall” Insert: “will” be submitted … to the value that Delete: “shall” Insert: “may” be determined … Where the Delete: “Scheme” Insert: “proposal” exceeds this amount Delete: “it” Insert: “the DTP” must refer … Delete: “it” Insert: the proposal to the Connexional Trust Properties Committee for approval. (Amended 2019)

10.37 Amend to read: (current 10.41) Where Church or Mission land is sold, sufficient land should be retained for Delete: “the use of the Minister in charge of such mission” Insert: “use by the Circuit or its’ Societies.” (Amended 2019)

10.38 “The proceeds of the sale Insert: “of all immovable property” shall be invested Delete: “in the name of the official Trustee of the Church” Insert: “as per 10.9,” for the use … Delete: “Particulars of any sale shall be forwarded by the Superintendent to the Connexional Office for record purposes.” (Amended 2019)

10.39 “Final permission to purchase or otherwise acquire any Delete: “landed” Insert: “immovable”… (Amended 2019)

10.41 “… Committee has approved Insert: “such proposal”, the proposal…” (Amended 2019)

After 10.41
Insert new section:
10.42.1 The following additional provisions shall apply in connection with a Loan sought from any Delete: “Connexional Fund” Insert: “Financial Institutions” (Amended 2019)
After 10.43

Insert new paragraph: “REGULATIONS FOR LEASING OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (Amended 2019)

10.44 Any proposal by a Local Trust Properties Committee to occupy or lease any landed property to or from a person or entity, or rights and interests therein will, after being approved by the Local Trust Properties Committee, be submitted to the Quarterly Meeting for approval. (Amended 2019)

10.45 Once a proposal has been approved by the Local Trust Properties Committee and by the Quarterly Meeting it will be submitted to the District Trust Properties Committee for approval for a length no longer than 24 months and up to the value that may be determined by Conference from year to year. Where the proposal exceeds this duration or amount it must be referred to the Connexional Trust Properties Committee for approval. (Amended 2019)

10.46 Where it is proposed by the District Trust Properties Committee to lease any property or portion thereof, and the District Trust Properties Committee has by a majority of not less than two-thirds resolved to approve the proposal, the matter will be submitted to the Presiding Bishop or the General Secretary for approval and the Bishop shall be notified. Notwithstanding this paragraph or anything else contained in the Laws and Discipline, nothing shall derogate from the power of the Official Trustee (para 10.1) to decide whether or not any property should be leased without the involvement of the District Trust Properties Committee. (Amended 2019)

10.47 Particulars of any lease shall be forwarded by the Superintendent to the Connexional Office for record purposes. (Amended 2019)

10.48 Final permission to occupy or lease any immovable property, will lapse if no definite steps have been taken in furtherance thereof before the meeting of the next Synod.” (Amended 2019)

10.49 Amend heading to read: “REGULATIONS FOR THE ERECTION OR ALTERATION OF BUILDINGS” (Amended 2019)

Amend clause to read: “Any proposal by a Local Trust Properties Committee to erect new buildings or to make alterations or additions to existing buildings on Local Trust property must be submitted, together with the requisite plans and specifications, to the Quarterly Meeting and to the District Trust Properties Committee for approval Insert: “up to the value that may be determined by Conference from year to year. Where the proposal exceeds this amount it must be referred to the Connexional Trust Properties Committee for approval.” Where school buildings are involved the consent of the relevant authorities must also be obtained. (Amended 2019)

10.50 Delete: “building” contract Insert: “for the alteration of buildings” exceeding an amount to be determined by the Delete: “Connexional Executive” Insert: ”Conference” …from time to time.” (Amended 2019)
10.51 and 10.52

**Insert new clauses: (Amended 2019)**

10.51 “Where the proposal to make alterations or additions to existing buildings on Trust property exceeds the amount to be determined by the Conference from time to time, and the District Trust Properties Committee has by a majority of not less than two-thirds resolved to approve the proposal, the matter shall be submitted to the Presiding Bishop or the General Secretary for approval and notify the Bishop. Notwithstanding this paragraph or anything else contained in the Laws and Discipline, nothing shall derogate from the power of the Official Trustee (para 10.1) to decide whether or not any property should be altered without the involvement of the District Trust Properties Committee.” *(Amended 2019)*

10.52.1 **Insert new clause:** “Where it is proposed by the District Trust Properties Committee to erect any building and the District Trust Properties Committee has by a majority of not less than two-thirds resolved to approve the proposal, the matter shall be submitted to the Presiding Bishop or the General Secretary for approval and notify the Bishop. Notwithstanding this paragraph or anything else contained in the Laws and Discipline, nothing shall derogate from the power of the Official Trustee (para 10.1) to decide whether or not any property should be erected without the involvement of the District Trust Properties Committee.” *(Amended 2019)*

10.53 **Delete:** “shall” **Insert:** “will” satisfy itself that …

**Delete:** “the Church has registered title to any land before approving any scheme to build thereon. Should the cost of the scheme be such that the permission of the Committee is not required, the Committee shall nevertheless ensure that the” relevant plans

**Insert:** “to erect a new buildings or to make alterations or additions to existing buildings on Trust property” *(Amended 2019)*

10.54 **Delete last sentence:** “Exceptions to this regulation may be allowed by the District Trust Properties Committee.” *(Amended 2019)*

10.55 **Delete:** “Connexional Executive” *(Amended 2019)*

**Insert:** “Conference” from time to time, … *(Amended 2019)*

**Delete:** “Exceptions may be allowed by the District Trust Properties Committee.” *(Amended 2019)*

10.56 … estimated cost of any **Delete:** “Scheme” **Insert:** “proposal” before… *(Amended 2019)*

10.57 Any material alterations to a… **Delete:** “Scheme” *(Amended 2019)*

**Insert:** “proposal” which …. *(Amended 2019)*

… the conditions of the … **Delete:** “Scheme” *(Amended 2019)*

**Insert:** “proposal”. *(Amended 2019)*
10.59 … Executive from time to time… **Delete:** “shall” **Insert:** “will” require the approval of the …
…conditions of para…. **Amend Ref** to “10.57 will“ mutatis mutandis apply. *(Amended 2019)*

After 10.59 **Insert new point:**
10.60 “Any loan application to erect or alter any building requires the approval of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting and the District Trust Property Committee. The conditions of para. 10.43 shall also apply. *(Amended 2019)*

**After 10.60 Insert New Heading:**
“REGISTERED NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION” *(Amended 2019)*

10.61 …. member of a **Delete:** “Section 21 Company” **Insert:** “registered Non-profit Organisation (associated not for gain)”
Membership… **Delete:** “shall” **Insert:** “will” be permitted on the following terms: *(Amended 2019)*

10.61.1 … to Register a **Delete:** “Section 21 Company” **Insert:** “registered Non-profit organisation (associated not for gain)” registered Non-profit organization (associated not for gain)

**Amend Heading before 10.61 (Amended 2019)**

10.61.4 …registered in the name of a **Delete:** “Section 21 Company” **Insert:** “registered Non-profit organisation (associated not for gain)” registered Non-profit organization (associated not for gain)

**Amend Heading before 10.62 (Amended 2019)**

**GENERAL REGULATIONS**

10.62 **Deeds of Sale**
… for the sale or purchase of .**Delete:** “fixed” **Insert:** “immovable” property, ...
*(Amended 2019)*

**Delete:** “Signature” **Insert:** “authorisation” of the Presiding …*(Amended 2019)*

… the General Secretary, **Insert:** “either through signing of the document or power of attorney.” Such documents **Insert:** “and their required approvals (para. 10.36)” should be sent through to the Connexional Office …

**Insert at the end of the paragraph:** *(Amended 2019)*

“The particulars of any Deed of Sale shall be forwarded by the Superintendent to the Bishop’s Office for record purposes.” *(Amended 2019)*

**Paragraph after 10.67.5:**
…Office for approval… **Insert:** ”and, if approved,” a copy of **Insert:** “the” Joint Trust Deed *(Amended 2019)*
10.68 Amend Heading:
Property Expenditure Limits *(Amended 2019)*

10.68.3 To owner-build… **Delete: “societies”** **Insert:** “which means no contractors are employed, the Circuit” shall obtain … *(Amended 2019)*

10.68.4 … are required for … **Delete:** ”schemes” **Insert:** ”proposals” in excess …. *(Amended 2019)*

10.68.6 **Delete:**”Organs and other” **To read:** “Church furnishings may ….” *(Amended 2019)*

10.69 – Amend Heading:
“Applications to District Committees” *(Amended 2019)*

10.69.1 **Delete:** ”should consider no” **Insert:** “shall not” consider *(Amended 2019)*

**Insert:** “any” proposed building/property … to the District *(Amended 2019)*

**Insert:** “Trust Properties” Secretary in good time … *(Amended 2019)*

After 10.69.5

**Delete point:** “Buildings in Member Countries” *(Amended 2019)*

Circuits in member countries who intend erecting buildings in the name of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa shall ensure that they have satisfactory documentation of ownership.” *(Amended 2019)*

12.7.4 **Delete point** *(Amended 2019)*

12.7.5 **Delete point** *(Amended 2019)*

12.10.1 – 12.10.5 – to be deleted and replaced by:

12.10.1 The Foundation Certificate in Ministry (FCM) is a two year course offered by EMMU for Preachers with no formal education up to those who have Grade 5. This course is designed for people who are 60 years and older. Such preachers will be examined orally, once a year. *(Amended 2019)*

12.10.2 FCM Candidates shall be registered with EMMU, with proof of age. An exemption to do FCM for people who are below 60 will only be granted on provision of the following: an affidavit, a written declaration, relevant medical report in the case of learning difficulties or impairment and a Superintendent’s motivation. *(Amended 2019)*

12.10.3 Candidates will be tutored at the Circuit/district level using the EMMU prescribed Study Guides. *(Amended 2019)*

12.10.4 FCM candidates will be registered with EMMU before the 30th of June each year and will be examined during May of the following year. *(Amended 2019)*

12.10.5 An administration fee is payable for each candidate. Circuits can obtain the necessary Study Guides for each year from the Unit. *(Amended 2019)*

13.10 **Delete** the first sentence: “No age limit is laid down for candidates.” *(Amended 2019)*
Appendix 3A

Add introduction: “As preachers in the Methodist movement John Wesley exhorts us relating to our work with children”. (Amended 2019)

APPENDIX 10:

PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING A PRESIDING BISHOP

Insert under 1: “When the Presiding Bishop to be elected is required to be a woman in accordance with provisions of paragraph 1.46, the General Secretary will make such announcement no later than 3 months before the election.” (Amended 2019)

Insert under 2.: “In the event that the Presiding Bishop to be elected is to be a woman in accordance with paragraph 1.46, the three (3) women who received the most votes in the first ballot of Connexional voting will be the names presented for voting in the second ballot.“ (Amended 2019)

Amend 7: “The Synods shall then, if necessary, immediately vote again on the three (3) persons who secured the greatest number of votes in the first ballot, or if it is a woman who must be appointed, the names of the three (3) women who secured the highest number of votes; and transmit the result of the ballot to the General Secretary.” (Amended 2019)

APPENDIX 11

PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING A BISHOP

Insert: After item 1: “At the time that nominations for a Synod Bishop are called for, the General Secretary shall assess the number of women in Bishops and in the event that the provision of paragraph 1.46 requires the election of a woman, the General Secretary will make such announcement to reach the circuits for the first quarterly meeting of the elective year that only nominations for women Ministers in Full Connexion in the said election shall be eligible for election and any for nominations of men will be disqualified in such an election.” (Amended 2019)

Add: New point under new 2.: “In the event that a number of Synods in the Connexion vote at the same time and a percentage of the Bishops to be elected must be women, the following process is used to determine which of the Synods will be required to vote for women Bishops;

The women in leadership in each affected Synod are counted as follows: Vice Chair; Secretary; Statistical Secretary; Lay Leader; Treasurer; Synod Supervisor of Studies; Mission Co-ordinator; Ecumenical Affairs Secretary; Youth Coordinator and Superintendents. The Synod/s with the fewest women in leadership, as calculated above, will be the Synods who shall elect Bishops who are woman.” (Amended 2019)
APPENDIX 12
PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING THE LAY PRESIDENT
Insert point after 1: “In a year that according to the provision L&D 1.46, the Lay President must be a woman the General Secretary shall communicate this with the Synod Secretaries by the October Circuit Quarterly Meeting in the year preceding the elections. (Amended 2019)

APPENDIX 13
PROCEDURE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY
Insert point after 2: “In a year that the General Secretary is elected, the General Secretary shall assess the number of women leadership and in the event that the provision of paragraph 1.46 requires the election of a woman, the General Secretary will announce at least three (3) months before the election that only woman Ministers in Full Connexion in the said election shall be eligible for election. (Amended 2019)

Constitution Amendments
Nzondelelo Constitution:
Insert: after the Annual General Meeting: “the Bishop of the District in which the Nzondelelo Conference is held shall preside over the induction of the office bearers.” (Amended 2019)
CHAPTER 10

CHURCH PROPERTY
Amendments Conference 2019

1. Change all references to Connexional Executive to Conference
2. Change all references to District to Synod

VESTING AND ADMINISTRATION

10.1 All Church property, movable and immovable, is vested in the Presiding Bishop for the time being as the Official Trustee, and is administered on behalf of the Official Trustee under the direction of Conference by the Connexional Office, Connexional and Synod Trust Properties Committees, and Local Trust Properties Committees. (Amended 2019)

ACQUIREMENT AND ALIENATION

10.2 Conference alone may acquire for and on behalf of the Church by purchase, gift, exchange, lease, or in any other manner any property, movable or immovable, and any rights and interests therein, and may sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of or alienate any property, movable or immovable, belonging to the Church and any of its rights and interests therein.

10.3 Subject to the provisions of this chapter, the Presiding Bishop for the time being, or the General Secretary for the time being, acting instead of and on behalf of the Presiding Bishop, is alone authorised to execute on behalf of the Church any power of attorney, declaration, consent, agreement, application or other document necessary to give effect to any transaction referred to in the preceding paragraph or which may be required in connection therewith or in connection with any Deed of transfer, Deed of servitude or other Deed relating thereto, and requiring registration in any Deeds Registry or otherwise. (Amended 2019)

10.4 Before signing any such document as aforesaid the Presiding Bishop, or the General Secretary acting instead of and on behalf of the Presiding Bishop (para. 10.3), shall be satisfied that all regulations and requirements of the Church relevant to the transaction concerned have been duly observed and carried out. (Amended 2019)

10.5 Any such power of attorney, declaration, consent, agreement, application or other document when signed by the Presiding Bishop or by the Secretary acting instead of and on behalf of the Presiding Bishop (para. 10.3), and witnessed in accordance with law, shall be deemed to be sufficient proof of due compliance having been made with all the relevant regulations and requirements of the Church and of the due authorisation by Conference of the transaction concerned, and every Registrar of Deeds, other official or person concerned shall be absolved from enquiry into such transaction or from requiring the lodgement or production in respect thereof of any certificate, consent, or resolution of Conference or any Committee or person acting under it. (Amended 2019)
REGISTRATION OF TITLES AND FORM OF TRANSFER

10.6 All immovable property belonging to, or which may at any time be acquired by the Church for the benefit of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa shall in accordance with the provisions of Section 8 of Act 111 of 1978 be registered in the name of the Presiding Bishop for the time being. (Amended 2017)

BORROWING OF MONEY

10.7 Conference represented by the General Treasurer and General Secretary may raise or borrow money by way of mortgage, bank overdraft, or in any other way, upon the security of any property belonging to the Church or otherwise (para. 9.6.6).

10.8 Except as otherwise provided in the Regulations of any Connexional Fund or Unit, the Presiding Bishop for the time being, or the General Secretary for the time being, acting instead of and on behalf of the Presiding Bishop, shall execute any Power of Attorney or Mortgage, or any other document necessary to give effect to any transaction referred to in the immediately preceding paragraphs, or that may be required in connection therewith, and the provisions of paras. 10.4 and 10.5 shall mutatis mutandis apply thereto.

INVESTMENT OF MONEY

10.9 Any monies belonging to the Church or to any of its Connexional, Synod or Local Trust Funds or to any of its Units may be invested in recognised trust investments including equities quoted upon the Stock Exchange and approved by the Presiding Bishop. Notwithstanding, the monies of the Methodist Supernumerary Fund, the Methodist Church of Southern Africa Lay Staff Pension Fund, and the Methodist Church of Southern Africa Provident Fund will be invested in accordance with the rules of the respective Fund as lodged with the Registrar of Pension Funds in terms of the Pension Funds Act as amended from time to time. (Amended 2019)

10.10 The investment of funds from Bequests or any other Trust Funds shall be confined to the investments permitted in para. 10.9.

10.11 Except as otherwise provided in the Regulations of any Connexional Fund or Unit, the consent in writing of the Presiding Bishop shall be obtained to any investment referred to in the preceding paragraphs, and every Mortgage Bond or other deed of security shall be passed and registered in the name of ‘The Presiding Bishop of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa for the time being, and the successor or successors in office, for the benefit of the Church’, and the Presiding Bishop shall have authority to cancel or transpose any security or any portion thereof and to sign any consent, certificate or other document required in connection therewith.

CUSTODY OF DEEDS

10.12 The Connexional Office is the Custodian of Deeds (para. 9.11) and has charge and custody of all Title Deeds, Leases, Certificates of Title or other documents
of title or Church Properties and of all Mortgage Bonds or other documents of security belonging to the Church. The rules to be observed in connection with such custody are contained in Chapter 9.

CONNEXIONAL TRUST PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

Membership:
10.13 The Connexional Trust Properties Chair who is a Minister appointed by Conference, chairs the Committee, serves on the Finance Unit Executive and is a member of Conference. The Chair is appointed for three (3) years at a time, and is eligible for reappointment. *(Amended 2017)*

*The Connexional Trust Properties Committee shall consist of:* *(Amended 2017)*

10.13.1 The Presiding Bishop
10.13.2 Lay President
10.13.3 General Treasurer *(Amended 2019)*
10.13.4 General Secretary *(Amended 2019)*
10.13.5 Connexional Trust Property Chair
10.13.6 Two (2) people with legal background
10.13.7 Two (2) people with property background
10.13.8 One (1) person with business background
10.13.9 The Property Officer (para 10.14) *(Amended 2019)*
10.13.10 Four DTP Secretaries, serving for four (4) years for the first rotation and thereafter three (3) years at a time on rotational basis (one being replaced annually). *(Amended 2019)*
10.13.11 Where required the Committee may co-opt people with the required skills and knowledge for a specific scheme. *(Amended 2019)*

*The functions and duties of the Connexional Trust Properties Committee are:* *(Amended 2017)*

10.13.12 To develop Connexional Property Strategies in terms of the missional use of the property portfolio,
10.13.13 To develop Connexional strategies for under-utilised property for income generation for Connexion, Synod, and Circuit
10.13.14 To oversee properties that are used by the Connexion (e.g. MCO building, Connexional manses, properties owned the Connexion for income generation etc.)
10.13.15 To call meetings and facilitate training for Synod Trust Properties committees,
10.13.16 To keep the Church Property chapter in the Laws and Discipline current,
10.13.17 To employ Church Property insurers,
10.13.18 To develop and oversee the implementation of policies and procedures including the preparation of manuals and guidelines
10.13.19 To develop and maintain safety guidelines for the property portfolio.
10.13.20 To develop processes for Heritage buildings and cooperate with Heritage committee and national Heritage structures
10.13.21 To consider unused or under-utilised buildings, land, and glebes
10.13.22 To consider business developments; Commercial properties and cooperative developments
10.13.23 To deal with Land claims
10.13.24 To facilitate environmental impact issues and energy efficiency
10.13.25 To develop procedures for the audit of accessibility of buildings
10.13.26 To consider partnerships with NGO’s, government departments, etc.
10.13.27 To consider country-specific regulations
10.13.28 All members of Connexional Trust Property Committees shall declare any conflict of interest that may exist in relation to all property matters. A register of Conflicts of Interest will be kept and submitted to Conference. *(Amended 2019)*

**Property Officer:** *(Amended 2017)*

10.14 The Conference may appoint a Property Officer upon recommendation from the Finance Unit who shall report to the General Treasurer. *(Amended 2019)*

10.15 The Property Officer conducts the correspondence and business of the Connexional Trust Properties Committee subject to the directions of the Connexional Trust Properties Committee. *(Amended 2017& 2019)*

**SYNOD TRUST PROPERTIES COMMITTEES**

**Membership:**

10.16 Each Synod shall annually appoint a Synod Trust Properties Committee consisting of the Official Trustee (para 10.1), the Bishop, the Vice-Chair, the Statistical Secretary, the Synod Trust Properties Secretary, (3) three Ministers and five (5) Lay Members. The Committee shall elect its own Recording Secretary. The committee may include at least one (1) person with a property/building background, and one (1) person with a legal background. *(Amended 2017& 2019)*

10.17 *The functions and duties of the Synod Trust Properties Committee are inter alia:*

10.17.1 to consider and approve or otherwise, up to the value that may be determined by Conference from year to year, all applications from Local Trust Properties Committees for loans, proposed alterations, erections, purchases or other acquirements, sales, mortgages or encumbrances of properties, and to make its recommendations to the Connexional Trust Properties Committee where the value exceeds the value determined by Conference from year to year; *(Amended 2019)*

10.17.2 to remit all such applications, with its decisions and any recommendations, to the Connexional Office;

10.17.3 to forward a copy of the Minutes of all of its meetings to the Connexional Office;
10.17.4 to consider all Circuit Accounts, reports and schedules pertaining to properties;
10.17.5 to ensure that Trust Property is adequately insured to provide for its replacement;
10.17.6 to ensure that Trust Property is accurately valued at regular intervals;
10.17.7 to submit to Synod an Annual General Report;
10.17.8 to secure as far as possible the due observance of the rules and regulations of Conference in regard to new undertakings as well as the general administration of Trust Property.
10.17.9 no new undertaking to build a church complex/hall may take place within a 10 kilometre radius of an existing Methodist Church complex/hall without the prior approval of the Synod Trust Properties and the Connexional Trust Properties Committees.
10.17.10 to enquire, through the Superintendent, in every case where no reduction of Trust debt has been made during the year. *(Amended 2019)*
10.17.11 All members of Synod Trust Property Committees shall declare any conflict of interest that may exist in relation to all property matters. A register of Conflicts of Interest will be kept and submitted to the Connexional Property Officer and the General Treasurers. *(Amended 2019)*

**The Synod Trust Properties Secretary:** *(Amended 2017 & 2019)*
The Synod Trust Property Secretary is annually appointed by Synod (Ref App 5: 6.39)

10.18 The duties of the Secretary of the Synod Trust Properties Committee are inter alia: *(Amended 2017)*
10.18.1 to conduct the correspondence and business of the Synod Trust Properties Committee subject to the directions of the Synod Trust Properties Committee;
10.18.2 to receive all applications from Local Trust Properties Committees concerning loans, proposed alterations, erections, purchases or other acquirements, sales, mortgages or encumbrances of properties;
10.18.3 to place all such applications before the Synod Trust Properties Committee;
10.18.4 to communicate to the Local Trust Properties Committee the decision and recommendations of the Synod Trust Properties Committee on any applications;
10.18.5 to remit to the Connexional Office any application received, together with the decision and recommendations of the Synod Trust Properties Committee;
10.18.6 to receive all Circuit accounts, reports and schedules pertaining to properties, and to prepare them for consideration by the Synod Trust Properties Committee;

10.18.7 to forward copies of Minutes of Synod Trust Properties Committee meetings to the Connexional Office.

10.18.8 to submit copies of the Annual General Report to Synod and the Connexional Trust Properties Committee.

THE SUPERINTENDENT (Amended 2019)

10.19 The duties of the Superintendent are inter alia:

10.19.1 to keep a Register of all immovable property in the Circuit, including all lease agreements and to hand such Register and all relevant documents to the successor on leaving the Circuit;

10.19.2 to forward immediately to the Custodian of Deeds the original title deed and related documents where land has been acquired and registered in the name of the Church;

10.19.3 to be personally responsible for the due return to the Custodian of Deeds of any title deed and related document that has been temporarily released by the Custodian;

10.19.4 to ensure that no building project is proceeded with until all regulations have been complied with and all necessary financial arrangements made;

10.19.5 To ensure that insurance is active and current on all properties;

10.19.6 To appoint a Circuit Steward to assist the Superintendent in overseeing all property and insurance matters in the Circuit and to report to the DTP Secretary.

LOCAL TRUST PROPERTIES COMMITTEES

10.20 The immediate oversight and administration of local Church property shall be undertaken by a Local Trust Properties Committee on behalf of the Official Trustee who is the Presiding Bishop (L&D 10.1) (Amended 2017)

10.21 Where no Local Trust Properties Committee has been appointed, its duties and functions are performed and discharged by the Quarterly Meeting.

Membership:

10.22 The members of a Local Trust Properties Committee may not be fewer than five or more than fifteen, including the Official Trustee (para 10.1), the Superintendent, the Minister(s) serving the Society, and the Circuit Stewards. (Amended 2017 and 2019)

10.23 The members and officers are appointed by the Annual Society Meeting for one year at a time but are eligible for reappointment. Not more than 3 adherents of the Society may be appointed members; the others shall be members of the Society of not less than 2 years’ standing.
10.24 The Annual Society Meeting shall appoint a member of the Local Trust Properties Committee to chair its meetings. *(Amended 2017)*

10.25 The person who chairs the Local Trust Properties Committee shall be a member of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting (para. 7.8.12). *(Amended 2017 & 2019)*

10.26 If any member or officer of the Local Trust Properties Committee retires during the year, the Local Trust Properties Committee may elect a successor for the remainder of the year to ensure compliance with 10.21 above.

10.27 *The functions and duties of the Local Trust Properties Committee are inter alia:*

10.27.1 to be responsible to the Official Trustee (para 10.1) for the property and generally to manage and administer the property on behalf of the Official Trustee (para 10.1);

10.27.2 to appoint annually from among its members a Secretary and a Steward or Stewards, and to assign their duties to them;

10.27.3 to ensure that all property of an insurable nature is adequately insured, and to safeguard the property against risk of loss or damage;

10.27.4 to appoint a Caretaker where necessary and to define the duties and remuneration;

10.27.5 to administer funds allocated to it by the Annual Society Meeting and to present audited accounts to that Meeting;

10.27.6 to control the use and letting of Church buildings and to ensure that only those activities and entertainments are permitted which are consistent with the primary purpose for which the buildings exist;

10.27.7 to observe and carry out all regulations in regard to proposals for loans, alterations, erections, purchases or other acquirements, sales, mortgages or encumbrances of properties, subject to approval as per 10.7;

10.27.8 To ensure compliance with all relevant safety regulations; *(Amended 2017)*

10.27.9 All members of Local Trust Properties Committees shall declare any conflict of interest that may exist in relation to all property matters. A register of Conflicts of Interest will be kept and submitted to the Synod Trust Property Secretary and the General Treasurers.

10.28 The Local Trust Properties Committee shall hold its annual meeting as soon as possible after the close of the Financial Year.

10.29 Trust Property Reports shall be presented to the Quarterly Meeting before being submitted to Synod.
The Local Trust Properties Secretary: (Amended 2019)

10.30 The duties of the Local Trust Properties Secretary are inter alia:

10.30.1 to convene meetings of the Local Trust Properties Committee in consultation with the Chairman of the Local Trust Properties Committee, giving adequate notice to each member and indicating the intended business of the meeting;

10.30.2 to record minutes of the meetings;

10.30.3 to conduct all necessary correspondence;

10.30.4 to ensure the execution of the resolutions and directions of the Local Trust Properties Committee.

10.31 The Local Trust Properties Stewards: (See 7.37.13 for appointment) (Amended 2019)

The Superintendent appoints a member of the CQM to oversee property issues together with the Circuit Superintendent. (Amended 2019)

The duties of the Local Trust Properties Steward(s) are inter alia:

10.31.1 to attend to the general maintenance of all Local Trust property;

10.31.2 to ensure that all Local Trust properties buildings and premises are properly cleaned, lighted and ventilated;

10.31.3 to attend to the furniture and fittings of any Local Trust Properties premises; (Amended 2019)

10.31.4 to ensure adequate access for persons with disabilities.

USE OF CHURCH BUILDINGS (Amended 2019)

10.32 Trust property will be used only for general Church or Sunday School meetings or functions related thereto, or for educational or philanthropic purposes. Any exception requires the prior approval of the Trust Properties Committee. (Amended 2019)

10.33 The primary purpose for which Church buildings and Trust properties exist necessarily excludes every kind of function that is likely to bring reproach upon the Church. The following regulations apply to any meeting or function held on Trust premises, whether in the name of the Methodist Church or otherwise:

10.33.1 no entertainment will be given unless the programme has been previously approved by the Superintendent or the Leaders’ Meeting;

10.33.2 dances or similar types of entertainment may take place on Trust properties premises only if they form an incidental and subsidiary item in the programme of a church organisation, and if the Leaders’ Meeting has approved such event. Such dancing will take place only under the supervision of a person nominated by and responsible to the Leaders’ Meeting; (Amended 2019)

10.33.3 gambling of any kind and raffles or other competitions that involve the principle of gambling are expressly forbidden;
10.33.4 the raising of funds for Church purposes by means of raffles, gaming or any other method which involves gambling shall not be permitted, and entertainments which are not allowed on Trust properties premises shall not be held elsewhere in the name of the Methodist Church.

10.33.5 no Trust property shall be let for any public religious meeting unless the Superintendent is able to and does accept responsibility for the teaching that may be given;

10.33.6 in granting temporary use or occupation of any Church hall, vestry or other Trust properties premises, it shall be specifically stipulated that no alcoholic or intoxicating liquor or narcotic drugs shall be brought on to or be permitted to be on such premises; that the lessors by and through any officer, caretaker or other nominee shall have the right in the event of any breach of this stipulation to take immediate steps to terminate the occupation and to secure ejectment without compensation to the lessee or occupier, and without prejudice to the lessor’s right to recover the payment agreed upon for the use of the premises;

10.33.7 no racial restriction shall apply to the use of any Trust properties;

10.33.8 no political party electioneering shall be held on Trust property. However, it may be used in the promotion of good governance such as polling stations, voter registration, political monitoring training, refugee shelter and similar activities that would foster neighbourliness, justice and mercy. Where Church buildings are used for such purposes, a contract or agreement regulating responsibility and liability for damages to Trust properties in consequence of such use must first be concluded.

10.33.9 For any use of Trust Property contracts are required, to be signed by the General Secretary. (Amended 2019)

10.34 Where possible Churches should be left open during the day.

REGULATIONS FOR PURCHASE, SALE, ENCUMBRANCE OR MORTGAGE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (Amended 2019)

10.35 Any proposal by a Local Trust Properties Committee:

10.35.1 to purchase or acquire by way of gift or otherwise any immovable property, or rights and interests therein;

10.35.2 to sell or alienate any property or portion thereof, or any rights or interests therein;

10.35.3 to encumber any property by raising money on Mortgage Bond shall be submitted to the Local Trust Properties Committee for approval and, if approved by the Local Trust Properties Committee, be submitted to the Quarterly Meeting for approval.
10.36 Once a proposal has been approved by the Local Trust Properties Committee and by the Quarterly Meeting it will be submitted to the Synod Trust Properties Committee for approval up to the value that may be determined by Conference from year to year. Where the proposal exceeds this amount the Synod Trust Property Secretary must refer the proposal to the Connexional Trust Properties Committee for approval. *(Amended 2019)*

10.37 Where it is proposed by the Synod Trust Properties Committee to sell any property or portion thereof, and the Synod Trust Properties Committee has by a majority of not less than two-thirds resolved to approve the proposal, the matter shall be submitted, through the Bishop, to the Presiding Bishop or the General Secretary for approval. Notwithstanding this paragraph or anything else contained in the Laws and Discipline, nothing shall derogate from the power of the Official Trustee (para 10.1) to decide whether or not any property should be sold without the involvement of the Synod Trust Properties Committee. *(Amended 2019)*

10.38 Where Church or Mission land is sold, sufficient land should be retained for use by the Circuit or its’ Societies. *(Amended 2019)*

10.39 The proceeds of the sale of all immovable property shall be invested as per 10.9, for the use and benefit of the Trust properties of the Circuit concerned or for such use and benefit as the Conference, after reference to Synod, may decide. *(Amended 2019)*

10.40 Final permission to purchase or otherwise acquire any immovable property or rights and interests, or to sell or alienate any landed property or any rights and interests therein, shall lapse if no definite steps have been taken in furtherance thereof before the meeting of the next Synod. *(Amended 2019)*

10.41 Where land has been acquired, the original deed shall be deposited with the Custodian of Deeds.

10.42 Where it is proposed to encumber or mortgage Local Trust property, and the Synod Trust Properties Committee has approved such proposal, the proposal shall be submitted to the Presiding Bishop or the General Secretary, either of whom may give written approval. *(Amended 2019)*

10.43 The following additional provisions shall apply in connection with a Loan sought from any Financial Institutions:

10.43.1 no loan may be made upon any property or land or upon any erection on any land to which the Church has no clear or sufficient title or certificate of occupation, or upon land on which only permission to build has been given, unless in an interdenominational scheme a legal agreement approved by the Treasurers of the Connexional Office has been drawn up, defining the proportion of responsibility for upkeep and use, as well as debt reduction, and allocation of proceeds, in the event of possible future disposal of the property, falling to The Methodist Church of Southern Africa as a shareholder;
10.43.2 no loan may be made upon any property which is not considered adequate security for the repayment of the loan;

10.43.3 in all revenue-producing property, the servicing of all loans thereon and the cost of proper maintenance, rates, insurance, upkeep and necessary repairs are a first charge upon such revenue. Managers of such property shall not be entitled to divert any portion of the said revenue to other purposes until the above-mentioned charges have been met.

10.43.4 all applications for permission to seek a loan shall be accompanied by a copy of the audited 4C Schedule for the previous year.

10.43.5 any loan application to purchase Trust property requires the permission of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting and Synod Trust Property Committee in terms of 10.17.1 above.

REGULATIONS FOR LEASING OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
(Amended 2019)

10.44 Any proposal by a Local Trust Properties Committee to occupy or lease any landed property to or from a person or entity, or rights and interests therein will, after being approved by the Local Trust Properties Committee, be submitted to the Quarterly Meeting for approval. (Amended 2019)

10.45 Once a proposal has been approved by the Local Trust Properties Committee and by the Quarterly Meeting it will be submitted to the District Trust Properties Committee for approval for a length no longer than 24 months and up to the value that may be determined by Conference from year to year. Where the proposal exceeds this duration or amount it must be referred to the Connexional Trust Properties Committee for approval. (Amended 2019)

10.46 Where it is proposed by the Synod Trust Properties Committee to lease any property or portion thereof, and the Synod Trust Properties Committee has by a majority of not less than two-thirds resolved to approve the proposal, the matter will be submitted to the Presiding Bishop or the General Secretary for approval and the Bishop shall be notified. Notwithstanding this paragraph or anything else contained in the Laws and Discipline, nothing shall derogate from the power of the Official Trustee (para 10.1) to decide whether or not any property should be leased without the involvement of the Synod Trust Properties Committee. (Amended 2019)

10.47 Particulars of any lease shall be forwarded by the Superintendent to the Connexional Office for record purposes. (Amended 2019)

10.48 Final permission to occupy or lease any immovable property, will lapse if no definite steps have been taken in furtherance thereof before the meeting of the next Synod.” (Amended 2019)
REGULATIONS FOR THE ERECTION OR ALTERATION OF BUILDINGS
(Amended 2019)

10.49 Any proposal by a Local Trust Properties Committee to erect new buildings or to make alterations or additions to existing buildings on Local Trust property must be submitted, together with the requisite plans and specifications, to the Quarterly Meeting and to the Synod Trust Properties Committee for approval up to the value that may be determined by Conference from year to year. Where the proposal exceeds this amount it must be referred to the Connexional Trust Properties Committee for approval. Where school buildings are involved the consent of the relevant authorities must also be obtained. (Amended 2019)

10.50 No Superintendent or Circuit official shall enter into or sign any contract for the alteration of buildings exceeding an amount to be determined by the Conference from time to time. (Amended 2019)

10.51 Where the proposal to make alterations or additions to existing buildings on Trust property exceeds the amount to be determined by the Conference from time to time, and the Synod Trust Properties Committee has by a majority of not less than two-thirds resolved to approve the proposal, the matter shall be submitted to the Presiding Bishop or the General Secretary for approval and notify the Bishop. Notwithstanding this paragraph or anything else contained in the Laws and Discipline, nothing shall derogate from the power of the Official Trustee (para 10.1) to decide whether or not any property should be altered without the involvement of the Synod Trust Properties Committee. (Amended 2019)

10.52 Where it is proposed by the Synod Trust Properties Committee to erect any building and the Synod Trust Properties Committee has by a majority of not less than two-thirds resolved to approve the proposal, the matter shall be submitted to the Presiding Bishop or the General Secretary for approval and notify the Bishop. Notwithstanding this paragraph or anything else contained in the Laws and Discipline, nothing shall derogate from the power of the Official Trustee (para 10.1) to decide whether or not any property should be erected without the involvement of the Synod Trust Properties Committee. (Amended 2019)

10.53 The Synod Trust Property Committee will satisfy itself that the relevant plans to erect a new buildings or to make alterations or additions to existing buildings on Trust property have been approved by the appropriate secular authority. (Amended 2019)

10.54 Where the estimated cost exceeds an amount to be determined by Conference from time to time, the Local Trust Properties Committee shall obtain the services of a registered Architect. (Amended 2019)

10.55 Where the estimated cost exceeds an amount to be determined by Conference from time to time, the Trust Properties Committee shall call for at least two tenders for the building. (Amended 2019)
10.56 The Local Trust Properties Committee shall have in hand not less than one-half of the estimated cost of any proposal before building operations are commenced, and shall satisfy the Synod Trust Properties Committee that not less than two-thirds of the estimated cost will have been obtained by the time the building is completed. The Synod Trust Properties Committee may relax this regulation in the following cases: (Amended 2019)

10.56.1 where the property yields a fixed income and is of permanent value to the Local Trust Properties Committee;

10.56.2 where a Circuit is embarking on community self-help schemes, provided that plans are submitted in the usual manner, an estimate of the cost of the project is provided together with details of finance available, a time limit is set for the completion of the project, and progress reports are submitted as required by the Synod Trust Properties Committee.

10.57 Any material alterations to a proposal which has already been sanctioned shall require the approval of the Synod Trust Properties Committee, which may call for proof of ability to carry out the conditions of the proposal. Any contravention of this regulation shall be reported by the Synod Trust Property Secretary to Synod and to the Conference. (Amended 2019)

10.58 A Superintendent who, upon entering a Circuit, finds that building operations have been commenced without the necessary approval, shall forthwith give all available information to the Synod Trust Properties Committee.

10.59 Any proposal by a Local Trust Properties Committee to install an organ costing more than an amount to be determined by the Conference from time to time will require the approval of the Quarterly Meeting and the Synod Trust Properties Committee. The conditions of para. 10.57 will mutatis mutandis apply. (Amended 2019)

10.60 Any loan application to erect or alter any building requires the approval of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting and the Synod Trust Property Committee. The conditions of para. 10.42 shall also apply. (Amended 2019)

REGISTERED NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION (Amended 2019)

10.61 The Church may be a member of a registered Non-profit organisation (associated not for gain) in those cases where the Church wishes to participate in a project together with other participants, and neither the immovable property involved nor the project itself may fall within the exclusive domain of the Church. Membership will be permitted on the following terms: (Amended 2019)

10.61.1 The Circuit or Society seeking permission to Register a registered Non-profit organisation (associated not for gain) or to become a member of such an entity shall obtain prior approval for such actions from the Circuit Quarterly Meeting, the Synod Trust Property Committee and the Official Trustee (para 10.1). (Amended 2019)
10.61.2 In seeking such approval, the Circuit or Society shall provide all information and comply with all requirements set out as the guidelines issued from time to time by Conference or the Connexional Executive.

10.61.3 All company documents shall reflect the member as the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, but the Official Trustee (para 10.1) may decide that the voting rights in respect of such an entity may be exercised by a Circuit Steward duly appointed thereto by the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.

10.61.4 Immovable property which is owned and controlled exclusively by the Church may not be registered in the name of a registered Non-profit organisation (associated not for gain) without permission having been granted thereto by the Official Trustee (para 10.1). (Amended 2019)

GENERAL REGULATIONS (Amended 2019)

10.62 **Deeds of Sale**

No valid binding Deed of Sale, whether for the sale or purchase of immovable property, can be entered into on behalf of the Church without the authorisation of the Presiding Bishop or the General Secretary, either through signing of the document or Power of Attorney. Such documents and their required approvals (para. 10.36) should be sent through to the Connexional Office for signature and, on completion of the transaction, the documents, or a copy thereof, should be sent to the Connexional Office. The particulars of any Deed of Sale shall be forwarded by the Superintendent to the Bishop’s Office for record purposes. (Amended 2019)

When property and stands are being purchased in the name of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa and the seller is prepared to accept a guarantee other than a Banker’s guarantee, the Connexional Office should be requested to issue such a guarantee for the amount of the loan agreed upon.

10.63 **Permissions to Occupy**

10.64 All Permissions to Occupy shall be lodged with the Connexional Office for safe keeping in the same way as Title Deeds. Copies of such documents shall be supplied by the Connexional Office to the Bishop and the Superintendent of the Circuit concerned.

Where permission to occupy a manse site is granted in a Minister’s own name, the Minister shall sign an undertaking to vacate any building erected on the site when required to do so by any authorised representative of Conference.

Where it is difficult to obtain written permission to occupy a site, a deed of agreement may be used. Copies of such agreements shall be submitted to the Connexional Office.
10.65 **Defunct Circuits**
Wherever a Circuit becomes defunct the Synod Trust Properties Committee is responsible for re-allocation or disposal of immovable property after all liabilities of such Circuits have been met.

Proceeds from the sale of any such property shall be applied at the discretion of the Presiding Bishop in consultation with the Bishop and Synod Trust Properties Committee overseeing that Circuit.

All registers relating to Circuits that cease to exist shall be lodged in the Church Archives.

10.66 **Vacant Property**
Trust Properties Committees are encouraged not to leave Local Trust property unused but to consider making such property available to suitable organisations of a welfare or educational nature at a nominal rent, on the understanding that such organisations are responsible for maintenance of the buildings and will not use them in a manner that conflicts with the provisions of Laws and Discipline.

When property and stands are being purchased in the name of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa and the seller is prepared to accept a guarantee other than a Banker’s, the Connexional Office should be requested to issue such a guarantee for the amount of the loan agreed upon.

10.67 **Freehold Mission and Church Sites**
Where the Church occupies land to which it has full title, it should not surrender the title in exchange for a Certificate of Permission to occupy such land;

Where freehold land is held for school and Church purposes, and subdivision of the land is required by the Department of Education, the land on which the school is situated should be donated or sold to the Department, provided that the Department pays all costs involved.

10.68 **Joint Trust Deed**
Where any Circuit or Society desires to enter into a Trust agreement with another Denomination or Denominations, a suitable Joint Trust Deed should be entered into.

The following essentials shall be embodied in any such Trust Deed:

10.68.1 the body constituted by the Deed should be a Universitas, i.e. a corporate body with an existence independent of its individual
members and capable of holding property in its name and of suing and being sued;

10.68.2 the powers necessary for the proper functioning of the Trust should be set out;

10.68.3 equitable representation by all contracting parties should be provided for;

10.68.4 the rules governing meetings of Trustees should be laid down;

10.68.5 provision should be made for division of assets among the contracting parties upon dissolution of the Trust;

10.68.6 The Trust Deed so drafted shall be submitted to the Connexional Office for approval and, if approved, a copy of the Joint Trust Deed shall be lodged with the custodian of Deeds. (Amended 2019)

10.69 **Property Expenditure Limits**

10.69.1 No contract shall be entered into which exceeds the limit set from time to time by the Conference as recorded in the Yearbook, without Synod Trust Properties permission.

10.69.2 A registered architect shall be appointed where expenditure exceeds the limit as set by Conference annually. A registered architect or approved build design consultant shall be appointed where expenditure does not exceed the said amount.

10.69.3 To owner-build, which means no contractors are employed, Circuit shall obtain permission from the Synod Trust Properties Committee. (Amended 2019)

10.69.4 At least two (2) tenders are required for proposals in excess of the amount determined from time to time by the Conference as recorded in the Yearbook. (Amended 2019)

10.69.5 Contractors all Risks and Public Liability Insurance must be arranged for all erections, alterations, additions or renovations to buildings.

10.69.6 Church furnishings may be acquired without Synod Trust Properties Committee approval, provided that no debt is incurred. (Amended 2019)

10.70 **Applications to Synod Committees**

10.70.1 Synod Trust Properties Committees shall not consider any proposed building/property project unless the approved questionnaire has been completed and forwarded to the Synod Trust Properties Secretary in good time for the Synod Trust Properties Committee Meeting. (Amended 2019)

10.70.2 Before granting approval for any building projects, the Synod Trust Properties Committee must ensure that adequate insurance cover has been arranged with the Finance Unit.
10.70.3 The Synod Trust Properties Committee is charged with the responsibility of examining the various Circuit General Schedules submitted to the Synods to verify that all Connexional property is adequately insured and, where deficiencies exist, to take appropriate action to secure suitable insurance through the Finance Unit.
CHAPTER 5
FINANCE UNIT

PROFILE OF THE METHODIST FINANCE UNIT

Challenges to the Church
1. The MCSA’s property portfolio is under-utilized. The huge reliance on circuit assessment for the running of the MCSA places the Church’s operations at risk. The Church needs to strategically position its property portfolio in line with market trends by investing in property research and audits. Strategically investing in property and land may provide an opportunity for the Church to establish a property portfolio that can generate income for the benefit of the whole Connexion. The Connexional Trust Properties, as endorsed by conference 2017, has begun to work on strategies that could guide the Church in this regard.

2. The MCO expects all Circuits to pay their assessments on time. As at May 2019, 17% of circuits were over 2 months in arrears. We appeal to District Treasurers to proactively monitor the arrears reports in order to exercise control in limiting the arrears.

3. Noncompliance with submission deadlines threatens the church’s tax exemption status, but also makes it difficult for this office to assist circuits in their financial planning. Financial 4C and 4S Schedules must be completed, audited, approved by the April Quarterly Meeting and 2 copies submitted to the District Treasurer well before Synod annually. One copy is to be sent to the Finance Unit Compliance team as soon as possible but by no later than 2 weeks after the Synod meeting. Late submission of these Schedules is not acceptable. Please refer to paragraph 9.87 of the Book of Order Revised 12th edition.

4. All Church owned property is to be registered in the name of the Presiding Bishop, and all Title Deeds lodged with the MCO for safekeeping. This includes properties which are fully paid for in cash at the time of purchase. A copy of the Title Deed must also be sent to the MCO where properties are bonded to a bank. This needs to be done in every instance.

5. Based on current economic challenges we strongly discourage circuits from offering additional stipends that are exorbitantly high. The giving of excessive gifts is also becoming a challenge. We really urge all circuits, units and organisations to refrain from this practice and to be realistic and considerate in exercising care.

Highlights and Significant Events
1. The Finance Unit team continues to seek ways of improving efficiency and processes through training, IT advances and industry interactions.
2. The Circuit assessment account is carefully monitored throughout the year to control costs. In an effort to assist the Church to achieve mission objectives we have maintained the Circuit Assessment at 20% of Ministers’ stipends plus allowances for 2020. This is reviewed annually.

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES – A BRIEF OVERVIEW

- **Pension/Provident Funds**
  The Finance Unit administers the Supernumerary Pension Fund, the Lay Staff Pension Fund and The Provident fund. Total assets under administration amount to R1.5 Billion.

- **Payment of Stipends/Pension**
  829 Ministers, Evangelists and Bible women, as well as 734 Supernumeraries are paid monthly through the Finance Unit.

- **Insurance of Church Properties**
  The Finance Unit administers the insurance cover through Marsh Insurance for the Church’s assets.

- **Medical Aid**
  The Finance Unit, in conjunction with Fedhealth Medical Scheme, administers the medical aid that covers active members, supernumeraries and dependents. The broker on the medical scheme is Mercer Marsh Benefits. Our Gap cover policy is with Turnberry.

- **Property**
  The Finance Unit holds Title Deeds and administers the records of over one-and-a-half thousand properties owned by the MCSA.

- **Supernumerary Reserve Fund**
  The Finance Unit administers the Supernumerary Reserve Fund. It is a Church Fund established in 2003. The aim of the Fund is to underwrite retirement benefits and also assist with ill-health retirements and Ex-gratia death benefits.

- **Church Reserve Fund**
  The Finance Unit administers the Church Reserve Fund established in 2007. It is a Church Fund instrumental in Mission Resource funding.

- **Mission Resource Fund**
  Conference 2014 resolved that 25% of any contribution to the Church Reserve in any one year would be allocated as seed money for Church Planting. This fund is aimed at assisting the church “Igniting Discipleship Communities” by funding current or new missional work throughout the Connexion.
OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY OF THE FINANCE UNIT
The Finance Unit exists to facilitate the vision of a Christ-healed Africa by:

Objective No. 1:  Care for Ministerial Staff and their Families

Strategy
(a) Listen and respond positively to Ministerial staff, Supernumeraries and widows;
(b) Provide Ministerial staff with information about the facilities the Church offers them in their Ministry, such as facts about the itinerant ministry, stipends and allowances, Pension benefits, income tax, health care and general financial management advice.

Objective No. 2:  Effectively administer Connexional Funds in accordance with missional objectives in an accountable and responsible manner

Strategy
(a) Provide appropriate administrative and financial systems and services;
(b) Control Connexional expenditure within reasonable limits;
(c) Exercise management oversight of out-sourced specialized services to those who have the financial resources and expertise such as insurance, investment management, processing medical claims.

Objective No. 3:  Offer administrative and financial facilities to the Church

Strategy
(a) Provide Connexional financial and management guidelines to ensure integrity, accountability and responsibility and monitor such;
(b) Encourage and train Ministerial and Lay leadership in management principles;
(c) Provide Bishops and Superintendent Ministers with financial and other information to enable them to manage effectively;
(d) Circulate an Administration/Financial procedure manual.

Objective No. 4:  Initiate financial resourcing for mission growth and development

Strategy
(a) Maximize income and capital growth on Connexional money and assets;
(b) Utilize the Millennium Fund as effectively as possible;
(c) Consider vacant church-owned land and buildings in such a way as to formulate strategies to utilize the asset effectively;
(d) Contribute to a Church Reserve Account for financing purposes as opportunities arise.
FINANCE UNIT

ORDER OF BUSINESS – 2019 for 2020

5. The following paragraphs should be read in conjunction with the 12th Edition of the Laws and Discipline (Book of Order), Chapter 9, and pages 103-122.

5.1 Administration

5.1.1 Finance Unit Executive Committee
The Presiding Bishop, the Bishop of the Central District, the Secretary of Conference, the Lay President, the General Secretary and General Treasurer, Director – Human Resources, Revs M Sibeko, F Marumo, C Bell and S McGuigan, N Hlathi, J Simons, R Stoltz, N Mnconywa, C Cronje and Ms. A Mpiriane, Mr. L Panya and Mr. M Sabelo.

5.1.2 Appointments
General Secretary
The 2018 Conference appointed Rev M Hansrod as General Secretary for a period of five (5) years (2020-2025).

General Treasurer
The 2014 Connexional Executive appointed Mrs. T Ngonyama as General Treasurer for a period of five (5) years (2015-2019).

5.2 Financial Statements
The Finance Unit Executive received and adopted the audited Annual Financial Statements of the Methodist Connexional Office and the Millennium Mission Resource Fund as at 31 December 2018.

5.3 Connexional Funds

5.3.1 Connexional Assessment Fund
See paragraph. 9.12-9.13.11

5.3.1.1 Circuit Assessments
To maintain the Connexional Funds the levy on all Circuits in 2020 shall remain 20% of the amount paid by Circuits and/or Societies for stipends, bonuses and all allowances (excluding travelling and housing [recommended up to R6 500pm]) of Ministers and all other pastoral agents for the period ended 31 December 2018. The above stipends, bonuses, allowances and payments for Pulpit Supplies and private contributions paid for the support of Evangelists, and allowances made to theological students for supply work in Circuits are also subject to assessment.
5.3.1.2 Medical Expenses (previously called Extraordinary Affliction Grants):

To maintain Medical expenses in 2020 of **R38 800 000** *(2019 – R35 512 550)* the levy on all Circuits remains 19% of the amount paid by Circuits and/or Societies for stipends, bonuses and all allowances (excluding travelling and housing [up to R6 500pm]) of Ministers, Probationers, Supernumeraries, Bible women, Deacons and Evangelists for the period ended 31 December 2018.

5.3.1.3 Circuit contributions to the Supernumerary Fund and the Supernumerary Fund Reserve/Church Reserve shall not be a charge against the Circuit Assessment Fund but shall be paid directly to the Finance Unit by Circuits.

5.3.1.4 NB: Of the total amount of the estimated assessment income for **2020 – R 14 197 000** *(2019 – R 13 554 239)* is to be used directly for the care and maintenance of the ministry.

This is made up as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget 2019</th>
<th>Budget 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial Training EMMU/SMMS</td>
<td>9,397,561</td>
<td>9,820,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removals</td>
<td>2,400,000</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Leave Grants</td>
<td>1,563,678</td>
<td>1,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exigencies of Stations</td>
<td>110,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bursaries</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work permits</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>22,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Educational Grants</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,554,239</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,197,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.3.1.5 Administrative expenses make-up the balance as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>BUDGET 2019 R</th>
<th>BUDGET 2020 R</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa Methodist Council</td>
<td>20,800</td>
<td>21,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol &amp; Drug Concerns</td>
<td>2,700</td>
<td>2,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Africa Council of Churches</td>
<td>11,440</td>
<td>11,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary grants</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishops administration allowances</td>
<td>309,750</td>
<td>330,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana Council of Churches</td>
<td>3,240</td>
<td>3,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bursary Fund Assessments</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Desk</td>
<td>262,080</td>
<td>265,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Council of Lesotho</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Council of Mocambique</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Council of Namibia</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Council of Swaziland</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Unity Commission</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Grant</td>
<td>320,000</td>
<td>340,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Printing</td>
<td>50,400</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connexional Chaplaincy Committee</td>
<td>53,000</td>
<td>53,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connexional Committees</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connexional Executive and Conference Planning</td>
<td>518,400</td>
<td>550,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connexional IT</td>
<td>54,000</td>
<td>54,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connexional Marriage Registrar</td>
<td>2,160</td>
<td>2,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connexional Office expenses</td>
<td>7,490,902</td>
<td>7,790,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connexional Schedules</td>
<td>10,800</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept. of Archives</td>
<td>1,080</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctrine Ethics and Worship Committee</td>
<td>84,000</td>
<td>84,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecumenical Affairs</td>
<td>183,750</td>
<td>185,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Desk</td>
<td>83,200</td>
<td>80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources Unit</td>
<td>520,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal expenses</td>
<td>1,037,340</td>
<td>1,020,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minutes of Conference</td>
<td>254,800</td>
<td>260,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Lay President</td>
<td>124,800</td>
<td>126,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Presiding Bishop</td>
<td>1,329,523</td>
<td>1,350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Secretary of Conference</td>
<td>1,038,960</td>
<td>1,040,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas Conferences</td>
<td>220,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presiding Bishop’s travel costs</td>
<td>432,000</td>
<td>400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Meetings</td>
<td>16,200</td>
<td>16,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA Institute of Race Relations</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Chaplain</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec of Conference Travel Costs</td>
<td>259,088</td>
<td>260,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South African Council of Churches</td>
<td>84,000</td>
<td>85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Council of Churches</td>
<td>257,500</td>
<td>260,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Methodist Council</td>
<td>105,000</td>
<td>110,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of all other Connexional expenses</td>
<td><strong>16,329,912</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,400,360</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</td>
<td><strong>29,884,151</strong></td>
<td><strong>30,597,360</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.3.1.6 **Without Agency** (paragraph 9.44)
Where a Circuit is without agency the Circuit assessment is one-third of the assessment payable on the stipend of a Probationer Minister and if no Minister is stationed in the Circuit for more than 5 consecutive years the Circuit be disbanded and attached to a neighboring Circuit.

5.3.1.7 **Assessments of Ministers with Permission to Labour, on Leave of Absence or Seconded** (paragraph 9.45)
Ministers and Deacons who are granted permission to Labour or who are on Leave of Absence, appointed to Chaplaincies or Seconded, shall contribute each year the assessed cost of Supernumerary Fund contributions, Supernumerary Fund Reserve, Extraordinary Affliction grants, Furlough allowances, Removal reimbursements, and any other grants, if such benefits apply to them.

Where a Minister or Deacon has contributed the assessed cost to the Extraordinary Affliction Fund for less than 10 years immediately prior to retirement, that Minister or Deacon may, from retirement date, apply for grants from the Extraordinary Affliction Fund, limited to the same number of years for which such assessed cost was made.

5.3.1.8 **Assessments for Non-Stipendiary Personnel** (paragraph 9.46)
Where a non-stipendiary Minister, Probationer, Supernumerary or Deacon is appointed to a Circuit, the Circuit Assessment is 50% of the stipend assessment payable on the minimum stipend of an ordained Minister. This would apply after the normal two years waiting period.

5.3.1.9 **Assessments of Ministers Stationed in United Churches** (paragraph 9.47)
Ministers serving in United Churches shall contribute each year, if such benefits apply to them, the assessed cost of Supernumerary Fund contributions, Supernumerary Fund Reserve/Church Reserve contributions, Extraordinary Affliction grants, Furlough allowances and Removal reimbursements, together with an annual amount of approximately 50% of the residual assessment per Minister.

The amount of 50% of the residual assessment per Minister is **R13 850 for 2020.**
5.4 Ministers’ Stipend Allowances

5.4.1 Stipend Augmentation Fund
Conference 2009 endorsed the proposal which addressed the issue of ‘parity of stipends’ by implementing a Stipend Augmentation Fund to enhance the stipends of those Ministers who are paid the least in order to bring them up to a minimum overall income package.

The Fund is administered by the Finance Unit but managed by Trustees appointed by Conference.

From 2019 this total stipend is **R22 607 (R21 305 2018)** before tax for ordained ministers and **R18 022** before tax for Probationers (**R17 622 2019**). Based on a formula, the SAF is financed by Stipend Augmentation Assessment levied on Circuits who pay stipends and allowances higher than **R22 607** before tax, based on the 2020 total stipends for ordained ministers.

There is no intention to limit stipends to a maximum but the requirement is that all income received by Ministers is disclosed to the MCO. A policy of transparency and trust is the objective of the proposal.

5.4.2 Voluntary Stipend Fund

In view of the successful implementation of the Stipend Augmentation Fund, CE approved that the Voluntary Stipend Fund be amalgamated with the Stipend Augmentation Fund and that the one Fund attends to both the needs. Where a minister does not receive a stipend, the District Bishop will be required to send a written application (including an outline of measures taken to assess the situation) to the Trustees requesting augmentation for the minister. The minister will be augmented for 3 consecutive months.

The granting of a basic stipend, or part thereof, to any Minister who does not receive a stipend is dependent on funds being available. Thus every Minister who receives more than the total stipend is encouraged to voluntarily contribute to the Stipend Augmentation Fund and is invited to indicate to the Finance Unit if they want to contribute, subject to a minimum of 2% of Basic and Additional Stipend.

All Organisations are encouraged to contribute to the Fund on a voluntary basis.

5.4.3 Stipends for 2020

The recommended total Stipend increase for 2020 is **6.11%**.

The estimated CPI for the year ending 31 Dec 2019 is between **5.3% -5.5%**. The Connexional Executive recommends that:
2020 be increased by 6.11% to R12 023 for ordained ministers per month and that Total Stipends increase by not more than 6.11% for 2020. We request that this be complied with as far as possible”.

Probationer’s stipends
Conference 2018 resolves that from January 2019, all Probationers entering Circuit stations will, until they are ordained, receive a Standard Stipend equal to the Stipend Augmentation calculated annually with no additional stipend. A travel allowance shall be payable as per Yearbook if a Probationer has their own vehicle.

Thus the recommended total stipend for probationers in 2020 is R18 022 before tax.
Minimum/basic stipend allowances for 2020 shall be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Annual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>** Ministers**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordained</td>
<td>R12,023.00</td>
<td>R144,276.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probationers</td>
<td>R10,219.55</td>
<td>R122,634.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>** Deacons**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordained</td>
<td>R9,017.25</td>
<td>R108,207.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probationers</td>
<td>R7,665.00</td>
<td>R91,980.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>** Evangelists and Biblewomen**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioned</td>
<td>R5,861.21</td>
<td>R70,334.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probationers</td>
<td>R4,982.00</td>
<td>R59,784.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.4.4 Combining Statements and Payments
All assessments and payments due by circuits shall be reflected on a monthly statement. The circuit shall make a single combined payment to the Finance Unit or pay via monthly debit order by the 15th of each month.

5.4.5 Payment of Stipend Allowances
The amount of stipend paid shall relate to the total amount received by the Finance Unit in respect of the combined charges in terms of par 9.53 and subject to the allocation priority in terms of paragraph 9.54.

5.4.6 Research regarding non-payment of assessments, Circuit ability to conduct and sustain mission
The Connexional Executive mandates that in regard to stipends:
5.4.6.1 Each District shall be required to appoint a qualified task-group to research and study the problem of some Ministers not receiving stipends, Financial governance processes including the costing of options they may seek to recommend;

5.4.6.2 The recommendations of the District task-groups be sent to their own Circuits and Synods for discussion in February annually;

5.4.6.3 The work of Districts be submitted to the General Secretary and combined into a definitive discussion document to be considered by the Connexional Executive in September annually.

5.4.7 **Traveling Allowance** (paragraph 9.58)

The Traveling Allowance for 2020 is based on the Value of the Vehicle being between **R170 000 and R255 000** and calculated on the basis of travelling 1 420 km per month in line with the 2019/2020 SARS tax directive. The recommended Traveling Allowance for **2020 remains at R8 705.00 per month.**

Where the distance travelled exceeds 1 420 km per month, the excess mileage may be claimed at **R4.60 per km.** It’s is important for members to note that the SARS travel re-imbursement rate is R3.61, thus, where an allowance is based on the actual distance travelled for business purposes, members will be taxed on assessment on the difference between R4.60 and R3.61 as per the SARS travel reimbursement rate.

5.4.8 **Extraordinary Affliction Grants** (paragraph 9.70)

5.4.8.1 In terms of par 9.70, with effect from 1 August 2018 various benefits and limits are granted under the Fedheath Medical Scheme for day-to-day, Chronic and hospital costs as well as major conditions requiring treatment, subject to pre-authorization having been obtained and the terms and conditions of the Medical Schemes Act and agreements concluded between the Scheme and the Church from time to time.

(a) **In-Hospital Benefits**

- No overall limit
- Co-payment required by the member in 2020 will be outlined based on plan type; however all other shortfalls may be covered by Gap Cover. Any hospital Treatment that forms part of Prescribed Minimum Benefits in terms of the Medical Schemes
Act will be covered by Fedhealth

- Gap Cover will be provided by Turnberry as per group Policy. The Gap Cover is subject to an overall limit of R150 000 per insured per annum.
- Co-payment cover under this benefit is R30 000.00 per admission per insured subject to the OAL.
- Non-DSP Hospital Penalty Cover to R11 500 per admission, limited to 2 claims per family per annum with no premium increase.
- Medical expenses Shortfall cover increases the medical aid rate up to 500%.

(b) Out-of-Hospital Benefits

- Ministers and Supernumeraries will be allocated a Medical savings account for Day to Day costs.
- The total of what is allocated annually will differ for each member based on family size. Should savings run out members will be able to get unlimited annual consultations at approved network providers as per Fedhealth Network list.
- Gap cover Co-payments for MRI, CT and PET Scans will be covered up to R30 000.00 per admission per Insured subject to the OAL with a R20 000.00 sub-limit.

5.4.8.2 The conditions and limits referred to in par 9.15.2 are as follows:

“Members of the Order of Evangelism qualify for extraordinary affliction grants, if they are paid the minimum stipend through the MCO; retired Evangelists and Bible women also qualify if they had at least 10 years’ service immediately prior to retirement having been paid the minimum stipend through the MCO. All such grants remain subject to a limit of R6 000 (previously R4500) per family per year.”

5.4.8.3. With effect from January 2019 the required contribution from Ministers towards the medical expenses of Ministers, Supernumeraries, Deacons, Evangelists and Bible women will be at 6.5% of their Basic plus Additional Stipend with a maximum of R1 450 per month in 2020. (2019: R1 278 per month).

The medical contributions for Supernumeraries will be based on an average percentage contribution for each pension category for those with a pension of R2000 and above.
5.5 **Children’s Funeral Grants** (paragraph 9.73)
The limit for 2020 is increased to R3 000.00.

5.6 **Children’s Education**
5.6.1 **School Uniforms** (paragraph 9.74.2)
The amount for 2020 is R600.00.

5.7 **Supernumerary Fund**
5.7.1 **Member and Circuit Pension Contributions**
The annual pensionable stipend and contribution remains 10% of the total Stipend for 2020. Thus the pension table will no longer be the basis for pension contributions.
The contribution from the Circuit towards the Supernumerary Fund and Supernumerary Fund Reserve shall be two-times the personal contribution and shall be paid directly to the MCO by the Circuit.
5.7.1.1 The distribution of the contribution will be variable as between the Supernumerary Fund, Supernumerary Fund Reserve and the Church Reserve. The estimated contribution for 2020 will be 1 times to the Supernumerary Fund, 1 times to the Supernumerary Fund Reserve and zero times to the Church Reserve.

5.7.1.2 Ministers will receive an annual benefit statement which will indicate their Individual Member Balance in the Supernumerary Fund and also an indication of the Church underwrite (where applicable) they will receive from the Supernumerary Fund at retirement and in the event of death, to enable them to arrange their personal finances.

5.7.1.3 Amendments to the rules of the Supernumerary Fund shall be made as and when necessary by the Board of Trustees and submitted to the Registrar of Pension Funds for approval.

5.7.1.4 The Rules of the Supernumerary Fund are available on request from the Methodist Connexional Office.

5.7.1.5 In terms of the rules the Church representatives of the Supernumerary Fund shall include the Presiding Bishop, the General Treasurer and General Secretary as ex officio.

5.7.1.6 The 2015 Connexional Executive appointed Rev Z D Siwa, and Mrs M Hildyard as Church representatives of the Supernumerary Fund for the term (2016-2020).

5.7.1.7 The 2016 Connexional Executive appointed Ms Candice Pungavanam as Church representative of the Supernumerary Fund for the term (2017-2021).
5.7.1.8 The 2017 Connexional Executive noted the election by members and pensioners of Rev V Nyobole, Rev P Oosthuizen, and Rev CHS Bell as Elected Trustees of the Supernumerary Fund for the term (2016-2020), Rev V Vilakati and Rev R Robertson as elected Trustees of the Supernumerary Fund for the term (2017-2021).

5.8 Lay Staff Pension Fund and Provident Fund Trustees

5.8.1 The 2001 Connexional Executive appointed the General Secretary and the General Treasurer as ex officio Church representatives of the Lay Staff Pension Fund.

5.8.2 The 2015 Connexional Executive appointed Ms Ankie De Boer as Trustee for the term (2016-2020).

5.8.3 The 2016 Connexional Executive appointed Rev Z D Siwa and Ms Candice Pungavanam as Church representatives of the Lay Staff Pension Fund for the term (2017-2019).

5.8.4 The 2017 Connexional Executive noted the election by members and pensioners of Mesdames M Kasselman, M Hildyard, B Ive, S Malo and Mr J Mitchley as Member-Elected Trustees of the Lay Staff Pension Fund the term (2018-2020).

5.8.5 The 2001 Connexional Executive appointed the Ministerial General Treasurer and the Lay General Treasurer as ex officio Church representatives of the Provident Fund.

5.8.6 The 2015 Connexional Executive appointed Ms Ankie De Boer as Trustee for the term (2016-2020).

5.8.7 The 2016 Connexional Executive appointed Rev Z D Siwa and Ms Candice Pungavanam as Church representatives of the Provident Fund for the term (2017-2019).

5.8.8 The 2017 Connexional Executive noted the election by members and pensioners of Mesdames M Kasselman, M Hildyard, B Ive, S Malo and Mr J Mitchley as Member-Elected Trustees of the Provident Fund the term (2018-2020).

5.9 Property Protection Fund (See paragraph 9.79)

5.9.1 Circuits may recover from Ministers the premium on that portion of the Ministers’ furniture which is insured for more than R300 000.

5.9.2 The minimum Sum Insured on any manse building is R680 000 and R500 000 for any Church building.
5.10 **Ministerial Students’ Fund**

5.10.1 Contributions to the Ministerial Students’ Fund (See paragraph 9.34.2)

5.10.2 Ordained Ministers are invited to contribute a voluntary amount to the Ministerial Students’ Fund for deduction from their stipend payment by the Connexional Office.

5.10.3 Donations from Districts to the Ministerial Students’ Fund

The following donations were received from the Districts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAPE OF GOOD HOPE</td>
<td>R 250,027.07</td>
<td>R 249,076.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAHAMSTOWN</td>
<td>R 59,762.50</td>
<td>R 13,979.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUEENSTOWN</td>
<td>R 3,100.00</td>
<td>R 3,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNB</td>
<td>R 44,708.50</td>
<td>R 5,706.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFS &amp; L</td>
<td>R 40,027.00</td>
<td>R 30,906.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATAL COASTAL</td>
<td>R 85,962.00</td>
<td>R 69,412.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATAL WEST</td>
<td>R 700.00</td>
<td>R 155,160.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CENTRAL</td>
<td>R 253,102.70</td>
<td>R 185,558.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGHVELD AND SWAZILAND</td>
<td>R -</td>
<td>R 4,960.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIMPOPO</td>
<td>R 147,720.88</td>
<td>R 195,239.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLARKEBURY</td>
<td>R 31,425.00</td>
<td>R 56,504.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISCELLANEOUS</td>
<td>R 57,500.43</td>
<td>R 22,849.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTEREST ON BEQUESTS</td>
<td>R 40,707.30</td>
<td>R 29,550.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISTRIBUTION TO BENEFICIARIES</td>
<td>R -</td>
<td>R 10,771.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>R 1,014,743.38</td>
<td>R 1,033,274.36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.10.4 **Ministerial Students’ Fund Cost of Ministerial Training** (See Laws and Discipline, paragraph 9.34.3)

The cost of Seminary Training to be met by any Minister or Student who does not complete five (5) years of ordained service to the Church is R 63 420 for the study year 2020. (2019: R60 400)

The cost of in Circuit Training for Probationers to be met by any Minister who does not complete 5 years of ordained service to the Church is R18 900 for the study year 2020 (2019: R18 000)

The cost of Ministerial Training to be paid by Ministers who have completed all training in respect of 2020 is 30% of the Seminary Training Cost per Seminarian for 2020 and for in Circuit Training 30% of the In Circuit Training Cost per Probationer for 2020, payable after ordination as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Cost</th>
<th>Minister’s 30% Portion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prob. at Seminary</td>
<td>R63 420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prob. in Circuit</td>
<td>R18 900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Cost</th>
<th>Minister’s 30% Portion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R19 026</td>
<td>R 5 670</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.11 **Removals** (See paragraph 9.81)

5.11.1 Where travel is by private transport, the reimbursement from 1st July 2019 shall be R4.60 per km upon submission of a claim form by the 30th March of each year.

5.12 **Loans**

5.12.1 **Building Loan Interest Rate** (See Laws and Discipline, para. 9.82.1)

The Connexional interest rate on building loans will be an appropriate rate as determined by the General Treasurer from time to time.

5.12.2 **Outside Housing Loans** (See Laws and Discipline, para. 9.82.3)

There is no formal agreement with banks to make property housing loans available to Ministers and full-time employees of the Church. The MCO does not stand surety with any of the banks. However, all the banks are willing to assist with housing loans but preferential interest rates and options will be negotiable between the bank and each applicant.

5.13 **Investment of Funds** (See Laws and Discipline, paragraph 9.83)

The interest rate on money invested at call will be an appropriate rate as determined by the General Treasurer from time to time.

5.14 **Banking Accounts** (See Laws and Discipline, paragraph 9.84)

The Finance Unit conducts a number of bank accounts all of which have been approved by the Finance Unit Executive Committee.

5.15 **Bursaries for Tertiary Education for the Children of Ministers and Laity**

An amount of R45 000 is allocated for bursaries for Ministers’ children from the Circuit Assessment Account. Such bursaries are:

- School  R2 500
- Tertiary  R8 500

Per annum tenable for a maximum of 4 years at an approved tertiary education institution.

5.16 **Bursary Fund Levy** (See paragraph 9.91.4)

The Bursary Fund levy on Circuits remains R400 per annum per Minister for 2020.

5.17 **Connexional Bursary Secretary**

Private Bag x11, Garden view, 2026
Tel: 011-6151616

.................
The following paragraphs should be read in conjunction with the 12th Edition of the Laws and Discipline – Book of order, Chapter 10.

1. Vesting and Administration (See paragraph 10.1)

2. All members of the trust properties Committees are urged to declare any property interest in so far as it may relate to any property of the church. Refer to paragraph 10.31 of the general regulations

3. The District Trust Properties Committee must refer all schemes, contracts, purchases and sale agreements etc. in excess of R1 million to the Connexional Trust Properties Committee for approval.

4. No building contract exceeding R300 000 in value may be entered into without the District Trust Properties Committee’s approval.

5. A Registered Architect, or an approved Building Design Consultant, is to be appointed where expenditure is between R70 000 and R300 000. A Registered Architect and a Registered Engineer must be appointed where expenditure exceeds R300 000. When Societies wish to owner-build, the permission of the District Trust Properties Committee must be obtained.

6. At least two tenders are required for schemes where expenditure will exceed R300 000. “Contractors All Risks and Public Liability Insurance” must be arranged for all erections, alterations, additions or renovations to buildings.

7. An organ costing more than R75 000 shall require the approval of the Quarterly Meeting and the District Trust Properties Committee before being purchased. Organs costing less than R75 000 and other Church furnishings may be purchased without District Trust Properties Committee approval, provided that no debt is incurred.
Appendix 1

POLICY ON EFFECTIVE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR
THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

THIS POLICY IS MANDATED FOR ALL SOCIETIES, CIRCUITS,
DISTRICTS, INSTITUTIONS, ORGANISATIONS, TRUSTS AND
CONNEXIONAL UNITS
(Approved by the Methodist Connexional Executive Committee
– Updated June 2019)

Preamble
1 CORINTHIANS 4:2 states “It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.”
We are required to be accountable to God and to each other for the proper care of
money and possessions that God has entrusted to us. No aspect of Church involvement
has greater potential for creating doubt, suspicion or disunity than money. So we need
to be wise in leadership by offering full disclosure to as many people as possible and
comply with standards of good governance and accountability.

Please note the requirement for each Institution, Organisation, Trust and Unit to
also complete annually an Institutional Competency Assessment (to check if viable,
ethical and effectual) and submit such together with the 4D, 4C and 4S Schedules to
Synods, Connexional Executive or the Board of Mission Meeting and the Finance
Unit of the Methodist Connexional Office.

Objectives
The main objectives are to provide:
1. A clear statement of the financial affairs of the Society, Circuit, District, Unit,
   Organisation, Institution, Trust or Fund;
2. Regular and prompt quarterly and audited Annual Financial Statements;
3. Simple accounting records which can be taken over by new people without
difficulty when Treasurers or Officials move; and
4. Management information to facilitate decision-making by the respective
   Executive Committees as well as the Synod, Methodist Connexional Office
   Finance Unit and the Connexional Executive.

Requirements Relating to Financial Reporting
In accordance with the regulations it is required that the respective Executive
Committees of Societies, Circuits, Districts, Units, Organisations, Institutions and
Trusts adequately manage all their funds, keep proper accounts of income and
expenditure and submit them to their respective Executive Committee.
The Methodist Book of Order, par. 7.21 states that it is the **duty of the Circuit Stewards** to manage all the Circuit funds on behalf of the Quarterly Meeting, keep proper accounts of income and expenditure and submit them to the Quarterly Meeting. The Circuit Treasurer, where appointed, shall operate under the direction of the Circuit Stewards. Superintendent Ministers must ensure that Circuit Stewards do exercise this management duty.

The Superintendent Minister has the power and duty to ensure that all monies held by organisations or departments in the Circuit are reported to the Quarterly Meeting and the accounts audited before being presented to Synod. (Par. 7.18.13);

It is a crucial requirement therefore that **ALL** monies received and spent by Circuits, Societies, Organisations and Departments, including **ALL** Rhona, fundraising and projects be accounted for and reported to the Quarterly Meeting. No Circuit or Society income or expenditure of whatever nature is exempt from being disclosed and accounted for in this way. To give effect to this requirement, Organisations, departments, projects etc. may continue to produce their own separate audited Financial Statements but such must be submitted to the Society Steward/Treasurer (or Circuit Treasurer if there is one) as the case may be, who will ensure that this information is disclosed in Section 11 and 12 of the 4C or 4S Schedule.

The **year-end** of all Societies, Circuits, Districts, Units, Organisations, Institutions and Trusts is the 31st December.

Only an Accountant or Auditor (registered with the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (IRBA)) can audit Financial Statements. Persons registered with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA) or Chartered Institute of Business Accountants (CIBA) can do a **compilation or review** of Financial Statements.

**Connexional** and **District** Financial Statements as well as **Circuits, Societies and Organisations** with an **Income of more than R3 Million** must be audited by a person registered with the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (IRBA).

Financial Statements of **Circuits, Societies and Organisations** with an **Income between R1 million and R3 million** must be compiled by a person with a suitable accounting degree.

**Circuits, Societies and Organisations** with an **Income less than R1 Million** do not have to be audited, **but the accounting records and Financial Statements** must be **verified as correct** by a person with a suitable accounting degree or diploma. The qualifications must be clearly stated in the Annual Financial Statements. The MCO reserves the right to query, accept or reject the qualifications.

This **Policy Document** should be made available to the Accounting officer to assist him/her with the audit/review/compilation/verification process.
Where the services of qualified persons are not available, the Circuit, District or the Finance Unit of the Methodist Connexional Office should be consulted for a recommended and approved Audit firm or Accountant.

The audited Annual Financial Statements are submitted, in the case of a Society to the Church Council for approval, and in the case of a Circuit to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting, and thereafter to the Synod, via the District Treasurer (The Methodist Book of Order – L&D 6.28.8). In the case of a District to the Synod, via the District Treasurer (Book of Order 6.28.5). The District Treasurer will then submit a copy to the Compliance Unit of the Methodist Connexional Office within two weeks of Synod. All income and all expenditure of whatever nature must be accounted for in the books of the District/Circuit/Society and shown in the Annual Financial Statements so that there is proper accountability to our members, Synod and the Connexion. Similarly monies may not be hidden in various bank and other accounts. All account balances must be disclosed in the audited Financial Statements. A serious view will be taken of any attempts to withhold full and honest disclosure of all income and expenditure (including stipends, allowances, honorariums, donations and gifts to Ministers) as well as bank, savings and investment balances at year end. A serious view will be taken of any attempts to withhold full and honest disclosure of all Circuits/Societies that are operating bank accounts and who have not advised the MCO of their existence in order not to submit 4C and 4S Schedules. It is the duty of the Circuit Treasurer and Superintendent to ensure that the MCO is notified of these Circuits and Societies.

The audited Annual Financial Statements of Connexional Units, Organisations, Institutions and Trusts are required to be submitted first to their respective Connexional (Controlling) Executive Committee and then to the Methodist Connexional Office Compliance Unit for consideration by the Connexional Executive Committee. These requirements also apply to special funds collected, invested and expended such as Building, Rhona or Special Effort funds.

The audited Annual Financial Statements of District Units, Organisations, Institutions and Trusts are required to be submitted first to their respective District (Controlling) Executive Committee and then the District Treasurer for reporting to and inclusion in the Synod Blue Book and for consideration by the Synod.

The audited Annual Financial Statements of Organisations, Institutions and Trusts attached to Circuits and Societies are required to be submitted to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting and thereafter to the Synod, via the District Treasurer. The District Treasurer will submit all audited Financial Statements, 4D, 4C, 4S and 4U Schedules to the Methodist Connexional Office Compliance Unit within 2 weeks of Synod.

The MCSA wishes to retain its Tax Exempt status in terms of the Income Tax Act. In terms of the Tax Act all Public Benefit Organisations (PBO’s), (which includes religious organisations) are required annually to submit a consolidated Financial
Report to SA Revenue Services reflecting accurate details of all District, Circuit and Society Income and Expenditure. This statutory requirement highlights the crucial and urgent necessity to ensure that Circuits are structured into viable units which are effectively managed and comply with good governance in terms of our Laws and Discipline but also the laws of the Land.

Control and Management of Finances in accordance with the generally-acceptable Accounting Principles and as per the requirements of the MCSA

1. All money collected is banked immediately or on the next business day. Money held overnight must be locked away in a safe or strong room.

2. Receipts are issued for money collected and handed from one person to another, prior to banking. If it is not feasible to issue receipts, proper records are to be kept to substantiate the source of all money received with at least two persons signing such record.

3. All payments should be made by either cheque or electronic transfer using Business Online Banking and every payment must be authorised by the Unit Leader or relevant responsible person. Salary registers must be authorised by the Unit Leader or relevant person, other than the person responsible for the actual payment thereof.

4. Electronic banking/payments are only permissible where dual control of authorisation on a payment instruction is a requirement of the banking system and separate confidential password codes are used. Authorisation for the use of Internet banking/payments will have to be proposed at the Circuit or Society Financial Meeting and ratified at the Quarterly Meeting.

5. Cheques, payable to any payee for goods or services, must be signed by two authorised signatories one of which must be the Unit Leader or a relevant responsible person. Cash cheques may NOT BE ISSUED. DO NOT SIGN BLANK CHEQUES. Cheque books must be kept in a safe place to prevent unauthorised access thereto. Unused cheques that are stolen/lost must be reported to the Bank and SAPS immediately and a ‘stop payment’ must be placed on these cheques with the bank.

6. The use of Debit cards in place of cheques or Internet Banking may only be authorised at a Circuit or Society Financial Meeting and ratified at the Quarterly Meeting. The necessary internal controls must be implemented to ensure that the Debit Card system is not abused. The MCO can at any time revoke the use of Debit Cards.

7. Wherever possible invoices must be obtained to substantiate payments made and recorded on a Payment Requisition Form.

8. At year end, all vouchers, receipts, invoices, receipt records, bank deposits, paid cheques and bank statements together with the cash book and other bookkeeping records are given to the auditor.

9. Each expense must be allocated, in the financial records, to the relevant budget item it relates to.
10. For any large items of expenditure, e.g. repairs or maintenance, three quotes must be obtained prior to going ahead with the work. The most reasonably priced quote must be accepted and authorised by the Unit Leader, Finance Committee or person responsible.

11. Extra staff may not be taken on if not budgeted for.

12. No unbudgeted item of expenditure shall be purchased or commitment made to purchase without the prior approval of the appropriate Finance Committee or Connexional authority. The General Treasurers must be consulted when appropriate.

13. The issue and use of Credit cards is strongly discouraged. In designated instances credit cards may be authorised by the MCO provided their use is only related to budgeted items or emergencies.

14. Accounting data, in respect of Connexional Units must be sent timeously to the Finance Unit of the Methodist Connexional Office according to the agreed deadlines.

15. In accordance with paragraph 7.31 and 9.91.1 of The Methodist Book of Order – L&D, no loan from Circuit or Connexional Funds may be made to any private person or body.

16. It is essential that Lay persons with business and accounting skill and knowledge are represented on Executive Committees or Boards to assist management.

17. It is required that Districts, Circuits and Societies have the necessary accounting software installed on their computers so as to provide the required accounting records in order to produce and complete the 4D, 4C and 4S Schedules.

18. It is essential that elected District, Circuit and Society Treasurers have a financial background to enable them to fulfil their obligations.

19. A compulsory Governance Checklist for Districts, Circuits, Societies and Organisations is to be introduced with effect 1 January 2017. The completed form will form part of the 4D, 4C and 4S submission from 1 January 2018.

**Budgeting**

1. Accurate and realistic annual budgets for all income, expenditure and capital expenditure should be compiled. The prior year’s budget, and actual data should be used as a guide to determine what budget is required for the following year. Refrain from simply adding a percentage to the previous year’s actual figures but calculate accurately and be able to justify each budget item.

2. Budgets should be submitted to and approved by the controlling Executive Committee by previously agreed deadline dates.

3. Capital Expenditure must be budgeted for. The purchase of Capital Expenditure items such as vehicles, equipment, furniture and properties where necessary must be regarded as an expense in the annual budget.

4. Any Grants normally received, which are part of the budgeted income, must be confirmed with the relevant sponsor prior to preparation and approval of the budget.
5. Expected Ministerial Stipends and allowances for the budget if relevant, must be verified with the General Treasurers.
6. Student expenses, if relevant, must be calculated on the number of students expected for that year.
7. If students are housed while studying, careful consideration must be taken as to whether there is sufficient accommodation for them to avoid unbudgeted for acquisition or renting of properties.
8. Where necessary, inflation increases must be budgeted for, i.e. municipal electricity, postage, telephone costs.
9. Travel expenses need to be calculated on the basis of the number and destination of any trips required for the purpose of the administration of the unit or organisation.
10. The budget exercise should result in an excess income or break even situation for the year but definitely not an excess of Expenditure over Income.

Comparison of Budget to Actual Income and Expenses
1. A Financial Statement shall be prepared by the relevant Accountant/Treasurer on a quarterly (or monthly) basis, as agreed, by a specified deadline.
2. The Financial Statement shall show the full Budget for the year, the Budget apportioned on a year to date basis for the period involved, the Actual Income/Expenditure on a year to date basis for the period involved and the variance between the Budget and Actual year to date figures.
3. Any details required by the responsible person with regard to this report shall be supplied timeously by the Accountant/Treasurer.
4. Any major variances may be highlighted by the Accountant/Treasurer for the attention of the relevant responsible person.
5. The Financial Statement described above and details of major variances must be referred to the relevant body for discussion and approval.
6. Should a major variance occur, an explanation will be expected from the Unit Leader/responsible person at the Leaders Meeting or relevant Executive Committee.
7. At the year end, 31st December, the Annual Financial Statements including Balance Sheets shall be prepared, audited and approved by the Leaders Meeting or relevant body in accordance with the previously agreed deadline date.

Overseas and Domestic Travel
1. Any travel on official and authorised MCSA business should be part of the budget and shall not cause annual expenditure to exceed annual income;
2. Overseas travel/ Out of the Country travel must be approved by the Presiding Bishop in the case of Connexional Units or the Controlling Executive Committee in all other cases and a detailed itinerary must form part of the documentation;
3. As part of the expenses of the trip an Out of Pocket Allowance/ Per Diem should be paid for incidental expenses. This allowance is intended to cover
meals, bus, train and taxi fares, tips and similar incidental costs. It is assumed that the relevant Unit of the MCSA or overseas host would pay for airfares, accommodation, conference registration and related expenses. The Out of Pocket Allowance/Per Diem will depend on circumstances.

The maximum Daily Allowance shall be as follows:
- Overseas travel where travel is outside the connexion as defined in the book of Order, the allowance shall be **US$150 per day**;
- Where travel is domestic (Within the Borders of South Africa), the allowance shall be **R150 per day**;
- Where travel is within countries inside the connexion other than South Africa (Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland), the allowance shall be **US$50 per day**.

Prior motivation to and approval by the Presiding Bishop in the case of Connexional Units or the Controlling Executive Committee is required for all travel. If this amount is actually exceeded, vouchers need to be provided to account for such expenditure to a maximum of US$180 and R300 respectively. As a benchmark, accommodation will be covered at the tariff rate charged by a three/four star hotel establishment where this cost is for the Church.

Where domestic travel is by private transport the reimbursement, from 1st June 2018, shall be **R4-60 per kilometre**. (This rate changes from time to time – see Yearbook).

As from 1 March 2018, where the reimbursed rate exceeds the prescribed rate by SARS, irrespective of the business kilometres travelled, there is an inclusion in remuneration for PAYE purposes. Therefor the travel reimbursements are viewed as taxable.

4. On return from the trip a brief report needs to be presented to the Presiding Bishop or Controlling Executive Committee giving observations and recommendations arising from the trip and giving account of:
   (a) Traveller’s cheques, foreign currency and Out of Pocket Allowance/Per Diem issued to the individual for the trip;
   (b) Details of expenses actually incurred on the trip together with supporting vouchers where possible;
   (c) Unused Travellers cheques and foreign currency not spent. These need to be immediately banked back into the Unit or Organisation’s bank account.

5. A copy of the report specified in 4 above needs to be sent to the Lay General Treasurer.
Cash Resource Management
1. Any surplus funds held by any Society, Circuit, District, Institution, Organisation, Trust or Unit which will not be required in the near future should be either transferred into a Bank Call account or another Investment account.
2. All Bank account balances, be they Call or Current, must be reported to the relevant authority whenever appropriate.
3. Quarterly administration grants to Units need only be paid if cash resources will not be sufficient for the forthcoming quarter. A partial quarterly grant need only be paid if cash resources are left over from the previous quarter.
4. Continually look for ways of saving on costs and avoiding unnecessary expenses.
5. Carefully monitor all expenses.
6. Ensure where possible that all budgeted income is received.

Capital Income and Expense Management
1. Any proceeds from the sale of properties administered by any Society, Circuit, District or Unit may not be used for the normal day to day “running” expenses, unless this had been specifically provided for in the budget and approved by the Connexional Trust Properties Committee.
2. Careful planning is required for the purchase of capital items of equipment, furniture and vehicles in view of the magnitude of such purchases and the possible impact on Circuit Assessments.
3. Careful forward planning needs to be done, where necessary, regarding the acquisition or development of properties.

Contractual Obligations
In terms of Chapter 10 of the Laws and Disciplines of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa no contract for the purchase, exchange, lease or disposal of movable or immovable properties may be exercised by anyone other than the Presiding Bishop or Secretary of Conference acting on behalf of the Presiding Bishop.

Bank Overdrafts
No bank overdraft may be operated on or applied for without first obtaining permission from the Methodist Connexional Office – Finance Unit. Overdrafts will only be approved if the facility is for a short time and there is matching collateral to support the overdraft e.g. 32 days’ notice deposit. Please do not operate overdrafts without approval.

Donations to a Public Benefit Organisation
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA) is registered as a Public Benefit Organisation No. 130000690 with the South African Revenue Service (SARS). The MCSA, although registered as a PBO, is a religious organisation.
The issuing of the section 18A tax deductible receipts by the Church is not permitted as The Church (MCSA) was not approved for exemption under an activity listed under Part II of the Ninth Schedule to the Income Tax Act 58 of 1962.

The MCSA and all Churches and organisations that fall under its constitution thus do not qualify for a tax deduction and **may not under any circumstances issue** Section 18A Certificates for any tithes, offerings and donations for religious activities.

The above changes and amendments to the Policy on Effective Financial Management have been tabled and approved by the Methodist Connexional Executive Committee June 2019.

Mrs. Thini Ngonyama  
General Treasurer
Appendix 2

INSTITUTIONAL COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IS MANDATORY AND IS TO BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED ANNUALLY BY ALL CONNEXIONAL AND DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS, UNITS, TRUSTS, FUNDS, INSTITUTIONS, SCHOOLS, CHILDREN’S HOMES, HOMES FOR THE AGED (REFERRED TO AS “INSTITUTIONS”)
(Approved by the Finance Unit Executive)

Preamble
1. To ensure that the above Institutions are viable, ethical and effectual it is required that the undermentioned assessment be completed by 30 April each year.
2. All “Institutions” are referred to the Methodist Church of Southern Africa Policy on Effective Financial Management which must be adhered to.
3. It is the responsibility of the leader of each “Institution” to ensure that this assessment is completed by the Board or Executive Committee by 30 April each year and submitted together with the audited Annual Financial Statement for the previous year to:
   (i) The Connexional Executive (attention General Treasurer) – in the case of all Connexional “Institutions” which are required to report to the Connexional Executive;
   (ii) The Connexional Board of Ministries (attention General Treasurer) – in respect of all Connexional Units;
   (iii) District Synods (attention District Treasurer) – in the case of all “Institutions” in such District which are required to report to Synod.

NAME OF ORGANISATION, UNIT, INSTITUTION, HOME

......................................................................................................................
Management
Does the Board/Executive Committee operate under its own constitution?  
- If Yes, attach copy of Constitution.

Does the Board/Executive Committee have a sufficient diversity of age, talent, skills, experience, gender, ethnic and racial groups and have geographic representation?  

Does the Board/Executive Committee meet at least quarterly with agendas received prior to the meeting and minutes distributed after the meeting?  

Do Board/Executive Committee members receive all appropriate information necessary for guidance and decision making?  

Does the Board/Executive Committee review the organisation’s past performance and future plans annually?  

Does the Board/Executive Committee have a formal method of appraising the performance of the executive director?  

Plan
Does the Board/Executive Committee have a current strategic plan which includes:
- Values, vision and purpose statement?  
- Identification of the internal and external weaknesses?  
- 90 day, 1 year and 2 year goals?  

Are the 90 days goals reviewed by the board every 90 days and new 90 days goals established?  

Financial
Does it have a current 2 year funding plan?  

Is there a trustee committee in place that regularly monitors investor performance of funds?  

Do we have a yearly independent financial audit?  

Are we complying with the Policy on Effective Financial Management for Connexional and District Departments, organizations, institutions, trusts and funds as set out by MCSA?  

Are we staying within the SARS requirements?  

Are all donations receipted in a timely fashion?  

Are accounts being paid within 30 days?  

Staff
Are all essential tasks identified and assigned to staff?  

Are staff records in place including employment contracts?
Are appropriate disciplinary, grievance procedures in place and are they being observed?
Do the staff have up-dated job descriptions?
Do the staff have at least yearly performance evaluations?
Is the Executive Director, Unit Leader, Chairman, President etc. [still] suited for the job?
- Does he/she have a clear vision and enthusiasm for the work of the Organization?
- Is he/she staying on task with strategic thinking/planning; fund development, staff management/development; financial controls; board relations?

**Technology/Systems**
Are there systems in place which assist staff, the Organization and help to maximize effectiveness?

**Governance**
Have all necessary registration documents been attended to?
Have the registrations and lodgings been made to ensure incorporation of Section 21 Company?
Has the constitution been recently reviewed?

**Reporting**
In accordance with Methodist Church of Southern Africa policy for all “Institutions” which are required to report to Synod:
Are arrangements in place, to ensure the inclusion in the blue book for Synod, the following:
- A narrative report, signed by the authorised representative of the institution concerned, indicating the caring, missional and pastoral goals achieved during the past year, how funds were effectively used, plans and needs for the future, the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of the institution, and the names on the management committee, which should include people with management, accounting and other appropriate skills. Is this in place?
- In certain instances Government regulations or healthy trading practices require that business plans be drawn up. Where appropriate, are such business plans in place?
  If so, are they submitted to Synod?
- Are audited annual financial statements, reflecting income from all sources, all expenditure, excess income over expenditure and a balance sheet of assets and liabilities and funds at year-end submitted to Synod?
Ethics
Is there at least 75% attendance at each board meeting?
Does a board member meet with the executive director monthly to review how he/she is doing professionally?
- Spiritually [Is he/she growing spiritually or pursuing growth]?
- Financially [Is their salary placing undue pressure/burden on their family]?
- Martially [How often is he/she away from home? How does his/her spouse feel about their job]?
- Physically [Is their life style putting them at risk]?
- Has the board determined what is unethical, imprudent and immoral and set corresponding policy?
- Are financial/contractual obligations being met in a timely fashion?

Risk Areas
Are there any potential or real areas of litigation?
Are there any other risk areas that need to be noted?

NAME OF PERSON COMPLETING THIS REPORT

_____________________________________________________________

DESIGNATION OF PERSON COMPLETING THIS REPORT

_____________________________________________________________

TELEPHONE NUMBER

_____________________________________________________________

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORISED OFFICIAL

_____________________________________________________________

DATE

_____________________________________________________________
Appendix 3

STIPEND AUGMENTATION FUND REPORT
TO CONFERENCE 2019

Bishop Gary Rivas, Chair

Introduction

Conference 2009 adopted the following resolution:

- To form a Stipend Augmentation Fund that would aim at increasing the stipends of Ministers who receive their stipends below the minimum stipend to a predetermined minimum.
- That from 2010 the SAF be subsidised by the Circuits that are already paying Ministers’ stipends and other allowances in excess of R13 000 before tax;
- That each of these Circuits contribute to the fund in terms of an agreed formula;
- That the amount applicable to each Circuit will be calculated by the MCO and forwarded to Circuits for inclusions in their 2010 budgets and assessments;
- That the SAF be managed by a Board of Trustees appointed by Conference.

Conference 2018 endorsed that the functions of the Stipend Augmentation Fund be extended to include the investigation and implementation of the Pension Augmentation fund as per resolution 2.18 Conference 2016.

The Board of Trustees as approved by Conference 2018 are Bishop Gary Rivas (Chair), Rev Jacob Freemantle, Rev Litaba Mothibi, Mrs Renny Stoltz, Ms Linda Makalima (Finance Unit representative), Mrs Lwethu Madi (HR representative) and the General Secretary and the General Treasurer (ex-Officio).

The implementation of the SAF is managed by the Methodist Connexional Office – Finance Unit. The Finance Unit reports that the SAF is stable with a Balance of R 7 026 861 as at the 31st December 2018.

R 1 709 293 was distributed in 2018 as per the schedule below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Name</th>
<th>No of ministers</th>
<th>No of Deacons</th>
<th>No. of months paid</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grahamstown</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>69,432.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5,172.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNB</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>206,064.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNB (VSF)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>64,284.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFS and L</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>172,388.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFS and L (VSF)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>428,560.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 3

STIPEND AUGMENTATION FUND REPORT
TO CONFERENCE 2019

Bishop Gary Rivas, Chair

Introduction

Conference 2009 adopted the following resolution:

• To form a Stipend Augmentation Fund that would aim at increasing the stipends of Ministers who receive their stipends below the minimum stipend to a predetermined minimum.

• That from 2010 the SAF be subsidised by the Circuits that are already paying Ministers’ stipends and other allowances in excess of R13 000 before tax;

• That each of these Circuits contribute to the fund in terms of an agreed formula;

• That the amount applicable to each Circuit will be calculated by the MCO and forwarded to Circuits for inclusions in their 2010 budgets and assessments;

• That the SAF be managed by a Board of Trustees appointed by Conference.

Conference 2018 endorsed that the functions of the Stipend Augmentation Fund be extended to include the investigation and implementation of the Pension Augmentation Fund as per resolution 2.18 Conference 2016.

The Board of Trustees as approved by Conference 2018 are Bishop Gary Rivas (Chair), Rev Jacob Freemantle, Rev Litaba Mothibi, Mrs Renny Stoltz, Ms Linda Makalima (Finance Unit representative), Mrs Lwethu Madi (HR representative) and the General Secretary and the General Treasurer (ex-Officio).

The implementation of the SAF is managed by the Methodist Connexional Office – Finance Unit. The Finance Unit reports that the SAF is stable with a Balance of R7 026 861 as at the 31st December 2018.

R 1 709 293 was distributed in 2018 as per the schedule below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Name</th>
<th>No of Ministers</th>
<th>No of Deacons</th>
<th>No. of Months paid</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grahamstown</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>69,432.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,172.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNB</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>206,064.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNB (VSF)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>64,284.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFS and L</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>172,388.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFS and L (VSF)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>428,560.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natal Coastal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,916.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natal West</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>141,201.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>86,143.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central (VSF)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>96,426.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISWA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,552.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limpopo</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>79,660.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>336,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarkebury</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>12,440.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>39</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,709,239.00</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We still continue to struggle with the late submission of stipend authorisation and allowance forms. Without these forms, Ministers and Deacons who require financial assistance, are overlooked. Due to additional tax implications relating to non-submission of these forms, MCO has reported that forms not submitted by 15 November 2019, will result in Ministers and Deacons not being paid until such time as the forms are received by the Office. Please ensure that stipend authorisation and allowance forms are submitted timeously.

The Trustees would also like to highlight that all categories of stipend (i.e. Ministers and Deacons) may benefit from the ‘Voluntary Stipend Fund’.

Bishops are requested to make application to The Chairperson of the Board (Bishop Rivas) in writing when requesting assistance from the Voluntary Stipend Fund. This Fund augments Ministers who as a result of various issues within the Circuit would not receive a stipend. The maximum period that this Fund will pay benefits is three months, within which a Pastoral Commission report must be submitted to the MCO.

**Ministers stationed in Mozambique Synod**

In 2018, the Fund was able to augment Ministers in Mozambique with an amount of R2000.00 per month.

**Ministers stationed in Lesotho Circuits**

The Mission Resource Fund has been funding the Lesotho Circuits (Maseru, Quthing, Mafeteng, Leribe and Mokhotlong) for the past 3 years. Upon request from the Mission Resource Fund Committee, the Stipend Augmentation Fund started augmenting stipends of Ministers in Lesotho from January 2018.

**Recommendations for approval**

The Trustees of the Stipend Augmentation Fund and the Voluntary Stipend Fund call on Conference to reaffirm the importance of these Funds in:
1. Ensuring that a minimum stipend of R22 607 is paid to Ordained Ministers;
2. Ensuring that a minimum stipend of R18 022 is paid to probationer Ministers;
3. Ensuring that a basic stipend is paid to Ministers, Deacons, Biblewomen and Evangelists, in the event that they are not paid, for a period of up to three months.
4. Ensuring that pensions of ministers who were directly impacted by injustice issues of the past, be augmented up to a determined minimum pension based on number of years in service.
5. Ensuring Ministers in Mozambique are augmented with a stipend of R2000 pm plus an additional R480 pm (which is a 10% Contributions towards pensions.)
6. Ensuring that Ministers who are incapacitated due to temporary Ill-health are assisted in terms of the SAF provisions in this regard as per proposals to Conference.

The Trustees request that Ministers, Deacons, Biblewomen and Evangelists remember these Funds and voluntarily contribute a minimum of R200 pm of their stipends to assist in growing this Fund to meet its objectives.

Board of Trustees
We propose the following names to Conference for 2020:
Bishop Gary Rivas (Chair), Rev Litaba Mothibi, Rev Sondlile Nkwanyana, Mrs N Mnconywa, Ms Linda Makalima (Finance Unit Rep), Mrs Lwethu Madi (HR Rep), General Secretary (ex-Officio), General Treasurer (ex-fficio)
Appendix 4

Connexional Gifts Policy

1. **Preamble**

   **WHEREAS** The Methodist Connexional Office encourages all Societies, Circuits and Organisations to care for Ministers and their families; and

   **WHEREAS** there is a need to ensure that all organisational resources are accounted for in accordance with the principle of effective financial management;

   **THEREFORE** The Methodist Church of Southern Africa 2015 Conference has resolved to formulate a Gift Giving and Acceptance Guideline that will assist the Districts, Circuits, Societies, Organisations and Units in giving gifts that will be given according to ability, circumstance and affordable amounts, noting the viability and status of financial resources for each District, Circuit, Society, Organisation and Unit.

2. **Purpose**

   To provide guidelines on the types of gifts that may be given at any official occasion/event within any MCSA structure; to allow officials to engage and explore Districts, Circuits, Societies, Organisations and Unit financial positions prior to the giving of gifts; and to ensure that there is financial accountability, governance and reporting in respect of gifts given and accepted in line with the guidelines in the Book of Order and tax implications.

3. **Definitions**

   Unless the context clearly indicates to the contrary, the following words bear the meaning ascribed thereto below:

   - **MCO** – The Methodist Connexional Office.
   - **MCSA** – The Methodist Church of Southern Africa.
   - **Gifts** – Monetary gifts; honoraria; tangible personal property such as art, furniture, livestock, jewellery, equipment, electronics, boats, clothes, and any other personal property item etc.
   - **Units** – Refers to the Finance Unit, EMMU, Mission Unit, Communications Unit and HR Unit.
   - **Organisations** – all Organisations as defined in the Laws and Disciplines.

4. **Scope**

   This guideline applies to all Clergy, Evangelists, Biblewomen, Deacons, Lay Persons and any other person deemed to be a recipient as a result of services
rendered within any MCSA organ (District, Circuit, Society, Organisation and Unit).

5. **Recommendations/guidelines**

- Whereas Circuit or Society is in arrears with assessments due to the District or the Connexion, no monetary gifts may be given or gifts purchased until arrears have been settled.
- In an instance where a circuit is in arrears, farewell and welcoming functions may only be hosted in consultation with the district bishop and district treasurer.
- All gifts given from MCSA accounts must be budgeted for and declared in all 4D, 4S and 4C schedules as per the Book of Order.
- All monetary gifts collected must be banked immediately in accordance with the MCSA’s policy on effective financial management and recorded correctly prior to being paid out by cheque or EFT to the recipient. This is to ensure that an accurate statement of receipts is kept and accounted for.
- Where gifts are intangible, a gift register must be kept. The recipient is responsible for ensuring that gifts are adequately insured. This gift register is to be kept for audit purposes.
- Recipients of gifts are to ensure that all gifts received are declared to the Connexional Office in order to ensure compliance with tax legislation.

6. **Conclusion**

This guideline is to be reviewed from time to time in full consultation with MCSA structures, and shall be adhered to at all times. Amendments to this guideline shall be submitted to Synods for noting.
Appendix 5
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa

The Supernumerary Fund Reserve and the Church Reserve, May 2017

These are funds of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, operated by the Finance Unit and reported at the Connexional Executive and included in the financial statements made available through Conference.

The Supernumerary Fund Reserve was initiated at the time when the MCSA changed its Supernumerary Fund from a Defined Benefit Fund to a Defined Contribution Fund as guided by South African law on 1 January 2003. (See the MCSA Yearbook 2011 page 33-39 for detailed background.) The rule of the Pension Fund requires that the church (“employer”) and the individual member on the pension fund (“employee”), contribute equal parts to the pension fund. In the past, there have been times that pensions were so low, and the fund so small, that the church had made the decision to pay up to five times or three times, the amount that a minister pays. The church has some years ago, upon advice from its actuaries, reverted back to equal amounts from minister and church as the fund is in a very healthy position.

At the time of reverting to equal contributions from church and member, the Conference took a decision that, because Circuits are accustomed to contributing three times the fund member’s pension contribution, a Supernumerary Reserve Fund would be established which received the equivalent of two times the contribution from the church to a Ministers’ pension. The purpose of this fund is described below.

Thereafter, in 2006, the actuarial review of the fund concluded that we no longer needed to contribute this amount to this Fund, as it was very healthy. Hence, in 2007, Conference agreed that the Church Reserve Fund should be a recipient of some of the funds. Annually, the church would decide how the three portions that Circuits contribute, would be allocated to the different funds (Church Reserve, Supernumerary Reserve and Supernumerary). This came to be called, the Variable Contribution Rate. Since then, the “three portions” have been divided, one part to a Minister’s pension, one part to the Church Reserve, and one part to the Supernumerary Fund Reserve. Later, the division was none to the Church reserve, and one to the Minister’s pension, and two parts to the Supernumerary Reserve Fund.

In 2016 Conference decided to reduce the contribution to the Supernumerary Reserve Fund, to one part, and keep the contribution to the Minister’s pension, at one time. The third part is not required of Circuits presently.
Both these funds are completely separate from the Pension Funds of the Church. Whereas the Pension Funds are directed by a Board of Trustees, put in place by church as well as elected from among members as per its rules, and very carefully controlled by the Financial Services Board, the Supernumerary Fund Reserve and the Church Reserve are administered by the Finance Unit Executive under direction of the Connexional Executive and Conference.

The Supernumerary Fund Reserve
The Supernumerary Reserve Fund exists for the benefit of the pensioners on the Supernumerary Fund and provides for the difference in pensions for Members of the Supernumerary Fund who entered Ministry when the Defined Benefit Fund was in existence, but who are now, with all others, in a Defined Contribution Fund. If a Pensioner would have received a greater pension under the old system, that difference is calculated by the actuaries, and the difference is paid to the Pensioner from this fund. The church undertook to do this as long as it was financially able to do so. The proposal of the Finance Unit Executive to Connexional Executive is that this system ceases with the intake of new Ministers in 2016. Such individuals will be on a purely Defined Contribution system. Therefore, apart from justice issues that might still need to be addressed, this fund’s purpose will greatly diminish at that time.

If an annual Pension increase granted to pensioners cannot be afforded by the Fund, the church will pay the difference from the Supernumerary Reserve Fund. (There is a formula by which annual increases of pension are calculated, based on the Consumer Price Index.)

The third reason for the Supernumerary Reserve Fund is to identify issues of justice that have existed in the church relating to stipends and pensions, and to make further payments to those whom the church identifies as most in need of additional pensions.

To this end, Conference 2016 approved a Pension Augmentation Fund:

*Conference resolves that Finance Unit creates a Pension Augmentation Fund and designs guidelines for governing the fund and for the purposes of addressing pension justice issues. Any surplus from the Supernumerary Fund Reserve in any one year, as determined by the Actuary, shall be calculated and 10% be set aside for addressing issues of justice through the Pension Augmentation Fund.*

The Church remains with Resolution 13 of Conference 2008 that the Supernumerary Reserve Fund be utilised only to meet pension-related obligations.

The Church Reserve
The Church Reserve Fund was established in 2005. In 2007 Conference agreed to place money derived from income through the Variable Contribution Formula, to
the Church Reserve Fund. Conference 2008, whilst in the midst of a Pension Funds dispute, resolved that from 2008 no money would be spent from this fund, with the exception of income directed into the fund from sources other than the Circuit contributions, until the dispute was cleared.

In 2011 the Lay General Treasurer reported that the Church agreed to match donations to the Seminary on a Rand-for Rand basis up to R33 million from the Church Reserve.

The Lay General Treasurer report in Yearbook 2012 p.33 points out that the church had agreed that this fund ensures the financial health of the church, and had added issues such as justice issues, new seminary, medical contingency, church development and education as worthy means of spending Church Reserve funds.

The above mentioned dispute was cleared in favour of the church by January 2015, which enables the church to access the Fund as it sees fit.

At Conference 2015, Conference directed 25% of any distribution to the Church Reserve to be set aside for Church Planting.

The Finance Unit Executive 2017 proposes to Conference that the Church Reserve Serves as a Reserve to guarantee that in a financial eventuality of calamitous proportions the Church Reserve may be used to safeguard the finances of the church and guarantee its obligations.

That the intention of the Church Reserve is further for the purpose of church development and clergy care.

That unless a clear proposal to use funds is made and accepted by the Connexional Executive for another purpose or to a greater amount, a maximum of 35% of the income in interest to the fund may be used in any one year until the fund reaches a capital value of R200 000 000, at which time the percentage shall be reconsidered. The funds allocated be managed by a committee consisting of members of the Finance Unit and Mission Unit as well as the General Treasurers, and be reported at the Finance Unit Executive and in the annual financial statements.
Appendix 6

MISSION RESOURCE FUND – August 2016

It is the intention of the Mission Resource Fund to have the financial means to establish new work, igniting discipleship communities. This includes initiating new discipleship communities (even before they can be called societies), establishing what could be called “ecclesial communities” in schools, mines, colleges, universities, hospitals, etc, as well as revitalising weak communities with potential.

Mission is at the heart of the existence of this fund, together with creating opportunity for new work to develop in places of the Connexion where resources are scarce, but the need is great.

In 2014 Conference passed a Resolution by which 25% of what comes into the Church Reserve Fund is used annually for Church Planting. Having considered the intention of the Resolution, Conference 2015 agreed to the establishment of a Mission Resource Fund for “Igniting Discipleship Communities” – some being churches that have struggled, have clear potential, and need help to ignite their potential; some being new work that could not even be called “Societies” or “Churches” yet, and some being Newly-Imagined Missional work, for example on Tertiary Campuses, in mines, schools, newly developing areas, etc.

The intention is not to get struggling Circuits “out of trouble” or perpetuating battling Circuits. The idea is not to use this fund to bring assessment arrears up to date, or to pour money into a Circuit that will look no different now, from what it will do in 12 months’ time.

Key is to remember that this funding is for 12 months only. We do not know what, or whether there will be money in this fund in 12 months’ time. Therefore, this fund cannot be treated as a Vanguard situation. Funding is only available for ONE year. If in the subsequent year there are funds available in the Mission Resource Fund, it is possible, with strong motivation, to consider a reduced grant for a second year.

Districts are asked to carefully consider what strategy they have for stationing agency in these places, as having a missional, co-operative, imaginative, energetic person will be vital for the success of these positions. When an amount is approved for a particular work, it is imperative that the District Leadership meets with the Circuit involved, for them to adopt the concept, be willing to cooperate, and understand the parameters of the funding. There needs to be a strong missional intention and a willingness to “spend and be spent” in the process. In Mission Resourcing, finance is only the tip of the iceberg. Passion, strategy and a willingness to work hard and work in consultation with others, are key in igniting discipleship communities. Circuits
are required to strategise for the development of this position, together with the office of the Bishop. Intentional work needs to be done.

Application Forms, signed by District and Circuit officials, are submitted to the General Secretary by the Bishop.

In assessing the application, the Committee consisting of the Presiding Bishop, Mission Unit Director and General Treasurers, considers inter alia the region and the potential of the area, the nature of the work conceived, what agency is needed, what infrastructure is available, what the local church can contribute in terms of finance and skills, as well as who in the District can assist to partner or mentor.

Circuits which benefit from this fund will be required to submit quarterly reports to the Presiding Bishop, Bishop and District Mission Co-ordinator. Such reports include considerations of progress, goals, financial statements, enquiring as to lay involvement and training, a self assessment of growth and development, plans for the next quarter.

The amount annually is not standard, as the calculations need to be done in consultation with our actuary. In 2015, eleven stations were served by an ad-hoc grant made available by the MCO before the establishment of the fund. In 2016, twenty four Circuits were served by this fund, and with Conference consent, the Connexional Mission Congress was subsidised.
Appendix 7

Treasurers' Code of Conduct for the MCSA

Preamble

Context
Treasurers are appointed for various bodies within the MCSA. They come from a variety of backgrounds and have disparate skills. Great responsibility is given to them, but often they are required to work in isolation without collegiate support. The Book of Order details WHAT must be done but not HOW the task should be approached. The District Treasurers Consultation, recognising the difficulty this created for Treasurers throughout the Connexion, requested the Treasurers General to facilitate the introduction of a Code of Conduct for Treasurers.

Approach
In its 2007 International Good Practice Guidance, “Defining and Developing an Effective Code of Conduct for Organizations”, the International Federation of Accountants provided the following working definition:

“Principles, values, standards, or rules of behaviour that guide the decisions, procedures and systems of an organization in a way that (a) contributes to the welfare of its key stakeholders, and (b) respects the rights of all constituents affected by its operations.”

This code of conduct lays out the MCSA’s expectations and guiding principles for appropriate behaviour of Treasurers. It is a set of statements outlining the social norms and rules and responsibilities of, or proper practices for, Treasurers.

Scope
This document deals with the conduct of the Treasurers but does not specifically deal with their roles, duties and responsibilities. The roles, duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer are dealt with in the Book of Order. If there is any conflict between the Code of Conduct and the Book of Order, the Book of Order takes precedence.

Terminology
MCSA – Methodist Church of Southern Africa
Treasurer – Unless otherwise indicated shall refer to District, Circuit, Society, Unit, and Organisation Treasurer and Finance Committee Member.

Applicability
This document applies to all Treasurers and members of Finance Committees within the MCSA.
Conduct
A Treasurer will:

• Act from a basis of Methodist spirituality
• Act at all times with integrity
• Promote good governance
• Act with discretion when entrusted with confidential information
• Encourage transparency of Church finances
• Act with impartiality
• Disclose any relevant interests and conflicts
• Not seek personal advantage to the detriment of the MCSA, and will actively seek to enhance the image of the MCSA
• Continuously engage in ongoing learning.

Details

Methodist Spirituality

Act from a basis of Methodist spirituality
Our Christian understanding and Methodist heritage give insight into the proper use of money. The Treasurer should understand that we deal with God’s money which is to be used for God’s mission.

The Treasurer should consider the implications of his/her actions in terms of God’s work in the world, taking into account issues of Social Justice and Economic Empowerment.

The Treasurer should strive to discern the providence of God in the preparation of budgets, the moderation of expenses and the raising of funds.

Integrity

Act at all times with integrity
Integrity implies wholeness, soundness, completeness: anything the member does should be done competently. Where necessary, additional guidance or expertise should be obtained from qualified advisers.

A Treasurer should act in a manner based on trust and good faith towards all with whom he or she is associated.

A Treasurer should express an opinion on a subject only when it is founded on adequate knowledge and honest conviction, and will properly qualify any opinion expressed outside the level of professional competence attained.

A Treasurer should not deliberately make false or exaggerated statements as to the state of financial or governance affairs.

A Treasurer should only sign a document after becoming fully satisfied of the veracity of the document.
**Governance**

*Promote good governance*

Good governance is about creating a sound environment within which decisions are taken. It ensures the inclusion of stakeholders, efficiency and effectiveness, and responsiveness. The Treasurer should establish policies, processes and procedures which enhance:

- Participation
- Cost effectiveness and value for money
- Timelines

The Treasurer must be seen to be working as part of the District leadership team and not taking arbitrary decisions.

The Treasurer must ensure, as far as possible, that all people involved in the decisions have correct and complete information.

**Confidentiality**

*Act with discretion when entrusted with confidential information*

A Treasurer shall take adequate measures to ensure the confidentiality of information entrusted to him/her.

Various kinds of information can be considered to be confidential and the Treasurer must carefully consider the level of confidentiality.

The financial affairs of individual members and other donors or suppliers must be treated as confidential.

Where a supplier requests that terms of a supply contract are confidential this must be respected.

**Transparency**

*Encourage transparency of Church finances*

The Treasurer shall be transparent in the management of Church finances, keeping members abreast of the current financial position.

The Treasurer must remember that not all members have a financial background, and should prepare budgets, reports and schedules in a way that makes them as accessible as possible to members. Extra time may be required to allow people to interrogate finances prior to meetings.

The Treasurer will need to balance the requirement for Confidentiality against the requirement for transparency.

**Impartiality**

*Act with impartiality*

The Treasurer must operate from the basis of evidence and not favour any party in terms of analysis and recommendations.
The Treasurer must rise above the conflicting agendas of ministers, staff, stewards, organisations and other interested parties.

**Disclosure**

*Disclose any relevant interests and conflicts*

The Treasurer is often in a position where it is possible to sway a decision. In some cases the decision may benefit friends or family, or negatively affect others. Any such interest should be disclosed in advance.

Where possible the Treasurer should recuse himself or herself from the decision making process, constraining their role to giving information to the decision makers.

**Personal Advantage**

*Not seek personal advantage to the detriment of the MCSA, and actively seek to enhance the image of the MCSA.*

The position of Treasurer must not be leveraged to gain personal advantage either in the Church or outside of the Church.

**Ongoing Learning**

*Continuously engage in ongoing learning*

The financial domain is subject to continual change because of changes in legislation, technology, and the macro-economic situation. In addition, the requirements of the MCSA and the local church raise further changes.

The Treasurer should make every effort to remain abreast of changes which affect the execution of their portfolio.

The financial domain is vast and no person can claim to know everything. The Treasurer should make every effort to expand his/her knowledge and the application of their knowledge so as better to execute their role.

**Disciplinary procedure**

All Treasurers undertake to abide by this Code of Conduct and to faithfully execute their responsibilities as laid out in the Book of Order. Should a Treasurer not adhere to this undertaking then the Disciplinary Process as laid down in the Book of Order will be followed.
CHAPTER 6
ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS UNIT
Rev Mike Vorster, Unit Director

Introduction
It is difficult to write or talk about unity when we are in a world that is fractured and is legitimising and promoting division and prejudice as normative for humans in the 21st Century.

Let us be reminded that the term ecumenical is about unity of the whole inhabited earth, creature and creation alike.

Let us be reminded that according to the L&D paragraph 8.5 ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS UNIT: The Unit shall encourage ecumenical involvement throughout the Connexion. It shall ensure that Methodist people realise that ecumenical involvement is central to the mission of the Church.

But in reality, ecumenical unity is seen and practised, like mission, as an appendage because it seems as though the practise of the church is about, paying assessments; pastoral care, preaching, maintaining static cell groups; hatch (baptisms), match (weddings), and dispatch (funerals) ministry; ‘being chaplains’ to parochial communities or influential monied individuals. The current drive to be more of a mission-shaped church is trying to shift this default position to a new template.

1. Unity and Mission Catalysts for Change

Because thus we have made the world, the Mission and Ecumenical Units are set up to act as catalysts for change together with willing leaders both lay and clergy. Our seasonal Synod Bishops are best placed to offer significant leadership in this regard. This is why the MCSA’s Conference has discerned the calling for the function as per L&D of Synod Bishop: “(6.10.9) to represent the Church ecumenically and in the wider society; and (6.10.10) to facilitate the prophetic function of the church in society”. Mission and Unity is very much an integral part of the day to day function of a Bishop.

Thank God our Presiding Bishop Zipho Siwa has and is giving us this lead, through his public engagements as an ecumenist, as President of SACC, and engagements with other ecumenical and inter-religious forums.

1. Or as church are captured to these so-called administrative and maintenance practices? When we have ticked these boxes, we feel we are ‘successful ministers’.
Thank God for the Bishop of Mozambique Synod for the shining example of an ecumenical movement that offers an example and leadership to the Connexion.

What then does the former persecutor and oppressor of people of the Way, St Paul say about unity? In a letter that some say he wrote to a divided, disunited church on ethnic, religious and economic grounds, he says.  

\[13\text{ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.}\]

\[14\text{ For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.}\]

\[15\text{ He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace,}\]

\[16\text{ and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.} \quad \text{(Ephesians 2.)}\]

What does the author and finisher of our faith our Brother Leader Jesus Christ, say about unity between God and humanity? ‘I pray that they may be one…. (John 17)

Let us review some of our attempts at becoming a unified people in church and nations. We do so under three headings or emphases of the current Ecumenical Unit: Church Unity; Ecumenical Diakonia; African Church cooperation.

2. **Church Unity (CU)**

   It most encouraging to hear through Synod Ecumenical Affairs Secretaries reports that our lay and some Clergy people are often at the forefront of the ecumenical movement. We see this through the death of church members, when different churches participate in services each night from the Monday to the time of the Saturday funeral. We see this through joint church prayer walks in the Helderberg Circuit at Easter, when Anglicans and Methodists move through a gangster ridden community and stop and pray at each place where a child or adult has been shot dead in gang-related violence. We see this at joint ecumenical street processions on Good Friday, best epitomised by the annual Diakonia Good Friday service (see New Dimension April 2019 edition page 4). In some small towns joint ecumenical Bible studies are arranged. The list can go on.

3. **Kindly read the annexure Church Unity Commission report.**

   Through the CUC we will inform all in the MCSA through the appropriate Leadership structures, about the Covenant Agreement between CUC member churches. This would add more value, legitimacy and encouragement to these local, Circuit and Synod ecumenical initiatives. It is our aim to ensure that through Synod EAS and Synod Bishops that all are aware of the CUC covenant which will show the great strides we have made in terms of shared ministry, ordination of women and sacraments etc. We are still on a challenging path of reaching a common agreement on episcopacy (oversight).
4. **Ecumenical Diakonia (ED)** – where Missio-Dei (God’s mission – Creator), Theos-Diakonia (God’s service of justice – Redeemer) and Theos-Oikumene (God's unity – Ecclesia) are one in the Theos-Paraclete (God’s binding Spirit – Sustainer).

4.1 **Refer Conference 2018 Resolution 2.33, Fourth Industrial Technological Revolution**

**Work in Progress:** The task group is established but has as yet not physically met. We have been working via social media and email. We ask for Conferences indulgence, due to the hip-replacement surgery and complications thereafter, of the Ecumenical Unit Director, who was subsequently on sick leave from February to April 2019; this has delayed the process.

4.2 **Refugees and Africa Diaspora:**

Since 2015 we have been working with the Congolese community from DRC, both in the diaspora in SA and the DRC, mainly with and through the churches. We have embarked on several joint programmes: Repatriation; DRC Kairos; facilitating business opportunities for both SA based and DRC based small businesses; Courageous Conversations with Mines working in the DRC etc.

**Invitation to be part of Courageous Conversations** with Mines. Under the umbrella of this programme, an immersion site visit to the Mines and community is planned for 18 July 2019 at Mokopane, Limpopo. It will be a meeting/site visit to Mokopane faith leaders’ projects. Through the offices of Anglo-America mines a day-long site visit for three delegations (from Rustenburg, Mpumalanga, and the DRC Diaspora Durban) to discuss the work they have done in the Mokopane region, and visit one or two project sites in the area. This is part of a broader programme to introduce the Courageous Conversations within the DRC. We are hoping to start this process in Lumbumbashi in August 2019. The Mokopane visit will give a sense to our DRC compatriots what may be possible to emulate in the DRC, between communities and especially SA based mineral extraction industries.

4.3 **Rwanda:** There is a growing concern that we may have a repeat of 1994. The ecumenical community, civil society and SA politicians together with Rwandese in the diaspora are working on preventative measures. Several symposiums are planned for July and August 2019.

4.4 **Mission Shaped Church Cluster Consultations** PE (Feb. 2019) and Pietermaritzburg (March 2019): Ecumenical Affairs was asked to be present and add value of issues pertaining to Ecumenism into the conversation on a Mission Shaped Church. Thank you to Rev Sikawu Makubalo and Rev Raymond Keet for attending these events on behalf of Ecumenical Affairs.
5. **African Church Cooperation (ACC)**

5.1 **First Africa Methodist Conference** was held in Nairobi Kenya 17 to 19 March 2019. MCSA participants included the Presiding Bishop, the General Secretary, all Synod Bishops and the Communications Unit Director (the EAUD was on sick leave). An excellent comprehensive report is in The New Dimension Volume 51, Issue 14, April 2019.

6. **Working with Other Religions in Southern Africa, Africa and the World**

(Refer MBO Miscellaneous Conference Resolutions: Interfaith Observance Guidelines p. 233)

We are exploring the possible MCSA membership of the International Interfaith body Religions for Peace. The MCSA Ecumenical Affairs Advisory body has been tasked by the Presiding Bishop’s Office to look into this more thoroughly.

Other inter-faith work happens around the Connexion. It is one of the tasks through the Ecumenical Affairs Unit to develop a list of which Inter-faith bodies the MCSA is part of at Synod and local Circuit level.

7. **New Emerging Synods**

It is hoped with **smaller more compact Synods** (except for Mozambique, Namibia and Botswana) that we will be able to have improved Missio-Dei-Oikumene realisations and actualisations through the continued traditioning process of the Koinonia of the Paradiso (the fellowship of paradise, the church) which is the avant guard of transformative revolution of and for all of humanity and creation.

May all our Synods morph into the likeness of the Mozambique Synod, who despite their size, financial challenges, are able to have sustained relationships with the wider Ecumenical, Wesleyan and Interfaith families.
Once again we take this opportunity to review the past year and chart a way forward for the year to come. The objective of this report is to ensure that it is prepared and available to be included in the papers for the governing meetings of the member and observer churches.

The Executive
2018 began with the induction of Rev Sikawu Makubalo as Secretary General on 8 March 2018. We also enjoy the continuing leadership of Rev Peter Langerman (UPCSA) as Chairman, Thulani Ndlazi (UCCSA) as Vice-Chairman and Mrs Liz Barnes as Treasurer.

Member churches representatives to the executive are Bishop Charles May (ACSA), Rev Thabiso Mcinga (MCSA) and Rev Paul Verryn as Additional Member. As we receive the Nederduitse Gereformee Kerk SA in full membership, a rep to the executive is yet to be appointed by the church.

50th Celebration Conference 2018
On the 11 to the 13 September 2018 Member and Observer Churches of the CUC gathered at St Wilfrid’s Anglican Church to celebrate 50 years of the commission’s existence and search for Church Unity in Southern Africa.

There was considerable support with 65 delegates attending from both Member and Observer Churches. It was encouraging to see young people as part of the delegation representing their denominations. With the contextual disparities from whence the CUC began and the new emerging existential challenges, the involvement of youth is of great importance in the search for unity.

The Celebration Conference looked back on the journey travelled since 1968, with the view of shaping a meaningful pilgrimage towards a lived expression of church unity.

The first day was dedicated in inspiring such pilgrimage through the retelling of the story that brought the CUC into existence. It was a privilege to hear from Rev Prof de Gruchy and Rev Dr Cragg who were there from the outset. An apt critical analysis of the story was delivered by Rev Mzwandile Molo of the MCSA, who is also active in ecumenism through the SACC.

The first day concluded with two workshops on Liturgy: Leading Towards Visible Unity, led by Rev K Griffiths and Rev Dr Bruce Theron and a workshop on the
work on the development of the Centres of Hope, led by Rev Dr Paul Verryn. Rev Heidi Petersen concluded day one by preaching at the Service of Celebrations held at Universiteitsoord NGK. Significant to our continued search for unity the URCSA leaders joined the service having taken time away from their unity talks with the DRC.

The second day focused on the current challenges and opportunities on ecumenical unity. Rev Prof Barney Pityana introduced the subject on Ecumenical Unity; Dr Nontando Hadebe delivered a paper on the African Understanding of Unity; Dr Ishmael Noko who gave an address on the Joint Declaration of the Doctrine of Justification; The Question and Challenges of Identity was presented by Rev Prof Jerry Pillay.

The 2nd part of day two focused on Conversation Theological Education and Training. Rev Dr Paul Verryn guided the process that culminated in ideas and challenges that can enhance our cooperation in the training of ministers.

A gala dinner was held to conclude the day, where past leaders and contributors to the work of the CUC were honoured. The third day was facilitated by Rev Dr Peter Langerman leading the inspired and challenged disciples to share ideas on the way forward for the CUC. The conference ended with a Service of Renewal of the covenant of mutual acceptance of ministries. The prevailing challenges from all representations are:

- The conference affirmed the relevance of work of the CUC in the search for unity and the positive benefits such unity talks would have towards a cohesive SA.
- Strengthening the 5 Trajectories and use them to advance CUC work.
- There cannot be unity talks without dealing with the past; continued divisions from the past are still prevalent in all denominations, particularly racial divisions.
- African understanding of unity as the foundation of the envisaged unity.
- Publicity and education.
- Youth Involvement.
- Co-operation in the formation and training of ministers.

Communication
The CUC website was created http://churchunitycommission.org and went live toward the end of 2018. The objective was to make the site as current, user friendly and informative as possible. With the Secretary General relocating to Cape Town, the new contact details are as follows: Tel: 021 712 8609 and email: sg@churchunitycommission.org.za

To advance communication and implementation the Secretary General meets with Secretaries of the Member churches. A meeting of this nature was held on 23 January 2019 at the MCO offices in Bruma. This is not a decision making meeting, but rather a coming together and sharing ideas on implementation of the Central Committee decisions.
**United Churches**

As we all draw alongside and support United Churches, we set our sights on streamlining and documenting processes to ease transitions/handovers between incoming and outgoing ministers. It is in handling these transitions that United Churches experience difficulties. To this end it was proposed that:

- The secretary should develop a database of United Churches inclusive of current serving ministers, the number of years they are serving at the church, the denomination from which they come and the sequence of rotation. This database be updated annually.
- A directory of ministers in United Churches be shared within denominations and be included in denominational directories.
- Denominations communicate changes and details of change of leadership in regions (i.e. Diocese, Presbyteries, Districts).
- There be a Transition Committee that will assist to facilitate change of agency in United Churches. This committee should not have any executive authority but a facilitator role.

**Dutch Reformed Church Membership**

It is with joy that we welcomed the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk SA (NGK-SA) as a Member Church to the Church Unity Commission in November 2018.

Receiving the church brought challenges to the Central Committee as it was the first time since 1968 that the CUC received a new member. Challenging questions regarding denominational relationships especially influenced by the past, commitment to the CUC covenant, requirements and processes of receiving members surfaced as the Central Committee considered the application by the NGK-SA.

Resulting from this discussion, is the need for a recommitment to the covenant, an agreed process for receiving members which begin with an application emphasising the applicants view/response to the covenant, tabling at the Central Committee, tabling at the denominational authoritative meetings and ratification at the Central Committee based on responses from the denominational meetings. An application form is formulated and available on the website.

With all the above in mind and the joy of welcoming the NGK-SA the following reception steps will be taken – A formulation of a liturgy to recognise the reception of the NGK-SA to full membership and denominational recommitment to the CUC covenant; a small ceremony to be held at the 2018 Synods, Assemblies and Conferences using the formulated liturgy.

**Focus and Direction**

Much focus will be placed on the 5 Trajectories, with the intention of making them a focal point of CUC work. For 2019 Regional consultations are planned for March in the Western Cape and August in the Eastern Cape as well as an Ecumenical Symposium.
for Students, whereby students will be introduced to the works of the CUC and social interaction between students will be explored. To this end there will be two Central Committee meetings happening over a two-day period. The first day will focus on the 5 Trajectories and the second day on the administrative work. The calendar of the CUC will follow a cycle that includes two Central Committee Meetings in March and November, two Regional Consultations, and an Ecumenical Symposium for Students/Ministers in Training and triennially a National Consultation.

PROJECTS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF CUC

Theological Education and Training

In this regard, the CUC leaned over backwards, with Rev Paul Verryn facilitating, to facilitate conversations around cooperation, basic and on-going theological education (pre- and post-ordination), training that enhances theological intelligence and relevance producing quality ministers whose preaching and leadership will shape and transform society. The following are guiding questions to give shape to the conversation going forward:

(a) How do we train for ecumenical ministry?
(b) What implications for training, are presented in the acceptance of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification by Faith?
(c) What education needs to accompany our various practices and interpretations of the sacraments and ministry?
(d) How do we train responsibly in an African context? What important insights do we bring to the global theological discourse?
(e) How does Christianity relate, with integrity, to a multi-faith context?
(f) How do we equip our priests and ministers to engage with the prosperity cult biblically and theologically, in contexts of desperate poverty and marginalisation?
(g) How do we enable our clergy to manage finances and systems with integrity?
(h) How do we train in the skills of mediation and negotiation for a context that is consistently dealing with conflict?
(i) How do we enable clergy to understand the implications of a culture of human rights, so they can empower congregants to know their human dignity before the law?
(j) How do we train clergy to operate in a context of refugees and migrants? How do we equip them to anticipate the full range of issues inherent in communities on the move?
(k) How do we train counsellors to deal with an avalanche of ‘post-traumatic stress’ and all the associated sequelae?
(l) How do we equip clergy in a spirituality appropriate for the challenges of this century?

Hearings for Healing

South Africa continues to be riddled with unemployment, abuse of workers’ rights, violence, poverty, racial conflicts and other societal challenges. The work of the
Hearing for Healing, championed by Rev Paul Verryn, seeks to provide mediation and facilitate a process of healing towards justice, peace and revived hope for people and communities affected. Working with a number of NGO’s and legal bodies, the aim is to confront substantial trauma arising from the abuse of vulnerable people in both the present and the past.

Since the introduction of this work to the Central Committee in 2015, there is continued support to the Hearings for Healing championed by Rev Paul Verryn under the trajectory of the Development of Centres of Hope. A detailed report on this work is attached.

**JDDJ Discussions**
The focus of the Working Group has been discussions on Ministry, Apostolicity, Power and Authority. These four are viewed differently by the representatives from the participating Churches and steps are being taken to find the common ground on which all can build as well as the specific issues that might need bilateral discussions.

**Word and Worship/Woord en Fees**
“Word and Worship” has found an excellent partner in CLF and there is a wonderful opportunity for this product to be developed further. However a number of matters need to be clarified and important changes need to be made to maximise the use of this publication across the churches.

These include: A sub-editor in each of the denominations supplying writers for Sermon and Liturgical material and to follow up with writers from their denomination. At least ten writers from each of the denominations participating in the project, much closer co-operation with regard to the dates for material to be submitted for editing and the writers need to have a clear understanding of the format of the material provided. Too much time and effort is lost in having to format material received, without any reference to the templates that have been developed for ease of editing and publishing as well as support in marketing and distribution.

**Future Plans 2019-2021**

*Regional Consultations*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Date and Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West Coast Region</td>
<td>March 2019 in Cape Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo Region</td>
<td>August 2019 in East London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mpumalanga Region</td>
<td>March 2020 in Pietermaritzburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Igqili Region</td>
<td>August 2020 in Welkom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limpopo Region</td>
<td>March 2021 in Johannesburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Consultation</td>
<td>27-29 July 2021 in Johannesburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theological Education and Training Colloquium</td>
<td>(TBA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symposium for Students/Ministers in Training</td>
<td>In the week of prayer for church unity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship Conference</td>
<td>(TBA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proposals: The member churches Assembly/Synod/Conference receives the report and the budget aligned with strengthening the work of the 5 Trajectories. The member churches support the focused work of the CUC to the 5 Trajectories particularly by sending relevant representation to the work of these trajectories.
CHAPTER 7
EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY AND MISSION UNIT REPORT
Rev Purity Malinga, Unit Director

Introduction
“Teaching belongs to the essence of the church and therefore to the vocation of clergy. A church that neglects the function of teaching is a defective church, just as a church in which the gospel ceases to be preached in its purity or a church in which the sacraments cease to be rightly administered”. (“The teaching Ministry of the Church”: James D. Smart)

The mandate of the Education for Ministry and Mission Unit (EMMU) is to ensure that teaching of all Methodists happens, to enhance discipleship, vocation and passion for the gospel and to equip for lay and ordained ministries. Guided by the Conference theme of the year, “Shaping Tomorrow Today”, the Unit has occupied itself with the task of formation and shaping for involvement in God’s mission.

1. Objectives
Over and above the general activities of the Unit, the portfolio of Training for the Ordained Ministry identified the following as objectives for the period of reporting:
• Ensuring the uniformity and equity of the selection of candidates for the ministry process in the Connexion.
• Continued training and monitoring of the Probationer Mentoring Committees.
• Completion of the In-Service–Training Projects that cover all the possible years of Probation.
• Training of the Superintendents.
• Continuing Ministerial Formation and Review of Ministry.
• Training of the Synod Supervisors of Studies, IST Conveners and School of Vocation Conveners.

2. Achievements
2.1 Selection Process.
The expected competencies for those who are accepted as candidates for the ordained ministries in the MCSA are:
• Basic understanding of the Christian faith and the distinct Methodist doctrines.
• Ability to give an account of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and how this has shaped her/his life.
- Ability to give an account of call to the specific ministry and some understanding of what that ministry entails.
- Ability to express maturing character and readiness/willingness for further formation.

The School of Vocation Conveners are to be commended for their contribution to the discernment of the call process. Having urged the Circuit Superintendents to carry out their task of assisting in the discernment of the call as seriously and honestly as possible, we are witnessing an improved quality of understanding and presentations during the Screening process. We continue to urge the Superintendents to give correct guidance to those who seek to candidate for the ordained ministry. While people can candidate from The Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary (SMMS), attending the Seminary as a Private Student is neither the route nor the guarantee of entry into the MCSA ministry.

2.2 Probationer Mentoring Committees
The Unit Director participated in the continued training of Probationer Mentoring Committees in four Synods. The system is taking shape and it was exciting to witness the commitment to the process of the laity who are members of these committees. Many of them see their involvement as a ministry and as participating in shaping the future. Many Probationers have found the Mentoring Committees to be valuable spaces for support and for growth.

2.3 IST Projects
The In-Service-Training (IST) Programme remains central in the process of equipping Probationers for ministry. The Unit spends a considerable amount of money ensuring that probationers come together to reflect theologically on the theory and practice of ministry. The task of designing projects that ensure continuation of training between seminary and post seminary training has been completed. Eight Projects have been designed. The number of projects ensures that those who stay longer as Probationers (former SMMS Private Students) do not repeat projects. The ministerial skills that are enhanced though these projects are:
- Theological Reflection on contemporary issues.
- Spiritual disciplines
- Pastoral skills
- Exegesis, Preaching and Teaching skills
- Theology and Spirituality Leadership
- Ministry to children
- Personal Mastery

It has been agreed to collect and bind into booklets the best of the IST projects from each Synod, each year, to create resources for the future
generations as well as to encourage the Probationers to take their work seriously. A prize is given to a probationer whose project is the best among the best.

2.4. The Training of Superintendents
The training of those who are identified to be potential Superintendents has continued. The Connexional Consultations of the present Superintendents in the Connexion provided an opportunity to interact with Superintendents and to listen to the challenges they face. They were helped with understanding latest requirements and processes for candidature etc. This has highlighted the need for continued training and accompaniment, so that these “official heads of the church in Circuits” can carry out their tasks diligently and with confidence. It became clear that one cannot assume that what is recorded in the annual Yearbook is read or understood.

2.5. Continuing Ministerial Formation and Review of Ministry.
Conference 2015 directed EMMU in consultation with DEWCOM to work at the strategy for Continuing Ministerial Formation (CMF). The strategy proposed and endorsed by Conference 2017 links the CMF with the Review of Ministry process (L&G 4.79.1) which is supposed to take place twice a year. Out of the conversations at the Review, each active minister is expected to identify for herself/himself areas in which s/he needs to improve/empower self for own good and the good of the ministry. There was however, a recognition that the Review process had not been taking place in many Synods and Circuits. The Unit Director engaged in the training of the Review of Ministry facilitators i.e. the Bishops and where she was invited, of Circuit Superintendents. While there is a noticeable reluctance of some active ministers to improve themselves and to be accountable through the Review of Ministry Process, those who have gone through the process are finding it valuable. It is hoped that the facilitators will be consistent in the process until it becomes a norm.

2.6. Training of Supervisors, IST Conveners and School of Vocation Conveners.
The year 2019 saw many Synods appointing new Supervisors and to ensure understanding and uniformity in conducting EMMU business throughout the Connexion, training was held for all involved.

2.7. In ensuring the compliance with ministerial discipline and character of the Probationers in circuit, the Unit is guided by the Rubrics for Skills and Character Formation that have been adopted by the General Committee and received by every Probationer annually. These rubrics are published in the EMMU website and it is necessary to include them in this report for the good of all.
## Ministers in Training in Circuit (Probationers and Ordinands)
### Rubrics for Skills and Character Formation

| Caution                                                                 | 1) A failed IST Assignment, Exegesis, Trial Service, Theological exam for advancing to Ordination, Self assessment, Ordinands' Theological Exam or Ordination Assignment. [see Note 1 and Note 3]  
2) Evidence of Plagiarism in either IST Assignments, Exegesis, Trial Service or Ordination Assignment. [see Note 2]  
3) Resubmission of two consecutive IST Assignments, Ordination assignments or having to resubmit a total of two pieces of the required work in the same year.  
4) Late submission of assignment (IST and Ordination) beyond reasonable extension.  
5) Unacceptable behavior towards fellow probationers, guest speakers, or those in authority at the January seminar, IST meetings and Screening or Readiness committee’s (this includes late coming, disrespect, rudeness, and expressing any of the various “ism’s”)  
6) Being under the influence of alcohol or any other substance at the January Probationer seminar, January Ordination retreat, IST meetings, Screening or Readiness committee’s, Synod, or Ordination retreat.  
7) Receiving Category A rating in a Probationer Mentoring Committee (PMC) Report. |
|---|---|
| Warning                                                                 | 1) Accumulation of TWO cautionable offences  
2) Avoidance of recommended interventions issued by EMMU when cautioned. |
| Final Warning                                                              | Accumulation of THREE cautionable offences.  
1) A Cautionable offence while on Warning. |
| Discontinuance                                                             | 1) Accumulation of FOUR cautionable offences.  
2) A cautionable offence while on Final Warning.  
3) Failure to meet all the requirements for ordination within 7 years.  
4) Being found guilty of the breach of Discipline as per Laws and Discipline. |
NOTE 1: In situations where the Probationer/Ordinand has failed any of the components listed in No.1:
• She/he will be allowed to re-submit.
• In the case of an IST Assignment, if it was to be a communally determined assessment, the probationer is to re-submit by the end of the IST meeting. If it is to be solely assessed by the DSS or IST Convenor, the probationer will be given a week in which to re-submit from receiving knowledge of the assignment not being competent.
• In cases of other components the DSS and the District EMMU committee will determine the dates of re-submission – which should be before the July EMMU General Committee Meeting.
• If the re-submission is not successful it results in a failure of the Component and the rubrics fall into place.

NOTE 2: If a Probationer or Ordinand has submitted a piece of work in which there is evidence of plagiarism, the Probationer or Ordinand receives an automatic fail, with no option for re-submission.

NOTE 3: A failure of any of the required components listed in no. 1 and being under Suspension for any reason during the year, will result in one’s Ordination being postponed.

Gratitude
The Unit’s ability to fulfill its mandate depends on the working together of the EMMU General Committee, the EMMU office Staff and the Synod EMMU committees led by Supervisors of Studies. My gratitude goes to all these servants of God who have given a lot for the work of the Unit to be done. Your commitment and support has made it easy to deal with the challenges of the Unit. For me personally, working at EMMU has strengthened my faith in the God who calls us, frail human beings that we are, to participate in God’s mission! It has been my greatest challenge and joy at the same time, to participate in the discernment of that call, on behalf of the church, and in the Formation and growth of those who have truly accepted it!

To all Methodist people who support the EMMU financially, through the Ministerial Students Fund and other means – your generosity is always appreciated!

7.1 Received into Full Connexion
7.1.1. Conference 2019 received the following PROBATIONERS into Full Connexion and resolved that they be ordained:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dipali</td>
<td>Sam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dlamini</td>
<td>Philani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaven</td>
<td>Kholeka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gertze</td>
<td>David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gertze</td>
<td>Colin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujulwa</td>
<td>Milile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legodi</td>
<td>Gift</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lethale  Solly
Lilokoe  Thapelo
Mandla  Siyabonga
Mcinga  Thabiso
Mdubeki  Sipho
Mouton  Reggie
Msibi  Msizi
Mthembu  Thokozani
Mtiki  Xolelwa
Ndlovu  Senzo
Ngcayisa  Thembani
Nkosi  Tshepo
Pillay  Wesley
Saki  Mvusi
Seitshiro  Kelebogile
Thabethe  Theophilus
Tongo  Liyanda
Windvogel  Juliet
Zitha  Shirley

7.2  Preparing for Ordination 2020
7.2.1  Subject to satisfactory results as indicated in the Handbook for Probation the following PROBATIONERS are to prepare for Ordination in 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ciliza</td>
<td>Sakhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galela</td>
<td>Mihlali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mbelebele</td>
<td>Lwandiso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mbewu</td>
<td>Nombulelo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mdladlamba</td>
<td>Viwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mngomezulu</td>
<td>Thembi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mphatsoe</td>
<td>Dumisani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mtshaulana</td>
<td>Thembelani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mvinjelwa</td>
<td>Siviwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngwendu</td>
<td>Madodonke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Njameni</td>
<td>Aviwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nkosi</td>
<td>Noloyiso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ntombela</td>
<td>Siyabonga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senti</td>
<td>Mohau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songwiqi</td>
<td>Lifa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.2.2 Subject to satisfactory results as indicated in the Handbook for Probation the following **DEACONS** are to prepare for Ordination in 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boekhouer</td>
<td>Margaret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dugmore</td>
<td>Wendy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mchunu</td>
<td>Smanga</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.3 **Probationers**

7.3.1 The following **PROBATIONERS** will continue their ministerial training in circuit in 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Butelezi</td>
<td>Bheki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caluza</td>
<td>Mxo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyantyi</td>
<td>Luntu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwaxaza</td>
<td>Michael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James</td>
<td>Ludumo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kondlo</td>
<td>Lwazi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makgamathe</td>
<td>Boitumelo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maquena</td>
<td>Noeleen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masoabi</td>
<td>Mpumelelo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masola</td>
<td>Matheko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matanga</td>
<td>Lazola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mcqina</td>
<td>Nozipho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meloa</td>
<td>Sibusiso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memeza</td>
<td>Monde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mkula</td>
<td>Vukani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mngomezulu</td>
<td>Khulani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molosi</td>
<td>Loyiso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monnapula</td>
<td>Tshireletso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More</td>
<td>Sapelo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moroke</td>
<td>Matshane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moyake</td>
<td>Luzuko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mthalane</td>
<td>Nhlanhla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngwabeni</td>
<td>Mandisi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nokwindla</td>
<td>Andile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norman</td>
<td>Russell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ntatseng</td>
<td>Pereko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ntuli</td>
<td>Thamsanqa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poni</td>
<td>Zolani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qamata</td>
<td>Ntombise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samka</td>
<td>Asavela</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Setshedi Eric
Shabalala Sibongakonke
Vuba Thando

7.3.2 The following SEMINARIANS will continue their ministerial training in circuit in 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>Claire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botha</td>
<td>Charles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dlamini</td>
<td>Ntobeko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerber</td>
<td>Jaco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahlalela</td>
<td>Quiteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makanda</td>
<td>Vukile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masondo</td>
<td>Vuyani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mbusi</td>
<td>Mbo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mey</td>
<td>Anneli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meyer</td>
<td>Aletta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngwenya</td>
<td>Sithembile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nkwintya</td>
<td>Siseko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noah</td>
<td>Lihle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Grady</td>
<td>Damian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phulani</td>
<td>Thalita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qotoyi</td>
<td>Simlindele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silolo</td>
<td>Xolisani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor</td>
<td>Joe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thoabala</td>
<td>Phumelele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>van Wyk</td>
<td>Sarah</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.3.3 The following SEMINARIANS will continue their ministerial training at SMMS in 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atenesse</td>
<td>Constancio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fox</td>
<td>Gillian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jalubane</td>
<td>Nomnikelo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James</td>
<td>Harry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kula</td>
<td>Xolani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latsha</td>
<td>Thobekile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapapu</td>
<td>Xolisa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathutha</td>
<td>Linda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mtshezi</td>
<td>Mlungiseleli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mvimbi</td>
<td>Lungisa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nketho</td>
<td>Thobile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uys</td>
<td>Iain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.3.4 The following **DEACON PROBATIONERS** will continue training in 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fourie</td>
<td>Charmain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kunene</td>
<td>Nonhlanhla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mdaka</td>
<td>Nonceba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moodley</td>
<td>Sadhaseevan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motsepe-Masemola</td>
<td>Malekgotla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ndebele</td>
<td>Ntombie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyandoro</td>
<td>Patricia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sejanamane</td>
<td>Thabo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheasby</td>
<td>Christopher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tembe</td>
<td>Phanuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Templeton</td>
<td>Bruce</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.3.5 The following **ORDAINED MINISTER On-Trial** will continue training in 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Magxa</td>
<td>Valithuba</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.4 **Candidates for the Ordained Ministry**

7.4.1 **Full-time Itinerant** candidates received on trial who will commence/continue training at SMMS in 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atuahene</td>
<td>Effah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denere</td>
<td>Darell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hlutyana</td>
<td>Patrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madibo</td>
<td>Tlaeng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magengenene-Moyake</td>
<td>Linda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masiza</td>
<td>Akhona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modiselle</td>
<td>Aaron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mokoena</td>
<td>Puseletso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mtendeni</td>
<td>Ntombi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>van Wyk</td>
<td>Walter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.4.2 **Full-time Itinerant** Candidates received on trial as **PROBATIONER MINISTERS** who will commence training in circuit in 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Booi</td>
<td>Neliswa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mabida</td>
<td>Boldwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modiakgotla</td>
<td>Thepiso</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mqikela B-man
Myalwa Luis
Naam Ntombohlanga
Zide Siziwe

7.4.3 Candidates for the ORDER OF DEACONS received on trial who will commence training in 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>de Beer</td>
<td>Qinton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mbontsi</td>
<td>Nkosinathi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoai</td>
<td>August</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.4.4 ORDAINED MINISTER received on trial to commence training in 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gqoboka</td>
<td>Thanduxolo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.5 Candidating Process
No candidate aged 50 or beyond in the year of acceptance will be accepted.

7.5.1 Nominating Procedure
In order to be NOMINATED as a CANDIDATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT one needs to:
- Be a practicing Christian, committed to Jesus Christ
- Feel a clear call to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament
- Be a member in full standing of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa for at least 2 years.
- BE A FULLY ACCREDITED LOCAL PREACHER in order to be nominated.
- Have completed required credits as set out below at Diploma or Degree level from an MCSA approved institution.
- Have attended District School of Vocation for a minimum period of 1 year.

The MCSA requires the following academic courses. Please note: Candidates must have completed these courses before being nominated.

PLEASE NOTE: From 2021 The Higher Certificate alone from SMMS and TEEC will no longer qualify for candidating purposes. The following academic courses will also be required from the candidates who have the Higher Certificate.
Degree – TEEC
- Engaging with people pastorally and ethically (7002)
- Growing spiritually, thinking theologically (7003)
- Interpreting Texts. (7004)
- Exploring our Christian Foundation (7155)

or

Diploma in Theology – TEEC
- Getting to know the Bible (85100)
- Church History 1 (85130)
- Systematic Theology 1 (85240)
- Spirituality 1 (85250)
- Ethics 1 (85260)
- Practical Theology 1 (85370)

or

DIPPRACMIN/BTH SMMS
- Introduction to Old Testament (BIB 101)
- Introduction to New Testament (BIB 102)
- Establishing the Church (CHH 101)
- Introduction to Systematic Theology (SYS 101)
- Introduction to Christian ethics (SYS 203)
- Introduction to Proclamation (PCMM 105)

7.5.2 Ordained Ministers wishing to transfer from Other Churches
- All applicants for transfer must be able to serve the MCSA for at least ten years, including their years of training as MINISTERS on TRIAL.
- No application will be considered of people above 65 years of age, who apply to be considered Supernumeraries in the MCSA.
- The applicant’s denomination must be part of the traditional mission churches.
- Bishops send the names of applicants to EMMU no later than 31st July.
- The EMMU will send to the applicant the necessary forms to be completed and submitted to EMMU no later than 31st October.

All other procedures and requirements are the same as for candidates for Word and Sacrament.

Successful applications for transfer are required to complete a minimum of two years but not more than 4 years on trial and have to complete and participate in all aspects of probationer training.
7.5.3 **Candidating for the Ministry of Word and Service**

- No candidate aged 50 or beyond in the year of acceptance will be accepted
- Conference 2015 (Yearbook 2016, Par 2.43) resolved that the “Non-Itinerant category of the ordained ministry be discontinued in its current form and no new candidate will be received.” (see also Yearbook 2017, Par 2.8) However, deacons can still be accepted as **Full-time Non-Stipendiary**.

**In order to be NOMINATED as a CANDIDATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND SERVICE** one needs to:

- Be a **practicing disciple of Jesus Christ**
- Be a **full member in good standing** of the MCSA for at least 2 years
- **Have a sense of a divine calling to a Ministry of Word and Service**, and not a failed or thwarted sense of vocation somewhere else (e.g. Word and Sacrament).
- Have a **Senior Certificate or Matriculation (or equivalent)**
- Be an fully **accredited Local Preacher**
- Have attended **District School of Vocation** for a minimum period of 1 year
- **Have completed the following academic courses:**

  **Basic Certificate in Theology** (Khovo Bible School)
  
  *[[Mozambique only]]*
  
  - Introduction to New Testament (Part 1 and 2)
  - Introduction to Old Testament (Part 1 and 2)
  - Homiletics (Part 1)
  - Christian Life

  or

  **DIPPRACMIN/BTH SMMS**

  - Introduction to Old Testament (BIB 101)
  - Introduction to New Testament (BIB 102)
  - Establishing the Church (CHH 101)
  - Introduction to Systematic Theology (SYS 101)
  - Introduction to Christian ethics (SYS 203)
  - Introduction to Proclamation (PCMM 105)

  or

  **Diploma in Theology (TEEC)**

  - Getting to know the Bible (85100)
  - Church History 1 (85130)
o Systematic Theology 1 (85240)
o Spirituality 1 (85250)
o Ethics 1 (85260)
o Practical Theology 1 (85370)

or

**Bachelor in Theology (TEEC)**
o Engaging with people pastorally and ethically (7002)
o Growing spiritually, thinking theologically (7003)
o Interpreting Texts. (7004)
o Exploring our Christian Foundation (7155)
  - A completed qualification from a South African Qualifications Authority registered institution acceptable to the MCSA.
  - All other candidating procedures are the same as for Word and Sacrament.
  - **In addition**
    o The EMMU District Screening Committee forwards the approved applications to the Methodist Order of Deacon’s Convocation. Successful candidates must attend the Convocation to share their testimony and call to the diaconal ministry. The Convocation may make additional recommendations to Synod where necessary.

### 7.6 CandidateNominationProcedure

The Circuit Quarterly Meeting recommendation shall be in accordance with the provided **Circuit Quarterly Meeting guide AND the Superintendent’s evaluation report** (both these documents can be downloaded from www.methodisttraining.co.za).

“**Intention to Nominate a Candidate**” (can be downloaded from www.methodisttraining.co.za) must be submitted by Superintendent Ministers to reach EMMU **before 31 July**.

**Candidates’ forms** (Available for download from www.methodisttraining.co.za)
  - Personal information and **ALL** required attachments
  - School of Vocation Certificate
  - Detailed Self-Evaluation
  - Superintendent’s Report
  - Doctor’s Evaluation of candidate’s health
  - Police Clearance Certificate
  - These documents must be submitted to EMMU not later than 31st **October. Documents received after this date will not be considered.**
- **Theological competency and academic ability** will be assessed in the form of a written examination to be assessed by EMMU.

- **Vocational Readiness** assessed through screening done by a panel that comprises nominated individuals appointed by the District Bishop. It is mandatory that a person with experience in the field of Psychology be present within this panel together with a representative or representatives from the Connexional EMMU.

- **Conference 2012** directed that a person whose candidature has not been accepted for 3 consecutive years may only apply to re-candidate after a period of 2 (two) years.

- Applicants appear before their Synods to give testimony. The Synod recommends acceptance to the EMMU General Committee.

- Connexional Executive to approve the acceptance based on the recommendation from the EMMU General Committee.

- Individuals who candidate having completed a period of study at Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary prior to candidature, may be awarded a maximum of one year reduction period from the years of probation. This would result in a candidate serving a minimum period of four years on probation before being received as an ordinand, subject to having completed all EMMU requirements as stipulated in the Yearbook from time to time.

- Individuals who have successfully satisfied the candidature requirements for **Word and Service** will pursue their academic qualifications through TEEC.

### 7.7 Student Ministers

#### 7.7.1 Discipline Guide and Rubrics for Ministers-in-Training

Note: A comprehensive document of the disciplinary processes is available on our website [www.methodisttraining.co.za](http://www.methodisttraining.co.za) and in the yearly updated “Handbook for Probation”.

#### 7.7.2 Synod Examinations

*Required reading*

Tim Attwell and Dion Forster, *Exegesis for Preachers and Scholars*, (Four page pamphlet available from your DSS, EMMU or download from [www.methodisttraining.co.za](http://www.methodisttraining.co.za).

*Preparation for the Examination*

Read the 4 page pamphlet *Exegesis for Preachers and Scholars/ Teachers of the Bible*. Following carefully the exegetical method detailed in the pamphlet, prepare a 1000 word exegesis on the following passages:

**Deuteronomy 30:11-20**

**Luke 14:25-33**
In the exegesis you must use each one of the three “points of focus” in the pamphlet, and show how these three points work together. Most especially, you must show how the “living word” in the reading relates to your own context and to the broader context in Southern Africa.

This exegesis must be sent to the Synod Supervisor of Studies at least 4 weeks before the examination. The examiner will distribute copies to the members of the examining committee. Failure to meet this deadline will be recorded as a failure in the Synod Oral Examination.

The Examination
This will be in the form of a discussion among a group of Student Ministers and the committee. Student Ministers will be asked to explain how they did their exegesis, and then respond to the positions of others in the group. Marks will be awarded on the basis of:
(i) Preparation for the examination, as evidenced by the exegesis and the oral response.
(ii) The Student Ministers’ understanding of their own position.
(iii) Understanding and flexibility of response to the positions of others.

7.8 General Regulations
7.8.1 Probationer Mentoring Committee
For consistent support, encouragement, accountability and mentoring the Superintendent of a Circuit where a Probationer is stationed shall appoint a Probationer Mentoring Committee consisting of five (5) people including Leaders of the Society/Section/Circuit along with a Minister with whom the Probationer works closely.
• Unless there is a reason for change, the same committee is to walk alongside the Probationer until the ordination year or until s/he leaves the station
• A Minister will be the convener of the meetings and meet with the Probationer at least once a quarter
• The committee is expected to compile a minimum of two (2) progress reports annually (April and October)
• These reports should be signed by the Superintendent and sent to the Synod Supervisor of Studies

Internship:
(a) All itinerant Student Ministers in circuit, Ordained Ministers on Trial and Deacon Probationers shall be part of Internship Training. This involves 5 days in January (January Seminar) and 5 or more days during the year.
Trial Services:
It shall be standard practice for the Trial Service Committee to meet with a Student Minister or candidate to give constructive and helpful comments and for this to take place immediately, or as soon as possible, after the service.

7.9 Exit Procedure from Probation to Ordination
A Probationer under FINAL WARNING may not be advanced to ordination.

Only when a Probationer Minister has COMPLETED ALL academic requirements in the previous year and if the Superintendent of a Probationer Minister judges the Probationer

• Of sound moral and religious character,
• As believing and teaching sound Christian doctrine as held by the Methodist Church,
• As observing and enforcing our doctrine,
• And as having competent abilities for the work of an Ordained Minister in the MCSA,
• AND the Probationer having served the required minimum years on probation:

1. The PMC conducts an interview with the probationer and makes a recommendation to the April Quarterly Meeting.
2. The April CQM receives the reports then forward them along with their recommendation to Synod and EMMU, through the SSS.
3. The Synod Supervisor of Studies convenes a District Screening Committee before the District Synod, including members of the District EMMU Committee. This committee will review the Probationer’s Circuit Assessment and CQM recommendation and then interview the probationer to assess personal and spiritual growth of the Probationer.
4. The Synod Listening Committee conducts an Oral Examination of the recommended probationer in committee (not on the floor of the synod). This examination will assess the probationer’s understanding of Methodist doctrine and theology and will be set by EMMU.
5. Synods receive the names of all Probationers whose advancement is recommended by the Circuit Quarterly Meetings for consideration and recommendation of advancement by the District Screening and Listening Committees.
6. Probationer Ministers submit the required Assessment Documents (content to be determined from time to time) to EMMU, by 01 June of the year in which Synod has recommended their name for advancement to Ordination.
7. The General Committee of EMMU, having received all the reports
from District Synods, shall on the basis of such reports (through its Assessment Committee) make a recommendation to the Connexional Executive pending satisfactory end of year results.

7.10 **Preparation for Ordination**

- All candidates for Ordination shall write three assignments set by the EMMU in the year of their Ordination, and attend two retreats in January and September.
- Ordinands shall undergo a Theology Oral examination on the floor of the Clergy Convocation. EMMU sets the exam annually and forwards it to the Bishops prior to Convocation.

7.11 **Synod Supervisors of Studies for 2020**

- Cape of Good Hope: Rev Jenny Hillebrand
- Grahamstown: Rev Vuyokazi May
- Queenstown: Rev Andrew Els
- KNB: Rev Tshegofatso Mokgosi
- N. Free State and Lesotho: Rev Rowan Rennie
- Natal Coastal: Rev Kym Bishop
- Natal West: Rev Fiona Calvery
- Central: Rev Sva Waqu
- Highveld and Swaziland: Rev Thabo Shabalala
- Limpopo: Rev Sphiwe Madi
- Mozambique: Rev Maria Mucamba
- Clarkebury: Rev Kereng Matlawe

---

7.12 **Lay Training Report 2019**

**Rev Pumla Nzimande**, Co-ordinator for the Training of Lay Ministries

**Introduction**

The scope of the Lay Training portfolio encompasses the training of Local Preachers, the training of members of the Order of Evangelism and Education for Christian Service. EMMU continues to ensure that the training of Local Preachers, the training of members of the Order of Evangelism and Education for Christian Service is in line with the policies and doctrine of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.

The strategic establishment of a Lay Training Advisory Panel has created a pool for envisioning, strategising and implementation of programs. This ensures that there is always a number of people who are knowledgeable on the training, assessing and co-ordination of the training.
1. **Local Preachers' Training**

   The training of those aspiring to be Local Preachers within the MCSA is determined by the educational qualifications and capabilities of the preacher. Training for Local Preachers is therefore conducted through three avenues. Aspiring preachers with Matric or an equivalent must enrol for studies with Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary (SMMS) or study through the Theological Education by Extension College (TEEC). Preachers without Matric or an equivalent may only study through EMMU.

   All Local Preachers’ courses are offered via correspondence learning. EMMU remains the certification body for the awarding of the Local Preachers certificates upon completion of qualification and the stipulated EMMU requirements.

1.1 **The Competence Certificates**

   Over the past four years, EMMU in collaboration with SMMS has successfully rolled out various courses for the equipping of Local Preachers for mission and ministry.

   In 2016, the Higher Certificate of Competence in Ministry was successfully launched. This course is offered through the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary and is for preachers with Matric or equivalent. The course enjoys course writing, facilitation and marking by various Methodist Ministers and EMMU.

   In 2017, the Certificate of Competence in Ministry (CCM) was launched. This course is designed for preachers who hold a Grade 5 to Grade 11 (Former Standard 3 to Standard 9). The course enjoys a significant number of applicants. The facilitation, administration and management of this course resides with EMMU.

   In 2019, EMMU launched the Foundation Certificate in Ministry (FCM). This course caters for Local Preachers with no formal education up to preachers who hold a Grade 5. FCM is facilitated at Synod level by the LPD Secretaries and a Synod team. Oral examinations are held for FCM’s and are annually prepared by EMMU.

   All Local Preachers courses can be completed within two (2) years. The coordinator for lay training, Connexional Local Preachers’ Department Secretary and members of the Lay Training Advisory Panel continue to visit Synod gatherings in an attempt to support and orientate preachers on Local Preacher’s studies in the MCSA.

1.2 **Mozambique Local Preachers**

   Work has been done for Portuguese speaking Local Preachers who wish to pursue studies within the MCSA. Portuguese translations for the 1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} year subjects have been completed. We are indebted to Rev Maria Mucamba
Mahota and Rev Nelson Hlacate for their assistance with translations into Portuguese and for the marking of assignments. This course enjoys significant support from aspiring preachers in Mozambique.

1.3 Categories for Local Preachers' Studies

- Higher Certificate of Competence in Ministry (HCCM) – Grade 12 or equivalent (Former Standard 10), Offered by SMMS.
- Certificate of Competence in Ministry (CCM)-Grade 6-Grade 11 (Former Std 4-Std 9), Offered by EMMU.
- Foundation Certificate in Ministry (FCM)-Grade 0-Grade 5 (former Std 0-Std 3), Offered by EMMU and facilitated by the District.
- Higher Certificate – Grade 12 or equivalent, offered by TEEC.
- Diploma in Theology – Grade 12 or equivalent, offered by TEEC.
- Degree in Theology – Grade 12 or equivalent, offered by TEEC.

1.4 Translations

Translation work is ongoing. EMMU realises the strategic position of SMMS as pivotal to the completion of this work. The SMMS village has the wealth of theological minds that come from the various countries and Synods of our Connexion and are therefore proficient in multiple languages. EMMU has outsourced the translations project to SMMS and regular reports are furnished to EMMU with regards to the progress of this work.

The FCM Course is available upon request in isiZulu and SeSotho.

**Important dates for the Local Preachers Department (LPD)**

- Local Preachers department secretaries consultation for all Synod secretaries: 18-19 March 2020. All Synods are to send their LPD Secretary to this consultation to ensure smooth running of LPD business in their Synods.

2. The Order of Evangelism

The training of Bible Women and Evangelists is going smoothly, although the Order does not currently enjoy a huge intake. There are currently seven (7) Probationers who have completed their studies in 2019. These students were recognised at a Graduation service that was held on the 13th of July 2019 in Pretoria. There are four (4) second year Probationers for 2019. We have ten (10) candidates who will commence training in October 2019. The Order is also involved in the training of members of the Order from a practical and mission based perspective.

**Important dates for the Order of Evangelism**

- 11 July 2020 Graduation (Pretoria)
- 12-16 October 2020 – Training for 1st and 2nd year.
3. **Christian Formation**

The Co-ordinator for Lay Training continues to facilitate training events of discipleship, Methodism and leadership. This is done through engagements with Synods, Synod Annual Meetings, Organisations and Units. Attendance of the Annual Lay Leader’s Consultation has facilitated dialogue with various Synods on the training needs, and strategies implemented around the Connexion.

The engagement of EMMU with the Children and Youth Unit on the Children’s Ministry Curriculum has been a reminder that material produced and recommended by Units and Organisations must be theologically and doctrinally sound.

3.1 **Every Member in Ministry**

The compilation of the every member ministry booklet is complete and is available on the EMMU website.

3.2 **Confirmation Curriculum**

Resolution 2.1, Conference 2018

“Conference recognizes the work that EMMU has done regarding the confirmation curriculum. Conference directs EMMU to revise the existing material for our current context so that a standardized confirmation curriculum is accessible to all age and language groups within our Connexion.”

EMMU notes the diversity of our Connexion and the various contexts within which we exercise ministry. EMMU therefore seeks to offer a Connexional guideline on the basic components of a confirmation curriculum. It would be futile to speak of confirmation guidelines and not speak of the foundation years of the spiritual formation of a child.

3.2.1 **Children’s Ministry Curriculum**

EMMU notes that the MCSA has endorsed the “Feed My Lambs” Children’s Ministry Curriculum. Although various contexts utilise many other children’s ministry curriculums, it remains a necessity for the MCSA to invest financially in the publication of this resource so that it is readily availed to the contexts in our church that do not have the privilege of choosing from a variety of material. Confirmation can only be successful once the necessary foundations have been set in Children’s Ministry.

3.2.2 **Confirmation Resources**

Over the years, the MCSA has utilised various resources in an attempt to spiritually develop those who desire to publicly proclaim their faith. We continue to hold these additional resources and publications in esteem. We furthermore maintain that all material must be
theologically and doctrinally sound and in line with our Wesleyan ethos. We therefore caution against the usage of material that is not theologically and doctrinally sound for the people called Methodist.

3.2.3 **Age and Duration**

It has been the common tradition and practice within the MCSA to enrol young people between 15 years and 20 years old to confirmation class. It has also been a practice to enrol those who are 21 years and above to adult confirmation class. EMMU deems it fitting to not prescribe on the ages of those who will be received but to rather allow the Leaders Meeting to use their discretion in gauging the readiness of the individual for confirmation.

*Methodist Book of Order 3.7*, “If the Leaders’ Meeting declares any person On Trial to be unfit for membership, the Superintendent shall not admit such person. The guiding principles when the Leaders’ Meeting makes such a decision shall be those set out in para 3.2”:

“All persons are welcomed into membership who sincerely desire to be saved from their sins through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and show the same in life and conduct, and who seek to have communion with Christ Himself and His people by taking up the duties and privileges of the Methodist Church.”

The duration or period of confirmation classes is also left to the discretion of the Society/Circuit.

3.2.4 **Outcomes**

The desired outcome of the confirmation journey is to impart practical skills for growth in faith.

3.2.5 **Connexional Confirmation Curriculum**

It is imperative for those who have not been baptised to be guided accordingly so that by the end of these sessions, they are ready for baptism and to be received into the fellowship of the church. These topics are broad and they may be stretched into multiple sessions depending on the needs and the readiness of the class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Conversion</td>
<td>The student must be able to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Journey from past to present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Narrate their own story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>The Trinity</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>The Story of Salvation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>The Church</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Methodism</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Social Holiness</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sacraments</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Spiritual Disciplines</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. **Stewardship**

Gain an understanding of:
- The necessity of local church involvement
- Mutual accountability
- Respond by signing up to serve in a particular ministry
- Respond by commitment to support and partake in the life and ministry of the church

It is to be noted that the above work is on-going and will culminate in the creation of resources that confirmation leaders can utilise in the facilitation of confirmation classes.

7.12.1 **Local Preachers' Training Requirements**

It is important to note that a person wishing to apply to become a Local Preacher in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa must be a member of the church in good standing for at least two years.

We strongly urge circuits to appoint Supervisors of Studies to liaise with EMMU and also to initiate learning events for the preachers in the circuits.

EMMU relies on the integrity of the individual and the circuit for preachers to register according to their academic qualifications. The probation period is at least two years but not, except in very special circumstances, more than three (3) years. Refer Methodist Book of Order p.148, para 12.7.3.

7.12.2 **Local Preachers on Trial with an Educational Standard below Grade 6**

**The Foundation Certificate in Ministry (FCM)**
- The Foundation Certificate in Ministry (FCM) is a two-year course offered by EMMU for Preachers with no formal education up to those who have Grade 5. This course is designed for people who are 60 years and older. Such preachers will be examined orally, once a year. Registrations taking place in June/July each year.
- FCM Candidates shall be registered with EMMU, with proof of age. An exemption to do FCM for people who are below 60 will only be granted on provision of the following: an affidavit, a written declaration, relevant medical report in the case of learning difficulties or impairment and a Superintendent’s motivation.
- The District LPD (Local Preacher’s Department) Secretary
becomes the course facilitator at District level. He or she may call on the services of other ministers to assist. The LPD secretaries may form regional study centres with facilitators. They may also call upon other ministers to assist them especially when there are language barriers.

- FCM registrations must happen through EMMU for the purpose of records and control.
- The registrar then forwards a list of registered preachers per District to the District LPD Secretaries.
- At least two contact sessions must take place per Semester. The form and shape of these sessions will be determined by the District LPD Secretary after a careful consideration of the number of students received and the distances to the meeting centre. An attendance register must be kept.
- FCM utilises the same study material as CCM. A course schedule will be drawn up. This schedule will clearly stipulate the areas that must be covered for FCM.
- The course material will only be given to the LPD Secretary and regional study centre facilitators at their request.
- The course assessment will be an oral examination which will take place at District Centers in the presence of an EMMU official.
- FCM candidates will be registered with EMMU before the 30th of June each year and will be examined during May of the following year.
- An administration fee is payable for each candidate. Circuits can obtain the necessary Study Guides for each year from the Unit.

Local Preachers on Trial with an Educational Standard between Grade 6 and 11

The Certificate of Competence in Ministry (CCM)

- The Certificate Of Competence in Ministry (CCM) caters for people with Grade 6 – 11 (old Standard 4–9).
- The CCM Programme will take 2 years with students registering for 4 courses per year, two courses per semester.
- Only one assessment of 100% per course will apply for the CCM level.

Year 1 Semester 1
BIB 101 (Introduction to the Bible/Scripture)
THEOL 101 (Introduction to Christian Theology)

Year 1 Semester 2
DEV 101 (Introduction to Community Development)
WES 101 (Wesleyan Studies and Spirituality)
Year 2 Semester 1
BIB 102 (Old Testament Theology and Exegesis)
BIB 103 (New Testament Exegesis)

Year 2 Semester 1
PCM 101 (Introduction to Homiletics)
CHH 101 (Introduction to the History of the MCSA)

Registration Logistics
- Registrations take place twice a year per semester for semester 1 in December/January and for semester 2 May/June
- Application Forms can be downloaded from the EMMU website www.methodistraining.co.za
- NB: No course readers will be available to students unless full payment for the course is made.

7.12.3 Local Preachers on Trial with an Educational Standard of Grade 12 or above

Higher Certificate with TEEC

First Year
45000 (Introduction to Theological Study Skills)
45111 (Introduction to the Old Testament)
45121 (Introduction to the New Testament)
45241 (Introduction to Theology)

Second Year
45251 (Introduction to Spirituality)
45261 (Introduction to Christian Ethics)
45378 (Christian Proclamation: Preaching)

Wesley Studies through EMMU

Please Note: This qualification must be completed in its entirety and not just selective courses.

A higher certificate can also be obtained by distance education from the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary.

SMMS students do not need to register with EMMU for Wesley Studies as this component is covered in the SMMS syllabus.

Diploma Courses with TEEC

First Year
85260 (Ethics)
85370 (Practical Theology)
86378 (Proclaiming our Faith)
Second Year
85240 (Systematic Theology 1)
85250 (Spirituality 1)
85100 (Getting to know the Bible)
Wesley Studies through EMMU

Degree Courses with TEEC

First Year 7002 (Engaging with people pastorally and ethically)
7372 (Proclaiming our faith)

Second Year 7003 (Growing spiritually, thinking theologically)
7004 (Interpreting texts: Biblical and other sources)
Wesley Studies through EMMU

DIPPRACMIN/BTH Courses with SMMS
BIB 101 (Introduction to Old Testament)
BIB 102 (Introduction to New Testament)
SYS 101 (Introduction to Systematic Theology)
SYS 203 (Introduction to Christian Ethics)
PCMM 105 (Introduction to Proclamation)
Wesley Studies through EMMU

Wesley Studies registration with EMMU FROM NOVEMBER
with a CLOSING DATE of 28 February each year. Registration
forms obtainable from EMMU or can be downloaded from our
website www.methodisttraining.co.za

7.12.4 Local Preachers' Certificates
To be received on Full Plan (Accredited)
The following documents need to be submitted to EMMU by the
Circuit Superintendent:
Application for a Local Preacher to be Accredited (download
from www.methodisttraining.co.za)
- Assessment of Trial Service (download from www.
  methodisttraining.co.za)
- Copy of ID document
- Copies of results for ALL Local Preachers’ studies
- Although every effort is made to issue certificates once a month
  there will be periods when it is logistically not possible to do
  so.
- There is no cost involved for the first issue of a certificate.
- Certificates are posted to the Circuit Superintendent.
- EMMU do not issue certificates on the request of individual
  preachers.
Long Service Certificate
EMMU only issue certificates of Long Service for 25 years and 40 years. The following information must be submitted to EMMU by the Circuit Superintendent for these certificates to be issued:
- Copy of ID document
- Copy of LP Certificate or a copy of the inscription in the Bible given to a preacher when accepted onto Full Plan
CHAPTER 8

SETH MOKITIMI METHODIST SEMINARY REPORT
TO CONFERENCE 2019

Rev Vuyani ‘Vido’ Nyobole – Interim President

1. Introduction
The year 2019 marks our 10th year of forming transforming leaders for Church and Nation, and we celebrate the faithfulness of our LORD Jesus Christ during the past decade. Over the past decade much has been accomplished despite the many challenges, traumatic experiences and changes in leadership that have characterized its life. We give honour and glory to the LORD Almighty for those who have passed through the doors of SMMS, since its establishment, to serve the church and nation.

This report is a brief overview of how the SMMS ‘Village’ has tried to fulfil its purpose during the period under review. It highlights some of the achievements, challenges and future plans. More detailed information can be viewed on the Seminary’s Facebook, Newsletters and website (www.smms.ac.za).

2. Highlights and Achievements
2.1 Learning Programme
The learning programmes continue to comply with the accreditation and registration requirements as stipulated by the various education authorities. SMMS has recently been re-registered with DHET up to until 31 December 2025.

SMMS offers the following five (5) fully accredited and one (1) non-degree internship programmes:
- Higher Certificate in Christian Ministry (Distance) – Level 5
- Diploma in Practical Ministry – Level 6
- Bachelor of Theology Degree – Level 7
- Bachelor of Theology Honours Degree – Level 8
- Masters’ Degree: in partnership with UKZN – Level 9
- Formation Internship Programme – a combination of non-degree purpose courses and practical components

Of the 300 students registered for the Higher Certificate first semester 2019, 45 learners are using the Online Module schooling platform as their model of distance learning.

2.2 Graduation
As is customary in the life of the Village, the Graduation Ceremony was preceded by the Peter Storey Annual Lecture in recognition of the prominent
role he played in the birthing of the Seminary. This year’s Lecture was delivered by the well renowned speaker, author, theologian and activist, Revd Dr Frank Chikane.

This was the largest graduation hosted by SMMS with the following numbers to note:

- Higher Certificate in Christian Ministry: 96 Graduates
- Diploma in Christian Ministry: 10 graduates
- Bachelor’s Degree in Theology: 17 Graduates

2.3 Academic Staff

The Seminary has a total of 7 faculty members who hold PhDs and 6 with Masters Degrees, with 4 members holding honorary lecture and research appointments at University of KwaZulu Natal.

The Institution remains thankful to the full time and adjunct lecturers who often go beyond the call of duty to ensure the delivery of quality programmes.

2.4 Students Enrolment

During the last ten years, the Seminary has registered 402 students, 289 of whom have graduated with Diploma/Bachelor/Post Graduate degrees, 132 of whom were sent by the MCSA. The latter number excludes the first intake of 36 students who studied and graduated through TEEC.

The following statistics reflect the current number of students:

- Total registered RESIDENTIAL students: 114 (2018:111)
- Total registered DISTANCE-LEARNING students: 300 (2018: 327)
- Private/Conference sent:
  - **2019**: 41 are Conference sent and 67 are Private and 6 are UCCSA-Private.
  - **2018**: 43 are Conference sent and 56 are Private and 12 are UCCSA-Private

All distance-learning students are regarded as private students.

The following table reflects the number of Conference sent seminarians from 2009 to 2020 which is a matter of concern should the declining trend continue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Conference sent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.5 **Field Education Ministry**

As part of the Field Education programme, seminarians are exposed to agencies and ministries in the community such as hospitals, correctional service centres, early childhood educational centres as well as home visits to the elderly. Strong partnerships with surrounding Circuits and Organisations makes this possible. Seminarians have to spend a certain number of hours in these agencies and thereafter complete a portfolio of evidence that testifies to this exposure.

The Formation Unit has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Kairos ministry as well as EMMAUS for the purposes of service to the community and deepening of personal spirituality. To date, many seminarians have participated in ministering to the inmates in the prisons of the KZN Sevontein and Westville. Those who have participated have received acknowledgement of participation and attest to the life-transforming impact of these experiences.

We are thankful to the wider Methodist community for their support for all seminarians. All 114 seminarians were allocated for Easter placements throughout the Connexion. This not only exposes seminarians to practical experience of ministry, it also offers to Circuits some agency during one of the busiest times in the Christian year.

2.6 **Vocational Intensive**

In responding to the Presiding Bishop’s call of “Shaping Tomorrow Today”, the Vocational Intensive program of 2019 was focused on the Godly Play Core training for ministry. The Godly Play deals with spirituality of childhood and how to minister to children. All participants received international accreditation as Godly play facilitators, an accreditation that they will have for a lifetime.

2.7 **Archives Centre**

On 27 January 2019, as part of the opening service of the new academic year, the Rev Dr Simon Gqubule Archives were dedicated to the glory of our living Lord by the General Secretary of the MCSA, Rev Charmaine Morgan.

The Archives are now open to the public three days per week on appointment. The primary function of the Archives is to serve the teaching programme and mission of the seminary by meeting its information and research requirements. Donations of manuscript collections, personal papers and historical documents from friends of SMMS, are welcomed. These gifts will enrich the Archives’ collections, helping it to document the history, heritage and influence of the Methodist Church.
2.8 **Staff Appointments**

2.8.1 **President**

It is a great joy to report that the Board, after a prolonged, exhaustive search, has finally appointed Dr Rowanne Marie as the new SMMS President with effect from 1 August 2019.

Dr Marie is currently SMMS Academic Dean. She was the first staff person to be appointed and has functioned in various roles since then, including acting as a President in severely trying times in the life of SMMS.

She has a proven leadership track record and has helped the institution navigate through the complex Higher Education regulatory framework, thus ensuring its continued registration and compliance.

She is the architect and driver behind the Honours degree in Christian Leadership. She is a highly respected scholar, researcher and writer whose is passionate about gender justice and ministerial formation issues. Her appointment will take SMMS to greater heights.

2.8.2 **Financial Officer**

The Board had early this year appointed Mr Hennie Storm as the Financial Officer as it deemed it important to build internal capacity in order for it to fulfil its fiduciary responsibility as well as develop the necessary controls.

Mr Storm has already made a huge impact in this role and has taken up some of the administration tasks. He has already implemented stringent controls to reduce spending and clear the budget deficit and also brought the accounting system in line with the Institution’s organogram to simplify financial controls and reporting.

The Seminary is extremely grateful to the General Treasurer and the MCO Finance Unit staff for their management of the SMMS financial affairs, aligning them to good governance principles as well as their accompaniment and support of the current SMMS finance unit staff.

3. **Challenges**

3.1 **Long-term Sustainability**

The short-term and long-term sustainability of the Seminary remains a huge challenge.

The Finance unit is constantly exploring opportunities of:

- Sourcing additional, sustainable funding to ensure at least a break-even budget;
• Attending to structural maintenance of the buildings; and
• Raising funds/ongoing support for feeding approximately 120 seminarians at an annual cost of about R600 000.

3.2 SMMS “Students’ Village”
SMMS is expected to provide an environment where seminarians experience transformation and demonstrate their growth into transforming leaders. It is also to be a setting in which their progress is manifested, monitored and tested. Community life forms the seedbed where transforming leaders are groomed, nurtured, equipped and appraised. In the light of this objective, the campus life ought to provide a setting whereby seminarians are close to one another so as to learn from each other and care for each other.

The residences are therefore not just places of rest after a day’s work. Life in the residence offers to seminarians a practical setting that favours the optimal exposure to transforming experiences and provide various constant opportunities to manifest their progress and growth into transforming leaders.

Inasmuch as the Seminary and the Church are doing their best to cater for accommodation needs of seminarians, there is a feeling as expressed by the Natal West Synod suggesting that some seminarians are accommodated in substandard living conditions.

An even more challenging situation comes from self-funding private seminarians who are the majority at SMMS. These are obliged to make their own arrangements to secure accommodation wherever they can afford it which is in most cases not favourable.

It is with this in mind that the seminary is exploring the possibility of establishing a “Student Village”.

Options under consideration include the following:
• Renovate/repair Texel flats and re-locate the conference appointed seminarians back to Texel. (Transport needs should be assessed);
• Re-zone the Isabel Beardmore properties and construct (in phases) a “Student Village” with accommodation for single and married students. This option requires raising enough Funds;
• Sell Texel or/and Waalhaven to fund the “Student Village” project.

3.3 Recreation Facilities
For a healthy and balanced life, seminarians need to be physically active. The limited facility available on SMMS campus does not allow space for sports and recreation. The realisation of the “Student Village” project could bring a solution to this urgently needed facility.
3.4 **Providing Meals for all Seminarians**

The seminary has taken a leap of faith in undertaking to provide one nutritious meal a day to both Conference sent and self-funding seminarians. This is not only a way of demonstrating care for those seminarians who could not afford a meal, but also a way of encouraging fellowship and unity on campus among seminarians coming from different backgrounds. SMMS budget, however, does not cover the expenses related to these compassionate meals.

A number of individuals, Circuits and Organisations have generously contributed to support this benevolence project. Such assistance is highly cherished and appreciated. The efforts to sustain the provision of a meal to seminarians need to be multiplied and all those who would wish to partner with the seminary in this projects are welcome. The sharing of the ‘daily bread’ is central to the SMMS Village ethos where transformation is modeled and experienced.

3.5 **Discipline**

The Seminary sees its role, amongst other things, as that of enforcing the teaching and observation of our discipline which includes mutual accountability and watching over each other with love. To this end our seminarians are shaped for ministry through activities and engagements such as the Chapel, Field Education Ministry, Church placements, Vocational intensive, observation of spiritual disciplines, internship programmes, monitoring of their behaviour etc. These have proven to be invaluable in the making of transformed and transforming leaders.

4. **Future Plans**

4.1 **Students Village**

Investigating options for a “student village” in collaboration with the MCO. This may necessitate the re-zoning of some of the Church /Seminary owned residential properties, drawing up of plans and raising funds for the project.

4.2 **Transport Needs**

In order to ensure the effectiveness and success of formation programmes, the Seminary needs reliable transport for seminarians’ field education and placements. The vehicles the seminary presently owns are not sufficient for staff and student needs. Options are being explored to expand/overhaul the fleet.

4.3 **Strategic Conversations**

Management and Staff have since November last year been engaged in Strategic Conversations by:

- critically reflecting on year (2018), identifying areas of excellence and areas needing improvement;
• reviewing previous organisational diagnostic and strategic planning documents, combining it with current thinking and envisioning the future;
Based on the above interactions, deliberations, the Management team was able to develop strategic objectives for each unit. These inputs will in due course be refined and consolidated into a long term Strategic Plan/Business Plan.

4.4 Visiting Scholars
The General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) has assigned 2 missionaries to SMMS as per the covenantal partnership GBGM has with the MCSA. They are Rev Dr Wesley Magruder and his wife, Leah and Mrs Hesed Lim. Dr Wesley Magruder who will serve in the Academic Unit is a Methodist Minister with a PhD in Homiletics and Mrs Hesed Lim, also a Methodist with vast experience in social work, will serve in the Formation Unit. They are assigned to SMMS for the next three years.

5. Conclusion
5.1 Appreciations
5.1.1 Methodist People support
The Board of Directors and the Seminary Community want to register their sincere appreciation and deep gratitude to the Methodist people, Circuits and organisations for the generous monetary, material and prayerful support. All these confirm the conviction that Theological education is an extended family affair. No amount of words can fully convey Seminary Community’s gratefulness.

5.1.2 Seminary Staff
The Board is grateful to the Seminary staff for their ‘can-do-it’ attitude and their dedication. Without their servant hearts, sacrificial giving of themselves and hard work, the Seminary would not have been able to be where it is today.

5.1.3 Interim President: Rev Vuyani (Vido) Nyobole
The Board and Seminary Community extend their gratitude to Rev Nyobole for his excellent leadership and tireless efforts over the past 18 months as the Interim President. Rev Nyobole was sent to the Seminary on an accompaniment plan and had journeyed with the Community up until the recruitment of a new President. He leaves a legacy of faithful service, selfless dedication, and great wisdom, teaching the community about the importance of “keeping the main thing the main thing”. We recognise and appreciate the sacrifices of his dear wife and family during the periods when he was away from home. Having fulfilled the mandate of the Methodist Church, we wish Rev Nyobole a restful and a blessed retirement.
6. **Governance Structure**
   The Seminary engaged in a thorough process of streamlining its Governance Structure in accordance with the Companies Act, thus fulfilling the necessary criteria. As such, the Seminary functions with a 3-tier governance structure, namely the Trust, the NPC and the Board of Directors.

7. **Natal West Synod Resolution**
   Response to the attached resolution from the Natal West Synod is covered in the report (*vide*: 3.2 and 4.1)

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE STANDARD OF SEMINARIAN ACCOMMODATION AT SMMS**

Given the provision of accommodation for Seminarians through the initial purchase of Waalhaven and Texel flats in Alexandra road. It has come to our attention that these premises have subsequently been rented out to other institutions and Seminarian accommodation has been moved to converted residences bordering or close to the Seminary.

The Natal West Synod wish to raise concern over the current seminarian living conditions.

(1) Residential homes have been converted into student housing without planning permission or neighbourhood consent.

(2) The living space is of a low standard for single students and inappropriate for married couples and families.

(3) These in-house ‘apartments’ are not conducive to a studying environment.

The Natal West Synod requests that the viability and legality of these new residences be investigated and reported to conference.

Synod Decision: Carried  
Synod Vote For: Unanimous  
Against:  
Neutral:
CHAPTER 9

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT REPORT TO CONFERENCE 2019

Mrs Bonginkosi Moyo-Bango, Unit Director

Media used to be one way. Everyone else in the world just had to listen. Now the internet is allowing what used to be a monologue to become a dialogue. I think that’s healthy.

The Internet is allowing us to get back to what’s really more natural, which is that storytelling is a shared thing. It’s our natural way to be communal.

Joseph Gordon-Levitt

The internet is everywhere and widely used. The best and most effective aspects of technology are those which people actually use effectively. Digital citizenry is not a technology conversation but a people conversation. Digital is where most of our (young) people are and we need to devise more innovative ways of reaching them there. Some of the questions we need to begin to grapple with as a church include how we as a church, can use technology to unlock human potential? How can we take advantage of the communities that already exist online and on applications we download to our phones and computers (like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and WhatsApp) to fulfil the mission of Christ? Communication systems in the 21st century change at the blink of an eye and it is up to us to become contextual while maintaining relationships and ecclesia.

In shaping tomorrow today, communication tools need to be better used in the church to create trust which is the currency of relationship; to establish credibility and reliability. Through profiling our people and the work that is taking place throughout our Connexion we may be able to regain our voice and credibility as Africa’s hope for transformation and healing. Church is people and not buildings, and people trust people not organisations. Through technology and the internet, we need to devise ways of creating experiences that involve the engagement and full participation of our people.

The New Dimension
At the end of last year we were forced to say goodbye to Cindy Doubell who has been designing the newspaper for over eight years. We have since secured the services of new designers but have been experiencing serious teething pains that have contributed to the late delivery of the paper to our valued readers. We have also had a debilitating drop in the number of articles coming through to us from the press officers in the various Synods. This has a negative impact on the quality and diversity of content we publish.
We have, to a great extent been able to maintain our subscriber database but have witnessed no growth. This is concerning especially when weighed against the rising costs of producing the paper monthly. The production costs of a 16 pager are approximately R43 234.90 with an expected monthly income of R82 977.64 should every subscriber pay. To curb these rising costs, we propose that rather than a monthly newspaper we cut back to six copies a year or a quarterly and focus more on online publication of events and stories. We encourage writers out there, both clergy and lay to consider contributing to the New Dimension monthly. We appeal to all journalists who are also Methodists to assist with reporting in their Societies, Circuits and Synods.

We are excited to present a bound copy of the New Dimension representing the last ten years of the publication. This is an important part of our history and heritage.

**Website**
Because we are a recognised brand and have earned our stripes we rate quite highly in search engine rankings. Despite the fact that social media pages and applications are gaining in popularity daily, websites add stature to an organisation and helps one to be taken seriously online. Our website has a lot of very useful content and we continue to add to this. The most popular documents our users download include the Book of Order and the Year Book.

**Social Media**
Although there has been growing respect in the use of social media – we noted with dismay the number of people who ‘leaked’ Synod results during the Presiding Bishop elections. This was unfortunate and immature behaviour. Although we understand the need to keep our members informed, there are instances when due process needs to be followed and sometimes this takes time. Jumping the gun may potentially discredit the validity of the process. We continue to urge both laity and clergy to desist from sharing confidential correspondence on social media platforms. Not only does this expose individuals to public ridicule, it also damages the church’s reputation and the legitimacy of our processes, especially where discipline is concerned.

We encourage all Synod Communications and Public Relations personnel to send us event posts and pictures via WhatsApp (0027 781315137) so that we can keep our social media pages relevant and up to date.

**Hymn App**
We are pleased to announce the launch of our Connexional Hymn App. This App is not a replica of our hymnbooks but rather a unifying tool that contains the most popular hymns in over 5 languages. This is a tool that greatly emphasises our Connexionality and can be used most effectively during Synod and Connexional events and gatherings. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ms Xoliswa Kakana, a member of the Bethesda Methodist Church, who through her company,
developed the app, initially for Bethesda but then decided to make it bigger and relevant to the wider church and has donated it to church. Her company will continue to maintain and update the app for us. The Methodist Hymns App can be downloaded free of charge from the app store. We are grateful for this generous gift that brings us firmly into the 4th Industrial Revolution.

**Promotional Items**
The MPH is going through some re-configuration and part of that will include a concerted effort to ensure that MCSA branded merchandise is sourced and sold at our shops. Currently some of our branded merchandise, including our new, gold embossed hymn books and our Methodist Heritage Bible can also be purchased from reputable bookshops and outlets such as CNA, PNA and online via Take a Lot.

**Synod Communication Teams**
The Communications Unit requests that all Synods set up Communication Teams whose responsibility it will be to collate Synod related event articles and share them with the Connexional Communications Team. The rising costs of travel and the vastness of our Connexion make it impossible for the Connexional Communications Team to cover everything themselves. We are however cognisant of the importance of sharing the good news of what God is doing in the different parts of Southern Africa as a means of reinforcing our Connexionality and becoming a Christ healed Africa for the healing of nations.

**Gratitude**
The Communications Unit and Advisory Board would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Presiding Bishop Siwa who for the last couple of years has been the Chairperson of the Units’ Advisory Board. His wisdom has been invaluable in keeping the Unit afloat and viable. We will miss his fatherly advice, love, humour and professionalism. We wish him Godspeed in his retirement.
I would also like to extend thanks and appreciation to the General Secretary, Rev Charmaine Morgan, who over the last 5 years has kept us on the straight and narrow. Her administrative competencies have challenged all of us to be and do better. We wish her well in her new appointment.

Thanks and appreciation also go to Edward Irusen, the Unit Accountant for keeping us accountable; Jodene Louw for keeping the Unit running; Roshan Ajudia for his willingness to share his IT and website knowledge, Vanessa Peters for the work she does on the Ministers’ Newsletter (Another Dimension) and Bongekile Mncube for her help with bulk communications. None of all that we are able to achieve would be possible without the contributions of all these committed members of MCO staff.

“Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report ... think on these things.” Philippians 4:8
CHAPTER 10

METHODIST CHILDREN AND YOUTH UNIT REPORT
TO CONFERENCE 2019

Rev Simphiwe Mthembu, Co-ordinator

We give thanks to the Almighty who has enabled us to table the Children and Youth Unit Report for the year 2018-2019. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Rev Malinga on her election as the Presiding Bishop, together with all the female Bishops nominated by their Synods. This shows that our church takes transformation seriously. The Presiding Bishop declared at the 2018 Conference, that the church will be “Shaping tomorrow today”. As proactive youth, the theme for the 2018 Connexional Youth Conference was: “Together creating a Youth and Children centred church through Grace and Love”. We hosted the 2nd Wesley Guild Connexional Consultation under the theme: “Agents of healing and transformation for radical consciousness”. This year we have added a subtheme “Advancing Children and Youth Centered Church as we Shape Tomorrow Today”.

The focus of this report will be on these three items: (a) Administration, (b) Mission work across the Connexion, and (c) Matters of interest to the youth.

Administration
The section refers to statistics and any operational issues that have to do with the Unit. It is encouraging that more Synods are collecting and reporting membership statistics. The first critical administrative challenge is the lack of follow-up on Resolutions and tasks assigned by CYC to different teams. The result of this is that the work remains incomplete. It is not all bad, there are positive strides being made at the same time.

The Unit is now aligned to the Book of Order. This alignment was followed by the name change of the Unit. The alignment and amendment to the Appendix 6A have been done and these will be sent to the Revision Committee. CYC 2019 has agreed that the Unit should have a full time Director as outlined in section 8.10.4 in the Book of Order. This should be in effect by 2021.

The Wesley Guild Constitution was implemented with a number of Synods having successfully elected executives and some electing this year. CYC received proposed amendments from various Synods. Following rigorous debates, certain amendments were agreed to. These will also be sent to the Revisions Committee for reworking and approval. We must commend all those who have put in the effort and worked on the amendments. We must continue to pray that this process is a smooth one and that it grows the unit rather than kill it.
The finances were tabled before CYC by the Treasurer and the youth raised a couple of concerns as the audited financial statement were not signed by the relevant stakeholders at MCO due to being received late from the auditors. Another concern was that the auditor’s report did not state their opinion.

Another administrative items that were before CYC was the Young Adult Movement (YAM) document which has been adopted as a working document of this entity and to be used as their guideline.

Report on Mission Work
This part of the report outlines mission work done by Synods. Such work cannot go unnoticed and it’s a sign that the youth and children of this unit are really committed to the vision and mission of the church. Important to note is also the fact that some Connexional gatherings have committed some time to mission work. This can be attributed to advice and support given by MCYU leaders from different Synods and we are truly grateful for the support from Synod Executives.

Spirituality
Synod reports on this pillar highlight revivals, Bible studies, camps, conventions, workshops and even consultations as activities done by Societies, Circuits, regions and even Synods to grow and maintain the spirituality of children and young people of this Unit. We must encourage each other to always find ways to deepen our spirituality. Across the Connexion, children and young people are preaching and worshipping in ways that they are comfortable with while retaining Wesleyan teachings. This year saw one of the Circuits having all the preachers of the seven words of Jesus on the cross being young people; we can only hope this is a beginning of similar things happening across the Connexion.

Evangelism and Church Growth
There are quite a number of Synods that have introduced more youth and child friendly methods of doing church. In return membership is retained and new members are attracted. Sport ministry remains one of the ways of evangelising for both children and youth and should be encouraged in all districts. Also encouraging is seeing young people forming partnerships with ecumenical movements and other congregations. After all if we as Christians cannot stand together we face a greater force as individual churches.

Human Development and Economic Empowerment
The situation of unemployment in the country is still quite a big challenge and those affected are not only young people but our members as well. The children and young people of the MCSA are not just sitting back and doing nothing. Partnerships with government and other stakeholders have been formed in some Synods. Career expos, CV writing workshop and interview skills training are some of the activities Synods engage to empower the membership. Some Synods have formed their own YEE
desks to try and assist entrepreneurs with their start-ups. Graduation ceremonies and motivational talks are also activities that are done by Synods to empower the children and young people.

**Education and Christian Transformation**
Synods are establishing education and mission funds and this must be commended with the current economic situation across the connexion. More Synods are using “Feed my Lambs” as the preferred syllabus for Children’s ministry and others are using alternative ways and tools to teach the children. As part of educating the youth, some Synods are having different dialogues and debates on issues like mental health, sexual orientation and financial wellness. Other efforts are directed towards assisting Grade 12’s with NSFAS and university admission applications. One of the highlights from Synods is having homework centres to assist the learners and this is not only for the members of the church but the entire community.

**Justice and Service**
The youth and children of this Connexion are actively taking part in fighting against injustices suffered by women and children. Some of these injustices are not just reported statistics but directly affect us all and our members are victims of violent crimes, femicide and all kinds of abuse. Young people of the MCSA are making their voice heard and they are saying “it stops with us”. The elderly and the vulnerable are at the centre of efforts by different Synods to not only protect their lives but their dignity as well. Donations of stationery, sanitary towels and many other needs of the vulnerable form part of Synod’s agendas.

**Gratitude**
We would like to thank all Synods that have opened their doors to host Connexional events for this year; we hope others will also do so in the upcoming years.

**Conclusion**
The work of youth and children still needs attention in the MCSA and this would be helped by all of us coming together and doing all the work that is due.
CHAPTER 11

HUMAN RESOURCES UNIT

1. Introduction

1.1 This report focuses on the work of the Human Resources Unit and seeks to give an overview of how the strategic focus areas of the Unit are translated into action and deliverables. The Human Resources Management within the MCSA has evolved, hence the Unit has applied great expertise and knowledge in handling all Human Resources Matters for the Church. Key to this role has been its continued focus on bringing the MCSA’s values and beliefs to life through a long-term vision for the HR function, and specific commitments underpinning that vision.

1.2 We began 2019 without the Director, since the retirement of the previous Director, Rev Dr VC Mehana who had served on a ‘pro bono’ basis. No appointments have been made and the HR Committee took a decision to revisit the HR Strategy and restructure the role of the Director before further appointments are made.

2. Overview of the Work of the Unit

2.1 Restructuring of the HR Unit: The Unit, with the assistance and guidance of the Connexional HR Committee was tasked with re-defining the role of the Director and structure of the Unit. The HR Sub Committee on restructuring sees the work of HR in the Connexion as a vital role. Regarding the need for a Director, the subcommittee is clear that a Director is required who can participate in the senior leadership of the Church as Unit Leader.

The Director would be responsible inter alia, for:
Facilitating the development and implementation of the HR Strategy in line with approved policies, practices and programmes; Ensuring compliance to Labour Relations/Employment legislations of the Countries of the Connexion; Tracing and analysing HR best practice; Coordinating Staff recruitment, selection, induction and performance management systems.

Furthermore, the profile of the Director has been modified. The Human Resources Committee propose that a Director is required for the Unit. This position is to be part-time; 15 to 20 hours per week is recommended. This proposal was endorsed by the Connexional Executive in June 2019.

2.2 Amendment of Employee Handbook: The Unit has amended the MCSA Employee Handbook with the addition of the Retirement policy. The purpose of this policy is to affirm the normal age of retirement for all Lay
Staff of the MCSA in line with the Pensionable Age of the Lay Staff Pension or Provident Fund. The handbook is obtainable from the Unit and is for the use of all Lay Staff of the MCSA.

2.3 **Organisational Design:** The Unit engaged the services of Emergence Growth to look into organisation design of the Methodist Connexional Office with the aim of ensuring that the Office is able to meet the needs and service the Connexion. Organisation design is the holistic process of reshaping an organisation structure and roles. The process was concluded at the end of January 2019 and a report presented by Emergence Growth. Implementation of the recommendation is an ongoing process, which also resulted in the closure of the Durban Office.

2.4 **Gender Policy:** The Unit, with the assistance of HR Committee and legal advice has drafted a gender policy. At this stage it is a work in progress; further consultations with gender specialists are still to be done and the work will be completed by the end of the year 2019.

3. **Conference 2018 Resolutions:**

3.1 **Wellness Policy Feedback**

*Conference endorses the Wellness Policy as proposed by the Human Resources Unit to Conference 2017 and refers the Synod responses to the Human Resources Unit for amendment and implementation.*

The HR Sub Committee on Wellness has reviewed the responses from Synods 2018 and looked at the comments from the Synods regarding the policy and deliberated on them. The committee agreed that the policy is too long as one document and therefore there is a need to separate the policy and procedure manual into two separate documents as follows:

1. MCSA Wellness Policy
2. MCSA Wellness Procedure Manual

3.2 **Harassment Policy**

*Conference 2018 resolution (review concerns raised by Synods with regards to implementation and the policy protocols and amend policy accordingly).*

The Unit has requested some legal advice with regards to the Harassment Policy to ensure that all loopholes are covered and to address concerns. The policy had been amended by the legal experts and the Unit will consider the changes made before the policy is presented to Conference.

4. **Other Activities**

The Unit continues to assist on quite a number of HR related matters. The Unit also services all the Units at MCO on a day to day operational Human Resources Administration.
5. **Appointment of Connexional HR Committee**

The Presiding Bishop convenes the Connexional Human Resources Committee, which comprises individuals who are experts and professionals in the field of Human Resources Management who have voluntarily offered their time and expertise to the MCSA. The Unit therefore proposes that Conference appoints or re appoints the following members for 2020:

**Presiding Bishop – Chair**
1. Rev Prof Stephen Hendricks
2. Rev Vusi Vilakati
3. EMMU Director
4. General Secretary
5. HR Unit Director
6. Ms Lwethu Madi
7. Lay Training Co-ordinator
8. Dr Stanley Arumugum
9. Ms Nombasa Hlathi
10. Ms Laurie Less
11. Ms Thobile Dlamini
12. Ms Ankie de Boer

6. **Conclusion**

We thank God for all the work done by the Unit and that which we aspire to achieve. We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Presiding Bishop, General Secretary, HR Connexional Committee and all colleagues at MCO for your prayerful support as we discharge the responsibilities given to us by the Methodist people.

“Everyone has inside them a piece of good news. The good news is you don’t know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is.” – Anne Frank
CHAPTER 12
MISSION UNIT

Rev Musi Losaba, Unit Director

Introduction
The story of the MCSA concerns that which is mission oriented. Our genesis was a response to the call of God in the lives of those who sacrificed all and followed, those who left it all and trusted in the God of Mission. As the MCSA is about to celebrate 200 years of Mission work, linked to the story of the 1820 Settlers which brought both transformation and pain to the lives of the indigenous people within and beyond our connexion, the church gives thanks to the kenosis we have seen throughout the years from the people of God.

This period reminds us of the unsung heroes and heroines who rode on horseback, on bicycles, and walked the hills and the mountains, the plattelands and the semi-deserts of Southern Africa spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. The story of Methodism is incomplete without their stories. These stories are not found in libraries, but in the hearts and minds of the people. It is a history that contributed to the healing and transformation of Africa through mission and ministries such as education, health, farming skills, communication, community etc. These initiatives shaped the structures for the church. They helped in implementing the Missio Dei which we are participating in in our endeavour to shape tomorrow today. The following are the responses to the work of God the Mission Unit has been involved in through and with the local church. Included is the progress made to the work reported at Conference 2018.

1. **Semonkong Children’s Care Centre – SCCC**
   The Mission Unit and the Northern Free State and Lesotho Synod still work together in making sure that the vision of Conference of resuscitating the ministry to children and youth is realised. The centre continues to care for children between the ages of 6 to 18. A Director for the SCCC has been appointed and this is already showing positive signs for the centre. The centre still has long and short term challenges to overcome. The “Come and See” approach can help us overcome these. Methodist people are urged to visit the centre and partner. We also like to express appreciation for the contributions made so far from all corners of our Connexion and friends of Semonkong, local and international.

2. **Chaplains in Institutions of Higher Learning**
   The Mission Unit organised a seminar in 2018 to look at this ministry and how we can make it effective and efficient. This was followed by a consultation in 2019
with the Methodist Students Societies across the Connexion. The consultation involved the Connexional and regional leadership of MethSoc and the Children and Youth Unit. These gatherings resolved that a wider consultation is needed that involves all stakeholders, both ecumenically and with interested Institutions of Higher Learning.

The United Methodist Church General Board of Higher Education (UMC GBHEM), under the Directorship of the Rev. Prof. Stephen Hendricks, the Mission Unit’s Education Desk Coordinator, is organising a wider consultation to take place in September. Conference will receive a full report on this work in 2020. Conference is requested to continue supporting the work of the ministers stationed in Institutions through the Stipend Augmentation Fund.

3. Conversations on Inner City Mission
Our work in the Inner City needs the support of the church. The MCSA needs to put in place a guide or tool to assist churches in contexts that are similar in nature to Inner City Mission circuits. The conversation also needs to look at other situations that are asking for fresh expressions for mission. The Mission Unit decided to postpone the work it had committed to do this year until 2020, due to the intense workload of the Mission Unit Director including the Connexional Shaping for Mission Enablers and assisting in the birthing of new Synods.

4. Methodist Relief and Development Fund
The church would like to thank the Methodist people across the Connexion for their self-emptying love when faced with situations of need. The local church, mission groups and individuals have done us proud. The challenges we had to respond to revealed to the MCSA that we need a strategic implementation plan for our response to situations of need. We must also look at ways in which we can grow the relief and development plan. The Mission Unit is in conversation with the Methodist Church in Britain (MCB) All We Can programme, and the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe Methodist Development and Relief Agency to look at holding an Africa Methodist Relief and Development summit. This will be sponsored by the MCB.

5. Regional Consultations
The Connexion hosted three to four Consultations which excluded countries other than South Africa. Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia, Botswana and Mozambique will have their own consultations in the year 2020. The Consultations help the local church connect with the vision, mission statement and platforms of work of the MCSA and assist the Synods to scan the context they serve. In the process, areas of focus are identified and mission initiatives are embarked on. The vision is to create a booklet that will speak to the Connexional response to social ills and challenges.
6. Evangelism and Church Growth.

The Mission Unit is working on an Evangelism and Church Growth conversation for 2020. It has become evident that the MCSA is no longer as strong as it used to be in the field of evangelism and church growth. According to the membership statistics, the MCSA is generally not growing as of 2015 to 2017. The evangelical campaigns that are held across the Connexion seem not to be assisting in growing the church in terms of new converts. We seem not to be placing our footprint in fast growing areas across the Connexion.

CHILDCARE DESK

The Church has to be actively involved in actions that create a transformed future, especially in the real-life issues of young people. The Presiding Bishop has said that our action and inaction will shape tomorrow. The message comes at a time when Methodists are overwhelmed by cries of mothers, fathers, caregivers, brothers and sisters at the abuse, trauma, pain, hurt, and deprivation experienced by our young children. As a church, we long for a future where young people are equipped with skills necessary to access life opportunities and where children feel that their contributions towards this goal are valued and accommodated.

We encourage conversations among children and young people to be champions against all forms of abuse and violence. It is wrong for the Church to cause children to deviate from God’s will, to take a wrong turn and miss life’s target. This occurs when behaviour modelled to our children and youth is incongruent. I believe that if the Childcare Coordinator stands firm on all matters which can be detrimental for the present or future potential of children, the church will be contributing to the reduction of vulnerability and the risks children face. In this way, I believe when the Church listens critically, it can play a significant role in shaping tomorrow today.

Parenting in God’s way

The book “Let the children come” is a resource for Children’s Ministry Practitioners, seminaries and parents/caregivers. This book is now available in a revised format.

Challenges faced by most children

There are many challenges when it comes to raising children. Parents/caregivers are overwhelmed by work, unemployment, toxic relationships and strained parenting skills. Research has shown that only 38% of children live with both a mother and a father. Boys growing up with absent fathers are more likely to display hyper-masculine behaviour, including different forms of aggression, crime, addictions and be involved in unhealthy relationships. Girls with absent fathers tend to display low self-esteem, risky sexual behaviour, teenage pregnancies or unhealthy relationships with the opposite sex. 65% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes. Southern Africa, with the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS orphans has led to a growth of “child-headed families”. The Young Men’s Guild is taking up this challenge at their
2019 Triennial held in Thaba ‘Nchu. However, we all need to take on the task of reducing vulnerability of both boys and girls as a church.

Being privileged to be in the company of children and young people has allowed me to listen with, whilst at the same time passing the baton to those working with children at Circuit and Synod levels, shaping and informing universal African values to mentor and form new leadership, for a different generation. Young people and young adults of our church are yearning for adults to teach, mentor, guide and support them in knowing and discerning what is right and wrong.

Opportunities
Fighting abuse head-on; in the nine years of the existence of the Childcare Desk, all mission entities have made positive strides towards becoming safe, child friendly and sensitive churches.
To fight abuse, violence and impact patriarchy we need to:
• Create safe spaces and build supportive and stimulating environments for children,
• Build capacity to engage children on sex education,
• Enable participation with children in education, discussions and creativity,
• Have joint conversations on equity, social norms, social and human capital, value of people, their potential and dignity, both males and females, and
• Break the silence.

MCSA Youth and Child Care Centres (Children’s Homes)
Methodist Children’s Homes across the Connexion continue to serve the best interest of all children whom God sends to them. All directors and staff at the centres do their best to ensure that children receive the best care, love and support, often at the cost of the staff’s personal lives. A young man stood up at the 100 years celebration of the Epworth children’s home and said “All I wanted is go to university. With the courage, care, support of the house mothers, fathers, youth and child care workers, I not only attained my dream, but I encourage all children in homes to fulfil their dreams because they are not the sum total of their present challenges or vulnerability. The children’s homes staff members are the people who know the worst of us and have endured our frustrations and anger directed at them. They are our heroes”.

Five children in our homes successfully completed Matric last year. Thanks to all who have made contributions through their gifts through the church’s Christmas Fund and other contributions. We need programmes which can provide long term livelihoods for those children who need practical skills and jobs. Strengthening independent living programmes, and enhancing children’s natural gifts could ensure life security for most children towards a different adulthood.
The Childcare Desk continues to journey with Swaziland Children’s Residential Care Centres, and Semonkong Children’s Care Centre (SCCC) in Lesotho. Most Homes face many challenges and struggle to meet and maintain norms and standards in the changing landscape of our society.
To date the following strides have been made to restore stability and reduce further vulnerability of children at Semonkong:

- The Interim board continues to see to the running of SCCC;
- A constitution was drafted;
- A new employment and code of conduct manual is in place.
- The SCCC has provisional registration from the Department of Social Welfare.
- The SCCC nurtures 39 children; three are in Form E which is equivalent to Matric in South African terms. Resourcing tertiary education must be explored with NFS&L Synod.
- SCCC has 7 staff members and will appoint a Social Worker.
- SCCC gained a highly skilled Centre Operations Officer, thanks to the special committee who dealt with the recruitment process.
- Thanks go to Rev January, the Maseru Superintendent, for pastoral and spiritual support.

**Understanding your church and its commitment to children**

The church heeds the call of the World Council of Churches to implement the commitment to children to create safe spaces and safe sanctuaries. The World Council of Church requested our participation in campaigns to reduce all forms of abuse and to ensure churches are safe sanctuaries for all children and youth. Some members of our church participate in different surveys and webinars. Learning and sharing about what other people and we are doing is not enough to address the issues society faces as there is increased violence on the roads, in schools, churches and in our homes. Churches should consider increasing training, workshops and hold conversations on spirit-changing and life transforming topics like abuse, safety, stewardship, covenantal care, acceptable behaviour and compassion.

**Future Activities of the Childcare Desk**

- Strengthen Independent living programmes for children in MCSA residential care.
- Contribute to the alignment of processes for children in the Sexual Harassment Clause.
- Work in collaboration with Trust Properties to address issues of safe spaces and compliance on catering for programmes such as ECD, after-school care and supporting safety stewards.
- Strengthen MCSA Volunteer programme protocols.
- Include and sensitize the church on the “Guidelines for Photography in the MCSA” (pg. 219 in the 2019 Yearbook) in the children’s care protocols and to children practitioners/facilitators in all children’s programmes.
- Circulate the draft ECD strategy as a working document; support the Synods which have ECD programmes, their registration and maintenance of quality care and education for all children in ECD sites through workshops and capacity building on safety and compliance and site management.
• Collaborate with Methodist Youth Unit in extending knowledge on child protection, safety and safe spaces.

JUSTICE AND SERVICE DESK

Disaster Intervention
Mozambique was severely affected by Cyclone Idai and is still in the process of recovery. We thank the global community as well as fellow Methodists for support and assistance. KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape were also affected by flooding which claimed human life and destroyed infrastructure. The impact of climate change and global warming cannot be underestimated and demands urgent attention.

Land and Agriculture
In January 2019, the General Board of Global Ministries convened an African Summit on the theme: “Multiplying Loaves” the Church and Agriculture in Africa. The Summit brought together scholars, clergy and laity to reflect on the growing need for agricultural development in Africa. It also highlighted the need to speed up efforts on land reform in Southern Africa and free up Church-owned land to address the scourge of food insecurity in the region. At present the MCSA and General Board of Global Ministries are in discussions to host a Southern African Summit on Agriculture in partnership with the Wesleyan/Methodist denominations in the region.

Research on Human Trafficking in the Southern African Region
The MCSA is concerned about the high levels of incidents of Human Trafficking prevalent in the Southern African Region and commissioned the Justice and Service Desk to conduct research, particularly in the towns close to the borders of South Africa.

Trafficking in persons is a multi-faceted, socio-economic, political and security phenomenon that is associated with the movement of people between and within national borders. It has seen labour, sexual exploitation and human rights violations as its consequences. Human trafficking is characterized by ownership, bondage and forced labour and is a sophisticated and transnational crime that is the source of major profits for organised crime syndicates.

South Africa has borders with six countries and each country has a number of land borders. It is widely accepted that porous national borders pose great risks for South Africa and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as a whole. The possibility of better economic prospects that South Africa offers within the region adds strain to the already ineffective border control mechanisms. Zimbabwe serves as a source country for many people trafficked in South Africa, while Mozambique serves as a source country of child sex trafficking for South Africa. Mozambican men and boys are mainly trafficked for forced labour on South African farms, while
women and girls from rural areas, lured to cities with promises of employment or education, are exploited in domestic servitude and sex trafficking. Networks of traffickers exploit the proximity of South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique and are alleged to bribe border officials to move victims between these three countries.

Lesotho serves as a source of cheap or unpaid labour in farms and homes in South Africa. Basotho men, who migrate illegally to South Africa for work in agriculture and mining, potentially become victims of forced labour. Basotho men are also favoured shepherds within rural areas of the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces of South Africa.

The borders between South Africa and Namibia present a particular challenge because Northern Cape Province of South Africa is the largest province of South Africa by landmass, and yet research on trafficking within the province is practically non-existent. In seeking to build up the body of evidence on trafficking in persons within the Southern African context, it becomes important that special attention be given to the Northern Cape.

The purpose of the research is to assist the MCSA in understanding the complexities relating to cross-border trafficking in persons, with a particular focus on communities that are closest to the borders of South Africa, in Southern Africa as well as identifying current gaps in relation to the prevention of trafficking in persons, the protection of victims as well as prosecution of perpetrators. It is envisaged that the findings from the research will serve as a basis upon which the MCSA can anchor its response to cross-border trafficking in persons. The research also serves to fill the knowledge vacuum that exists in Southern Africa relating to trafficking in persons.

Gender Based Violence: Transformative Masculinities

Sexual violence in Southern Africa is an epidemic. Many intervention strategies are aimed at empowering women due to the history of gender inequalities that are the reality of many African women. Unfortunately much of the focus has neglected the role of toxic masculinities and their effect on sexual violence.

A growing part of the work focuses on engaging with men to address the challenges of gender based violence. A seminar was held with probationer ministers in January 2019, which sought to begin the discourse on masculinity within the context of the MCSA. The objectives of the seminar were the following:

• Raising critical consciousness on masculinities in the MCSA,
• Reflecting on the nexus between masculinity and violence, and
• Promoting gender equity.

A manual on transformative masculinities has been developed that is currently being tested in a congregation in Johannesburg. The intention is to develop a manual that can be used by congregations across the Connexion in facilitating conversations on masculinities.
2020

Legalisation of Cannabis and Drug/Substance Abuse in Southern Africa
Noting the devastating impact of Drugs/Substance Abuse on all communities within the Southern African Region, it has become a matter of urgency for the Church to assist communities in addressing the scourge. The MCSA Conference 2017 passed a resolution in this regard and the Mission Unit hosted a Connexional multi-stakeholder consultation from 25 to 27 June 2019.

The purpose of the Consultation was:
1. To understand the meaning and implementation of the Appeal Court’s decision on the legalization of Cannabis;
2. To assist Conference to develop a comprehensive document to assist MCSA members;
3. To revisit the 2012 initiatives regarding the establishment of Come Back Mission (Germany) model of rehabilitation;
4. To revisit the Clarkebury and Grahamstown initiatives to establish rehabilitation centres.

Elections 2019
The South African Council of Churches (SACC), embarked on an election support project titled Electoral Integrity 2019. The project is spearheaded by Reverend Mzwandile Molo, Director of Community Empowerment and Agency Provincial and Local church liaison.

The Electoral Integrity 2019 project is an expression of the commitment of the SACC to the Promise of Post-Apartheid South Africa – The South Africa We Pray 4 campaign. It is part of Anchoring Democracy whose focus includes work such as democracy and constitution education; monitoring and overseeing electoral processes to secure peace; monitoring parliamentary processes; and being a vigilant eye for budget management and service delivery at all levels of government. The plan was to enlist the support of ward-based congregations, and using the local presence of churches and their organisational infrastructure, in collaboration with other existing non-partisan civil society organisations, to collectively supply the needed election observers to ensure that South Africa had credible elections that were going to be accepted by everybody as a true reflection of the will of the people. General elections will be held in Namibia on 27 November 2019 and Mozambique will hold presidential, legislative and provincial elections on October 15, 2019. We encourage Methodist people to actively participate in ensuring the upcoming elections are free and fair.

Refugees and Repatriation
South Africa’s asylum and refugee system is under pressure. In recent years, South Africa has become one of the top ten refugee-receiving countries, mostly from elsewhere in Africa. Quite unusually in the global south, it conducts individual refugee status determination, resulting in more than 90% refusals. The system itself is slow and inefficient and contributes to worsening levels of xenophobic violence.
and other forms of intolerance towards foreign nationals. Over 200 families have approached the KwaZulu-Natal Christian Council to request assistance with repatriation to the DRC. This requires much networking and lobbying between NGOs, FBOs and government organisations both locally and internationally to ensure smooth transition for those involved.

**Violence in Schools**
The escalation of violence in South African schools has led researchers to conclude that schools are rapidly and increasingly becoming arenas for violence, not only between pupils but also between educators and pupils. Schools are no longer considered as safe and secure environments, conducive for learning and teaching. Bullying has been identified as the most common form of violence. Research shows that learners perceive bullying, corporal punishment, vandalism, gangsterism and sexual harassment, respectively, as the most prevalent forms of school violence especially in high schools. This calls for a multi-stakeholders consultative forum to assist developing a strategy to address this nationwide concern.

**Health, HIV/AIDS and Drug and Substance-abuse Desk**
Shaping tomorrow today has become more urgent as we are faced with a range of demands to our mission. It is out of regard for our church’s mission statement of being called to preach in word and deed the transforming gospel of Jesus Christ, that we continue to make efforts as Methodists to touch and transform lives. The following health interventions, which took place during the past year, are an indication that far more can be done if we become intentional about God’s mission in the midst of all the needs that exist in our different contexts.

**2018 World AIDS Day Events**
These events took place across the MCSA Connexion from the first week of November until the first week of December 2018.

Seven Synods of the MCSA Connexion held successful World AIDS Day events at Synod level viz. Mozambique, Clarkebury, Grahamstown, Northern Free State and Lesotho, Natal West, Natal Coastal, Central and Kimberley, Namibia and Bloemfontein, while other Synods had events at society level. The KNB event was the highlight of these events, held at Thaba Nchu Methodist Church, where eight different mobile clinics were on site rendering services to the community on that day. They managed to screen 1318 people for different ailments. Natal Coastal brought the small town of Eshowe to a stand-still when they marched through the main street with placards of HIV messages, joined by both MCSA mission groups as well as ecumenical partners.

**The World Council of Churches (WCC)**
In August 2018, the MCSA was honoured by a visit by Dr Mwai Makoka, Programme Executive for Health and Healing at the WCC for the purpose of getting exposure to the
Chronic Treatment Church-based Pick-up Sites in Methodist churches in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng. His visit was to be the beginning of a growing partnership with the MCSA. Consequent to this exposure, the Health Desk Coordinator, Mrs Pearl Moroasui, was invited to the General Meeting of Global Non-Communicable Diseases from 1 to 7 November 2018, as a panelist representing the WCC on “The Role of FBOs in Community Health” hosted by WHO and UN at the UN Headquarters in Geneva. The practice of opening our churches to be centres of healing proves to be vital in our role towards the healing of nations and indeed other nations are learning lessons from the simple acts of mission we carry out in our communities.

**Health-Promoting Churches Handbook Development Workshop**

1-7\textsuperscript{th} March 2019

In January 2019, the MCSA was requested by the WCC Health and Healing Programme Executive to host one of the ongoing international workshops in pursuit of developing a manual which will assist faith communities to respond to health challenges. They have been holding workshops across the globe to get as wide an input as possible. The MCO hosted the South African workshop which started off with focus group sessions after the worship service at the Central Methodist Mission. This exercise assisted with gaining input from a congregation at local church level and the participation was encouraging. The rest of the week was devoted to construction of various chapters of the manual by the 12 participants who attended. The MCSA had five delegates participating at the workshop.

**South African National AIDS Council (SANAC)**

Mrs Pearl Moroasui continues to represent the Religious Sector at SANAC and participated in the Presidential Health Summit in November 2018. In partnership with the President’s Office she led the Religious Sector in coordinating the SA National commemorations of International TB Day on the 24th of March 2019 which resulted in the successful development of a tool that was used nationally in commemoration services on World TB Day. We applaud the two Methodist ministers, Rev Siviwe Waqu and Rev Moagi Sekhejane, who gave of their theological knowledge towards the production of this tool.

**SA AIDS Conference**

The Health Desk Co-ordinator attended the SA AIDS Conference in Durban from 17 to 20 June. The relationship between Non-Communicable-Diseases (NCDs) and HIV, Abuse of Human Rights with regard to the discrimination of “key populations” took centre-stage at this conference. However it has become clear that there is great need to once more go back to awareness-creation and education on HIV prevention, stigma and treatment.

**Interaction with Mission Partners**

The Catholic Relief Services, based in Pretoria, who are the Principal recipients of PEPFAR funding for Faith Based Organisations signed a funding agreement with the
MCSA as one of the PEPFAR Funding recipients for 2019/2020, renewable every six months starting in April 2019. The MCSA, through the Health Desk, is implementing this programme in eight District Municipalities which cover four MCSA Synods, viz. Central, Limpopo, Clarkebury and Highveld and Swaziland. We have a total of thirty-four projects doing implementation within these Synods and we support a total of 380 care-givers who are called “Community Advocates”. The programme’s core activity is to trace patients lost to follow up and link them back to treatment at their nearest health facilities with emphasis on men and adolescent girls. It further gives training to Community Advocates in operational skills. Special training is also given to faith-based leaders, traditional healers and traditional or municipal leaders for the support and promotion of the funded FOCUS programme.

United Methodist Evangelical World Mission Office in Germany (EMK) continues to be our faithful partner in mission through their funding of the MCSA Health Desk since its inception. This has been an outstanding gesture which has kept the very survival of this desk a reality. They have continued to fund it even this year.

Motsepe Foundation: This is one of our own local funders who does us proud by financially supporting the operational activities of the Desk, such as training and the World AIDS Day events. Without such consistent support from such partners we would not survive or be able to respond to our mission mandate in the Connexion.

MCSA Interventions
MCSA Synods continue to mobilise and coordinate health programmes on the ground as well as establish benefitting partnerships in their areas. Our gratitude goes out to all those who continue to maintain consistency and never get tired of educating and distributing information. We are forever grateful for such devotion and commitment to healing and transformation in our contexts. Activities carried out by Synods include, but are not limited to:

- Wellness and screening.
- Health talks to congregations according to health calendar.
- Candle-lighting services to sensitize and create awareness.
- Successful World AIDS Day Events – best platforms for partnerships.
- Appointment of Circuit Health Coordinators.
- Training of Trainers (TOT) on non-communicable diseases and Drug and Substance Abuse.
- Interventions in response to Drug and Substance Abuse are in place in five Synods, viz. Cape of Good Hope, Clarkebury, Natal West, Grahamstown and Highveld and Swaziland.
- Firm partnerships with Department of Health, Department of Social Development, MCSA Mission Organisations, and the business sector e.g. Shoprite.
- PEPFAR-funded programmes taking place from 2019-2020.
Methodists Against Substance Abuse (MASA) Consultation

In response to the Conference 2017 and 2018 resolutions on Drug and Substance Abuse, the Health Desk, in collaboration with the Justice and Service Desk, held a successful Connexional consultation aimed at getting an overview of the status of Drug and Substance abuse in the Connexion. The response was good and all the countries of the MCSA Connexion were represented. Stakeholders such as Come-Back Mission in Eldorado Park, Anti-Drug Abuse Association of Lesotho (ADAAL), and Benoni Methodist Church Anti-Drug Programme (who train using the Foundation for a Drug-Free World training material) participated. The interventions and experiences shared proved to be enriching and pointed the Connexion in directions which will be as diverse as the MCSA countries’ contexts are. The report is available.

Conclusion

A hearty thank you to our partners and funders. No work would even begin to happen without your support. No number of pages written can satisfactorily report the extent of work done on the ground. I wish to extend my gratitude to the Mission Unit Director and the Presiding Bishop who, in spite of their busy schedules, still find time to listen to our appeals, the Synod Bishops and Mission Secretaries for their support to our desks. Lastly but not least, I would like to thank the Health Desk Coordinators for being long-suffering against all odds. Without them there would be nothing for us to report. It is through the consolidation of these humble actions that the ‘word becomes flesh’ to the communities.

Education Task Team

Education in the six countries of the Connexion has faced tremendous challenges in ensuring that the rights of children are upheld, pending the availability of excellent teachers, sound curriculum, optimal school attendance, committed parent and community support. The Church has always been the prophetic witness but, in recent times, has grown silent when the people expected the church to challenge education authorities for displays of honesty, ethical behavior and upholding the highest standards of quality education.

The experiences of children in schools across the Connexion have been varied. In eSwatini and Lesotho, notwithstanding infrastructure challenges, we continue to receive reports of excellent academic performance. The recent floods in Mozambique calls for interventions to continue schooling as part of the relief efforts.

The resolution of Conference to make the child the focus for 2019 has been well received and several Synods have continued with the Mandela Education Initiative. District Education Coordinators have done well in working with education institutions and providing support to Circuits and Societies. The MCSA celebrates Education Sunday in the first week in February. This year it included using customized liturgies, local songs, and innovative children activities.
Methodist related and associated schools have once again produced excellent academic results, providing access to high quality education. We would like to see more children from low economic and previously disadvantaged sectors gain entry into these schools. No child should be denied access to education due to lack of finances. To this end, the leadership of such schools can make a difference and we would greatly encourage such noble decision making.

In South Africa, organised labour, in general, plays a determining role in schooling, the extent of teacher dedication and commitment and to a large extent the outcomes of Education performance. We would like to commend Ike Pila, from the North West Province, a dedicated Methodist, who was nominated the best Teacher in South Africa and represented the country at the UNESCO Global Teacher Award competition. There are further developments on a Teacher Educator Assistant project.

The UMC Global GBHEM Leadership, Education and Development (LEaD) Regional Hub has been set up in South Africa. The Connexional Convener of the Education Task Team, Rev Prof Stephen Hendricks, has been appointed as Executive Director for the Regional Hub in South Africa. The Regional Hub was launched by Presiding Bishop Siwa and Dr Kim Cape during October 2018 in Johannesburg. In early 2019 the Executive Director attended the 200 Bicentennial Celebrations of the UMC in Atlanta and presented a paper on Education and Mission in Southern Africa.

The Regional Hub, with the support from the MCSA, hosted the Joint Annual Conference Africa Association of United Methodist Training Institutions (UMC Methodist Seminaries) and the Africa Association of Methodist Institutions of Higher Education in Johannesburg in October 2018. At the same time we hosted the Francophone Consultation of all French Speaking Higher Education Institutions Annual meeting.

The infrastructure of schools needs critical attention and moves are afoot to engage external donors e.g. the World Bank in particular in the Methodist Schools in eSwatini. One of the ideas is to partner highly resourced Methodist Schools with less resourced Methodist Schools in the Connexion. District Education Coordinators continue to play a very critical role in the furtherance of Circuit and Society involvement in Education. This has been complimented by Mission Groups involvement where YMG and Manyano members are providing school uniforms, books and other needs.

An important aspect of education is the love for reading. A call has been made to get parents involved in the education of their children and in particular attending to homework sign-offs. The MCSA Connexional Coordinators for Childcare and Education are spearheading a joint effort in Early Childhood Development and after-care for children. The idea is to make church buildings available for children to come after school, where retired teachers can assist children with reading and writing. It is hoped that such Church centres can become ecumenical in nature.
Recommendations:
1. That Districts make more resources available to support the work of Education Coordinators;
2. That all Methodist churches become after-school care centres to give children support for their homework and reading;
3. That the MCSA sharpen its prophetic witness in Education.

The Mission Unit Advisory Board – Three-year Term (2019-2021)
1. Presiding Bishop or Bishop deputised.
2. Mission Unit Director.
3. Bishop Sidwell Mokgothu
4. Ecumenical Affairs Director.
5. Rev. Faith Whitby
6. Ms Sonia Tlhakanye
7. Mr. Azarius Muchanga
8. Mr. Lebohang Madibo.
10. Ms Yolisa Tashe
CHAPTER 13

METHODIST ORDER OF DEACONS

Deacon Douw Grobler, Warden

It is with great pleasure that I submit the following report on the Methodist Order of Deacons:

The Composition and Health of the Order
The MOD continues to show significant growth and currently has 42 deacons: 30 serving, 9 Supernumeraries, and 3 Candidates representing every synod in our Connexion. Where the function and role of a Deacon is understood and supported, they are proving to be an indispensable asset to the church, bringing to bear their vast and diverse skills, experience, and training to motivate mission and outreach.

Their role in mobilising ordinary church members to step out as mission volunteers, agents of change and committed disciples, cannot be underestimated and must be tapped into as a matter of priority if they are to:
- identify needs and opportunities for mission,
- structure projects, programmes, and interventions,
- mobilise resources from both the church and community,
- recruit and train volunteers,
- implement the activity,
- identify and appoint champions to head the activity,
- provide ongoing support, and
- seek to attain sustainability

all whilst continuously restarting this cycle for different needs identified.

To do this effectively they need support from their Presbyter colleagues and the Societies, Circuits, and Synods they labour in. For the most part, this has been forthcoming, and we take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude.

The diversity of the MOD is reflected by the 31 deacons who attended Convocation on 8th-12th April:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Profile</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Women</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Women</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Males</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Males</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coloured Women</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Although the above is an indication of huge progress made in transforming the Diaconate from what was – in essence, a white female expression of calling – is due to the growing awareness and understanding of the role of the Diaconate. What remains severely lacking is the element of youth – something best addressed at Schools of Vocation, and by Listening Committees, Superintendents, and CQMs.

The Work of the Deacons
Deeply immersed and active in outreach, upliftment and care, Deacons throughout the Connexion daily help ordinary members live out biblical teachings of love by offering practical opportunities of servanthood. Acting as catalyst, Deacons bring together resources and volunteers in well planned and structured responses to the needs of the communities and the societies they find themselves part of.

Preaching and teaching by the Deacons without fail carry the seeds of servanthood as they seek to invite, inspire, and welcome followers of Christ to a way of life – lived as a physical manifestation of His presence, justice, and love through Christian service.

Convocation 2019 saw a vibrant, enthusiastic assembly of deacons pack some 9 800 Feed-a-Friend meals that were sent to Mozambique as disaster relief. This exercise exposed delegates from every Synod to this simple yet effective and sustainable means of addressing severe hunger in our communities.

Interacting, Connecting, and Strengthening the Order
Through exchange visits and prayer-partnering with the British Connexion and fully represented at the World Diakonia Federation and Diaconate Region Africa Europe, whilst also interacting and partnering locally with Deacons from other denominations (Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran, etc.) we focus on sharing Best Practice to grow an energetic and Holy Order that serves to strengthen the MCSA in its mission to transform tomorrow today.

Challenges Faced
As is common to Deacons throughout the world, the challenge remains one of growing understanding of who Deacons are. The lack of understanding within the Church – clergy and laity – of the role of the diaconate and its application in modern day churches often leads to misapplication or marginalisation of Deacons. We aim to embark on a well-planned, multi-faceted campaign to grow understanding of and
support for this key component in the church by teaching, informing and giving exposure to the work done by this small but committed group of followers – called and set apart to serve.

Rest assured of our best efforts and continued drive to grow mission and glorify Christ.
Preamble
It is with humble appreciation that I present a report on the work of God in the Order of Evangelism. The report covers the period from the last Conference 2018. Being driven by the mission statement of “Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ for healing and transformation”, the Order of Evangelism is committed to the mission of God in serving God’s people through word and service, for people to encounter Jesus’ love and to grow in knowing Him. Many souls have been touched and won closer to Christ.

We note with appreciation the commitment and efforts by the Conference towards aligning the Order of Evangelism within the mission strategy of the church. The synergizing process of the two orders is a step forward for justice and in finding a mission role of the Orders in the life of the church. The current process of synergising the Orders is fruitful, and is a work in progress.

Issues engaged on with the Units
The Order is engaging with the EMMU on the issue of Candidature, acknowledging the introduction of the candidates at the Synod. However, we recommend a standardised procedure by all Synods. We thus request EMMU to develop a standardised Screening Questionnaire for candidates, in line with the Order of Deacons and Presbyters.

To further equip our Bible Women and Evangelists, we recommend that the EMMU training syllabus should include Experiential Mission Training and themes such as Contemporary and Specialised Evangelism, and Mission Shaped Church.

We are engaging with the Finance Unit regarding an improvement in the medical assistance of Bible Women and Evangelists. Having seen that the travelling allowance has been the same every year and petrol cost is accumulating on yearly basis, we request that the travelling allowance be set at R2000 per month.

Chapter 14: We note with appreciation the amendments therein made by the conference 2017 and 2018 (cf. Year Book 2019 chapter 4 page 122/123, clause 14.4.6 – candidature into the Order of Evangelism and Chapter 14, Order of Evangelism).

Stipends and Allowances (B/W and EV.) 2020: See the Finance Unit Report 5.4.3 and 5.4.12.2.
**Triennial Convention:** In line with the Resolution taken at the 2018 Biennial, the General Committee resolved that the Triennial Convention planned for 2021 be the last, and that the Triennial will revert to Convocation.

**VISITS: EMMU** – General meetings and training were attended. Cape of Good Hope and Central Synod were visited with an intention to support, work closer with Synods and to keep Synods appraised with Synergizing process.

**GRADUATION** took place on 14 July 2018.

**SMMS** – A donation was made of R10 000 towards a library resource. The intention is to strengthen relationship between Ministers and the Order to enhance exposure and passion for Evangelism.

**TRAINING**

**1st Year**
1. Introduction in Methodist Doctrine; Vision and Mission
2. Introduction Church Planting
3. Introduction Evangelism (New Ways)
4. Introduction Small Group
5. Introduction to Pastoral Counselling and Crisis Counselling

**2nd Year**
1. Pastoral Counselling and Crisis Counselling
2. Evangelism (Faith Sharing)
3. Methodist Doctrine
4. Church Planting
5. Small Group as tools of Evangelism

We acknowledge with thankfulness to God for an improvement in the number of candidates.

**Candidates – 1st Year 2019**
1. 0103 Jeremiah Yandisa BW
2. 0109 Chimowa Therence EV
3. 0115 Beukes Gwendaline EV
4. 0206 Manengana Xolani Patrick EV
5. 0218 Manxiwa Tabita BW
6. 0331 Macikilishi Nosandise BW
7. 0921 Pelele Paulinah BW
8. 0922 Khulu Mmatlalepule BW
9. 1127 Kgabi Nomvula BW
10. 1139 Malome Gaolatlhe BW
2nd Year 2019
1. 1005 Motaung Khethiwe Maureen, B/W
2. 1026 Dlamini-Gamede Nozipho, B/W
3. 1026 Kunene Delisiwe Phindile, B/W
4. 1028 Dada Hombakazi Pumzile, B/W

Graduands 2019
1. 0216 Johnson, Cecil Nkululeko, Ev.
2. 0218 Maqethuka Mteteleli Macdonald, Ev.
3. 0218 Tarrence Mosele, Ev
4. 0324 Hola, Neliswa Rosy, B/W
5. 0702 Mqadi, Welbu Lindelani, Ev.
6. 0911 Mahupela, Elizabeth Mokupi,
7. 0921 Tlhomelang, Elizabeth Modialapa, BW

2020 Diary
Synod Secretaries Consultation: 18–19 February – Emseni
General Committee: 09 June – Durban
Warden’s visit to SMMS: 8 October

Synod Secretaries
1. Cape of Good Hope  Rev M Buyeye
2. Grahamstown  Rev Z Mnkani
3. Queenstown  Rev C Mfuleni
4. Namibia
5. KNB  Rev M A Zenzile
6. NFSL  Rev TJ Kgotle
7. Natal Coastal  Rev J Mhlophe
8. Natal West  Rev AM Gwala
9. Central  Rev N Nomqolo
10. HISWA  Rev BM Manne
11. Limpopo  Rev RM Machola
12. Mozambique  Dcn Monica Tembe
13. Clarkebury  Rev TH Ntuli
14. Camdeboo
15. Molopo

Biennial President
Rev Tshidisho S Sibi

Appointment
The General Committee has appointed Rev J Adams as the Secretary for a further term of 3 years (2020 – 2023).
**Pastoralia**
We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have been called to higher service. “They did not receive the things promised, they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth” (Hebrews 11:13b). Words of comfort and sympathy are extended to the bereaved families for God’s presence and providence. May their souls rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Conclusion**
Despite the challenges we are faced with, we give praise to God for an amazing service offered by Bible Women and Evangelists throughout the Connexion. Our special gratitude goes to the Supporters (lay people who have a heart for Evangelism) of the Order of Evangelism for the incredible role they play.
CHAPTER 15

CONNEXIONAL COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAINCY

Bishop Jonathan Anderson, Convener

The Connexional Chaplaincy Committee exists to conduct and facilitate chaplaincy to the three arms of Security Services (SANDF, DCS and SAPS) in South Africa. The Committee has an important role to offer our chaplains pastoral care and to ensure that they remain accountable to the MCSA. The role of the chaplain in these contexts requires chaplains to exercise most of the vocational gifts that we would expect of the ordained, but these need to be discharged in contexts that are very different from the church environment.

Ministers who serve in these contexts have an important role in representing the church to the wider community. For this reason, it is important to ensure that they have the correct skill mix. Appropriately skilled ministers’ ought to consider whether their calling might be to chaplaincy. It is important that the difficult requirements of the various services are considered by each minister and that they follow the procedures set out in Chapter 15 of the most recent edition of the Methodist Book of Order.

Statistics and Recruitment
At present we have fourteen chaplains in the three departments including two new Correctional Services Chaplains (Rev Siphiwe “Phindi” Mabinyane and Rev Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi). For many years we have been under-represented in the SANDF and many have considered whether our ministers are overlooked for selection. Through SSCAB, the leadership of the Defence Force have indicated that they recognise this and that up to 40 vacancies will exist for Ministers within the next year. While we recognise that we will be unable to provide anything like that number, we encourage available ministers (under 40 years old) to let us assist them to apply this possibility.

Memorandum of Understanding between the MCSA and DCS
The long-awaited signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the MCSA and DCS was concluded. This took place at the Triennial Convention of the YMG in Botshabelo. The Department has expressed much appreciation for the participation of the MCSA on this matter.

SSCAB
Our participation in the Security Services Advisory Board has also been much appreciated. Evident is that this is leading to better opportunity for the church, and improvement of the relationship between the church and these Government Services.
**Extending Chaplaincy**
The value of the committee’s work relates specifically to the common realities and concerns of the three Government Departments involved. Chaplaincy to other institutions and structures remains quite different. The question may be asked as to why the work of the committee relates entirely to the South African context and not to the other five countries of our Connexion. Perhaps we need to ask why it is that Ministers of our Connexion have never been appointed to the corresponding areas of service in these countries.

**Retreat**
An annual retreat for Chaplains was held in November 2018 but, unfortunately only a small number attended. We will continue to invite our chaplains to attend as this event builds a sense of Connexionality and camaraderie between them.

**Committee**
We propose the following Committee to Conference:
- Bishop Jonathan Anderson (Convenor)
- Bishop Gary Rivas
- Bishop Sidwell Mokgothu
- Rev Nzingo Noto (Principal Chaplain SANDF)
- Rev Jacob Finger (SAPS)
- Rev Vuyelwa Legwale (DCS)
- Rev Raymond Keet (Secretary)
- Rev Charlie Wernich
- Ms Matsie Morolo
- Dr Mxolisi Xabanisa

We are left with two vacancies on the committee (for one minister who is not a chaplain, and one lay person). By Conference we hope to have recruited suitable people.
CHAPTER 16

CONNEXIONAL TRUST PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

Mr John Schorn, Property Officer

1. Introduction

The Connexional Trust Properties Committee (CTPC) has continued to meet on a quarterly basis and has made progress in dealing with some of the property-related issues facing the MCSA.

2. Membership of the Committee

It is with sadness that we report the passing of one of the members of the CTPC, Mr D Sipeliti, who was the Synod Trust Properties Secretary of the Clarkebury Synod. Mr PG Qokweni replaced him as Synod Trust Properties Secretary and as a member of the CTPC.

The Synod Trust Properties Secretary of the Cape of Good Hope Synod, Rev S McGuigan, indicated that he wished to stand down from the CTPC and he nominated Mr A Jordaan, a member of the Cape of Good Hope Synod Trust Properties Committee to represent him.

Rev J Rivas, who was an additional member of the CTPC with a legal background, resigned from the committee and was replaced by Ms A Tooley, an attorney from the Cape of Good Hope Synod.

3. Task Teams

3.1. Strategy

A strategy document was prepared and adopted by the CTPC (See Appendix A).

Two members of the CTPC and a delegate from the Highveld and Swaziland Synod visited Kenya to investigate church property models used by the Methodist Church, the Anglican Church and the All Africa Conference of Churches. A report on this visit is attached as Appendix B.

Arising out of these activities, a resolution is to be submitted to the Finance Unit Executive and subsequently to CE and Conference, in which the management of property and the establishment of viable institutions/businesses to generate income for the MCSA through the development of the already existing “Property Company”. This will require investment in staffing and resources for the establishment of a viable operation. A further
aspect of the resolution will propose that the development of properties, where developers have shown some interest, should be actively encouraged.

3.2 Revision of L&D and Preparation of Manuals
A revision of Chapter 10 of L&D, which included regulations for the leasing of properties and clarification of the role of Local Trust Properties Committees, was completed and submitted to the Revisions Committee. The updating of manuals is a work in progress.

3.3 Training, Communications and Engagement
A very successful 2-day training session was held for Synod Trust Properties Secretaries and members of Synod Management Committees in February 2019. The next stage of training will be to empower Synod Trust Properties Committees to engage with Local Trust Properties Committees.

3.4 Inventory and Classification
The conversion of data to the new software package is ongoing. The Church Land Programme has been appointed to update the land audits they conducted previously.

4. Challenges
The main challenge facing the CTPC is one of resourcing, both human and financial. The Property Office currently consists of the part-time Property Officer (3 days a week) and an Administrator who deals mainly with the administration of the day property matters referred to the MCO by circuits and societies. Some steps have been taken to reduce the workload of the Administrator, but the resourcing of the Property Office remains a concern. It will require an injection of finances to enable the office to accomplish the strategy of using MCSA property to generate income for the mission and ministry of the church. The resolution to be submitted will address this issue.

Connexional Trust Properties Committee Members for 2020:

Presiding Bishop (Chair) – Rev P Malinga
General Secretary – Rev M Hansrod
Lay President – Mr J Nkosi
General Treasurer – Ms T Ngonyama
MCO Property Officer – Mr. J Schorn
Synod Trust Property Secretary – Mr R Ngwenya
Central Synod – Rev. J Ebersohn
Synod Trust Property Secretary – Mr P.G Qokweni
Synod Trust Property Secretary
Cape of Good Hope Synod – Rev S McGuigan represented by Mr. A Jordaan

Legal representative – Judge A Mathiba
Legal representative – Ms. A Tooley
Business representative – Mr. V Summerton
Business representative – Mr. P Ndlumbini
Property representative – Mr. G Roelofsz
Property representative – Mr. R Fandam
APPENDIX A

MCSA PROPERTY STRATEGY

Introduction
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA) owns property (land and buildings) in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, Swaziland and Lesotho. All church property is vested in the Presiding Bishop for the time being as the Official Trustee, and is administered on behalf of the Official Trustee under the direction of Conference by the Connexional Office, through Connexional, District, and local Trust Properties Committees, and any disposal or acquisition of property must be approved by the Official Trustee.

Aims of the Property Strategy
The aims of the property strategy are:

- To create opportunities for the MCSA to utilize its property portfolio for the purpose of generating income for the funding of ministry and mission.
- To avoid the sale of land or immovable property, unless absolutely necessary and a full assessment has been conducted.
- To create an environment that permits the MCSA to proactively participate in the property market and take advantage of opportunities which may arise. The MCSA’s role in the property market may include that of:
  - Lessor
  - Joint venture Partner
  - Co-developer, resources permitting

To this end, the MCSA should be positioned to strategically partner with developers on prime properties.
- To ensure the proper administration of the MCSA property portfolio in terms of the Laws and Discipline.

Short- to Medium-term Strategies
- To identify all properties that could be marked for development or income generation. The Property Office, Mission Unit (Church Land Programme) and Synod Trust Properties (DTP) Committees to cooperate in identifying properties.
- To identify properties to be launched as pilot development projects with information from DTP Committees and to position the MCSA to strategically partner with developers on prime properties such as shopping centres, hospital groups, residential developments, and commercial/Industrial developments.
- To focus on strategic developments that will ensure retained ownership of MCSA Properties.
• To avail the Church’s property portfolio for profitable ventures at Connexional, District and Circuit level.
• To devise a profit share model that will enable the church to grow its property fund.
• To create a property maintenance fund.
• To ensure the effectiveness of STP Committees and provide training.
• To consult with other church denominations regarding models of property management.
• To provide resources and funding for the Property Office.
• To consider the donation of relevant unusable properties to help empower deserving communities.
• To perform due diligence on all proposed developments and joint ventures. The Connexional Trust Properties Committee to utilize relevant expertise.
• To ensure that where properties are leased, rentals are directly linked to turnover and profitability.
• To segment the MCSA property portfolio and develop investment objectives for each sector.
• To realise real returns on the pilot projects within 3 years of date of implementation.
• To fund the stipend account so that the church would be in a position to review the stipend/assessment formulae for circuits.
• To maximize the impact of the MCSA’s registered property company.
• To determine the impact of income generation on the MCSA’s PBO status.
• To ensure all contracts and lease agreements are legally vetted.
• To engage the services of a property developer to assess market developments and industry expectations.
• To ensure the sustainability of heritage properties.
• To ensure that all properties are adequately insured through regular valuations.
• To ensure that Health and safety regulations are complied with in regard to safety, security, hazards, occupation certificates.
• To address issues relating to land claims.
• To ensure that properties are environmentally friendly.
• To address property issues relating to laws and regulations in neighbouring countries.
• To prepare policy documents and manuals relating to property matters.
• To ensure the Laws and Discipline are reviewed regularly.
Arising out of reports received of the advanced state of the management of church property in Kenya the MCSA agreed that a delegation from the Connexional Trust Properties Committee (CTPC) would visit Kenya to investigate the models used there. The delegation was comprised of the MCSA Property Officer, Mr John Schorn, and Mr Ricky Ngwenya and Mr Thomas Sukati of the Highveld and Swaziland Synod.

The delegation arrived in Nairobi on Friday 15 March and met with Dr Bright Mawudor, the Deputy General Secretary, Finance and Administration, of the All Africa Conference of Churches and co-author of the African Church Assets Handbook, on Saturday morning.

Dr Mawudor had arranged meetings with the Anglican Church of Kenya and the All Africa Conference of Churches.

With regard to the Anglican Church, we visited a number of office blocks owned by the church, including the construction site of a new 11-storey building.

The Anglican Church has established a separate limited company, which is a trust holding all the funds administered by them for the benefit of the whole Anglican Church of Kenya. This is effectively the investment arm of the Church and it holds in trust all movable and immovable property of the Anglican Church. We were privileged to meet the CEO of the company Mr Desmond Mtula, who was previously the CEO of a large bank in Kenya. The company operates on a fully commercial basis except that it is tax-exempt, but it is fully accountable to the church through a body of Commissioners (the Bishop, 1 clergy and 1 lay representative from each Diocese) and a Board of Governors (with wide-ranging representation and expertise from within the church). The company employs experts in various fields, such as Construction Engineers, Chartered Accountants, and Project Managers etc.

The benefit of this investment company is that the dioceses pay no assessments towards the general running of the church – the entire profit of the company goes toward the sustaining the Archdiocese and all the dioceses. All funds collected at grassroots levels are available for ministry and mission. The properties of the All Africa Conference of Churches are also used to generate income through office
rental, and a conference centre, with accommodation, various meeting halls, and a restaurant.

On Saturday evening, we met with Mrs Purity Gatobu, the Institution Administrator at the Methodist Church of Kenya (MCK). The MCK owns and manages a number of Institutions for income generation, including the Kenya Methodist University, the Maua Methodist Hospital, Methodist Insurance Brokers, Methodist Sacco Ltd (a financial co-operative which they intend to convert into a commercial bank), and the Methodist Resort and Conference Centre. They also have an agricultural training centre, residential and commercial buildings for rent, and bookshops, amongst others. The MCK does not have a separate company for its institutions and property but it has separated the management of the property, institutions and audit functions (under a Chief Operations Officer) from the day to day financial activities (under a Financial Manager). They are considering the establishment of a separate company for the property and institutions in the future.

The MCK is not yet at the point where assessments paid by circuits and societies are completely eliminated, but they are certainly generating income from their institutions and properties.

Conclusions
The churches we interacted with are all committed to, and passionate about, the use of their assets to generate income and are able to reduce the dependence on tithes, offerings and collections at local level, for the funding of the church.

I include the comments of Mr Ricky Ngwenya and Mr Thomas Sikati below.

Mr Ngwenya:
• The Kenyans are investing a lot on property and as such, they are utilising property to maximise their cash flow, through:
  o Sharing and Leasing out some space in offices;
  o Leasing out blocks of flats to Government Departments, NGOs and other institutions.
• They build and own schools, skills' centres and institutions of higher learning;
• They own:
  o blocks of residential areas
  o Shopping malls
  o Vast lands

Mr Sikati:
• Properties can sustain the church
• The church needs to have a property development unit
• The business unit should be independent
• Board of Directors should be members of the church
• The church should surrender their properties to the company

In summary, the delegation feels that:
The development of the already existing “Property Company” should be vigorously pursued, for the management of property and the establishment of viable institutions/businesses to generate income for the MCSA. This will require investment in the staffing and resources for the establishment of a viable operation. In the short term, there are a number of properties where developers have shown some interest and these should be actively encouraged.
CHAPTER 17

DOCTRINE, ETHICS AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Bishop Mthobeli Matyumza

DEWCOM’s responsibility is to offer theological reflection to the church on matters of doctrine, ethics and worship. The Committee comprises Methodists, Lay and Clergy, from a variety of contexts such as the local church and academia, who have a variety of theological interests, persuasions and specialisations. Gratitude is expressed to each of the members who served on the Committee in 2019. This Report gives account of the work of the Committee since the last Conference. It is our hope that information contained in this report will be engaged with critically by all Methodists throughout the Connexion so that we may become truly a “transforming discipleship movement.”

1. **Doctrine**
   1.1 **LGBTIAQ+ Conversation**
   This is an ongoing conversation that the Committee is working on. Conference is referred to the resolution that appears in the Resolutions Book.

   1.2 **Diversity and Interpretation of Scripture**
   DEWCOM commits to produce a discussion document on this topic for presentation to Conference 2020.

   1.3 **An understanding of Christian marriage in the MCSA**

   DEWCOM proposes the following as a way forward:
   (a) Acknowledgement of the work that was done by the British Conference.
   (b) Using the work of the British Conference as a frame of reference for the discussion on Christian marriage in the MCSA.

   Conference is appraised on the divergence of opinion that exists within DEWCOM itself regarding this topic.
1.4 **Ordination vs. Commissioning**
DEWCOM acknowledges the ongoing work on the amalgamation of the orders of the diaconate and evangelism. This work is located with the General Secretary and EMMU.

1.5 **Tendency towards an Episcopal Practice in the MCSA**
The current Statement on the Ministry of Oversight reads as follows:

The ministry of oversight in the MCSA is understood to be exercised by an ordained presbyter of the MCSA with the duties and functions afforded to them with reference to the Laws and Discipline of the MCSA, para. 6.9-6.10. As Methodists, serving in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, we concur with Mr Wesley’s view as expressed in a letter to Francis Asbury, that the title “Bishop” should not be construed to imply an ecclesiastical office which represents an order of ministry that is superior to, or different in essence from, any other order of ministry, position or role in the life of the church. Resisting the temptation to create a superior and distinct order of ministry, namely episcopacy, the MCSA in 1989 implemented the renaming of the *Office of the Chairman of the District* to that of the *Office of the District Bishop*; and the *Office of the President of Conference* to that of the *Office of the Presiding Bishop* without the change of personal title from Reverend to either Bishop or Presiding Bishop. The terms “Bishop” and “Presiding Bishop” refer to the title of the office and not to that of the individual. By virtue of not being ordained to an order of ministry (specifically episcopacy) that is distinct from and superior to that of presbyter, the presbyter who serves in the Office of the District Bishop or that of the Presiding Bishop, does not occupy this role for life, but may be elected to this office by means of the stipulations as directed in the Laws and Discipline of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. Those who serve in the Offices of the District Bishop and the Presiding Bishop do so as pastors of the pastors, custodians of the doctrines, laws and disciplines of the MCSA, striving for Ecclesiastical unity, both inside the MCSA as well as with the broader ecumenical family. (http://mcsadewcom.blogspot.com/2012/08/statement-on-ministry-of-oversight.html)

DEWCOM reaffirms this statement and recommends that Conference creates space for further dialogue in the light of Conference’s Statement on theology of Ministry in yearbooks 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 expressing a different view. Thus, a discussion document is being worked on and will be presented to Conference 2020.

2. **Ethics**

2.1 **Poverty Alleviation**
DEWCOM does not have the expertise within the committee to deal with this matter. Further, it should be appreciated that this topic is very complex.
To this effect, DEWCOM intends engaging with NGOs and agencies that do this work. It was decided that we should invite Prof Maluleke to come and offer some perspective on the way forward as well.

2.2 Land Issue
The complexity of this issue should be appreciated as well, particularly in view of the conversation on expropriation of land without compensation that is taking place in one of the member countries of our Connexion. This is an issue that has potential to polarize the nation. One of the complexities that the MCSA should seek to address is what could be done with the land that the church owns.

2.3 Circumcision and Manhood
DEWCOM suggests that the best unit to deal with this matter is the Mission Unit. A mission summit that could address these challenges could be convened, particularly within the boundaries of the Synods most affected. Further, DEWCOM notes with appreciation the work done by the Queenstown Synod YMG in playing an active role in the initiation schools and encourages that Synod to share with the Connexion best practices and lessons learnt from their engagement.

2.4 Worship and Liturgy
DEWCOM has arranged and hosted a liturgy writing workshop that was facilitated by Prof. Charlene van der Walt at SMMS. This workshop took place on the 21\textsuperscript{st} to the 23\textsuperscript{rd} of August 2019. It is envisaged that material from that workshop could be published in e-copies and other means that could be possible to make easy access for the Methodist people. DEWCOM wishes to conscientise Conference to the need for translating material produced by the church in many languages that are spoken throughout the Connexion. Many Methodists feel excluded because of language. Conference is requested to make available financial resources for translation.

3. Nomination of Committee Members for 2020
DEWCOM recommends the following names for appointment at Conference 2019:
CHAPTER 18

METHODIST ARCHIVES

Meg Hartzenberg, Convener

The Methodist Archives are kept in the Cory Library at Rhodes University in Grahamstown/Makhanda. Resources available in the Archives include the following:

- Dimension/New Dimension
- The Methodist Churchman
- Minutes of Conference (British and South African) dating back to the early 1800’s
- Church registers – marriage, baptismal and burial
- Ministers’ marriage registers (B1 30 forms)
- Books on the history of the MCSA over the past 200 years
- Pamphlets, newspaper cuttings and photographs relevant to the MCSA

During the period July 2018 to June 2019 the following requests were dealt with by the Archives Convener:

- Marriage records 78
- Baptism records 32
- Burial records 3
- Confirmation records 2
- Obituaries 2
- Family tree information 7
- Historical research 13

The Methodist Archives are also used extensively by the staff at the Cory Library and the Genealogist at the Albany Museum to supply information requested by the public. The material in the Archives is accessed by people all over Southern Africa as well as overseas, and many researchers visit the Archives themselves.

Marriage records are the most frequently requested items because people applying to Home Affairs for original marriage certificates are told that they have to produce the B1 30 forms from the register of the minister who married them. Only 59 ministers have so far sent their used registers to the Archives which means that only a small percentage of requests can be supplied. In the past ministers were required to hand in their used registers at Home Affairs where they are now apparently inaccessible. The number of requests for the B1-30 forms has increased by 27% in the past year and the applicants have no further avenues to pursue if the church cannot provide these forms which Home Affairs requires.
Churches are urged to send to the Archives their marriage, baptismal and burial registers, pamphlets, brochures and leaflets giving the history of particular Societies, and any documentation pertaining to the history of the MCSA. In particular there is a big gap in our holdings as far as church registers from the former Transvaal churches, and especially Johannesburg, are concerned. Synod Blue Books and minutes are valuable sources of information and copies should be placed in the Archives.

Please do not send financial records such as bank statements, old cheque books, financial reports etc., as they take up space and are not of general interest. Only financial records of specific or unusual interest will be kept.

Thank you to the Cory Library staff for processing all the material sent to the Archives and for their assistance in accessing the material.
CHAPTER 19

METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE AND CHRISTIAN CONNEXION

Rev Ken Leverton, Acting General Manager

The Methodist Publishing House (MPH) has recently appointed a new General Manager in the person of Ms Hyreath Anderson. She has 22 years of experience in the book industry, and comes to us from Juta (Academic, Education and Agencies Division) where she held the position of General Manager. With her experience in digital platforms, sales and marketing strategy, she brings fresh ideas, skills and experience to the position and there is an encouraging sense of optimism after what has been a very difficult period for the MPH.

During the latter part of 2018 and early 2019 the previous General Manager resigned unexpectedly at the end of June, the Wholesale Manager took ill and passed away in October, and the Financial Manager left at the beginning of December. An Acting General Manager was appointed and soon discovered that he had inherited a very unhappy situation. Three stores that were making consistent losses had to be closed (Pretoria, Bryanston and Pietermaritzburg), involving the regrettable retrenchment of 5 staff members. A small experimental store was opened at the MCO offices in Bruma in February 2019. However, trading conditions remain extremely difficult for the book trade in general, and the Christian book trade in particular.

Difficulties over the past year have included a very restricted cash flow situation and lack of core staff capacity due to the passing of the wholesale manager. The lack of capacity in the accounts department has also impacted on the financial reporting and record keeping of the organisation. These circumstances made planning very difficult indeed, and it has been impossible to adequately stock our retail stores, thereby impacting on sales. A balancing act has been required to try and restock the stores while retaining sufficient funds to pay creditors.

We are pleased to report back to Conference 2019 that MPH has re-employed an experienced Wholesale and Operations Manager, who has been working tirelessly to turn around the wholesale operation and ensure that our stores are stocked with our core product. The MPH has also employed a half-day cash book clerk, and we are working with the MCO and an auditor to resolve matters of financial reporting.

Things are still a long way from where we want them to be, but there are encouraging signs that we may be turning the corner. We should apologise to those of our customers who have not been able to source all their requirements such as constitutions, pins,
wafers and communion wine when they have needed these items. This has distressed us as much as it has you and we can assure you that we have done our best to serve you in very difficult circumstances.

A new relationship with Christian Media Publishers (CMP) who print most of the Bibles distributed throughout Africa north of the Limpopo, holds promise for the future. With their assistance upgraded vernacular hymnbooks have been printed and became available shortly before Easter and have already proved very popular.

The hiatus caused by the departure of the previous General Manager and other staff members created an opportunity to review various aspects of the way MPH conducts its business and that review is currently underway. The new GM will be undertaking a full review of Christian Connexion stores as a matter of urgency, alongside the development and deployment of an online ecommerce store, and will be in a position to give initial feedback on these matters at the September 2019 Conference.

I do believe that with ongoing careful management, MPH does have a future and will continue to serve the church for years to come. We trust that until we are fully back on an even keel, we will be able to rely on the understanding and ongoing support of our Methodist people.

Committee
We propose the following Committee to Conference for 2020:
- Bishop Gary Rivas (Chair)
- General Manager – MPH
- MCSA General Secretary
- MCSA General Treasurer
- Communications Unit Director
- Rev Ken Leverton
- Mr Mzimkulu Mtwisha
Further members will be identified.
CHAPTER 20

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. Libuseng Lebaka-Ketshabile

“Hope has two beautiful daughters. Their names are anger and courage: anger at the way things are, and courage to see that they do not remain the way they are.” –Augustine of Hippo

In over forty years of the existence and experiences of women in the ministry of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, God has spoken with a very loud voice and the people called Methodists listened. In May 2019 almost all Synods that were electing bishops had women as candidates.

We were encouraged to see how two beautiful daughters of Hope, anger and courage, interacted and took their rightful place at an appropriate time. The whole of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa awakened to new possibilities that played themselves out in May of 2019 in different synods and three women were elected to become part of the leadership of the church. Rev. Purity Malinga as the first woman Presiding Bishop, Rev. Yvette Moses as the Bishop of Cape of Good Hope Synod and Rev. Faith Whitby as the Central Synod Bishop.

As Methodist people, women in particular, we celebrate God’s Moment of Truth and Justice.

Consultation 2018

The 2018 Consultation was held at the Lighthouse Renewal Centre in Simon’s Town, Cape Town. The theme of the consultation was “we are standing on the promises of God” Joshua 17:4. The consultation was opened by the then Bishop of the Cape of Good Hope, Rev. Michel Hansrod with a powerful biblical reflection based on the book of Esther chapter one. His message was on Queen Vashti, the woman who stood for her dignity and respect.

Other Areas of Focus (to mention but a few)

Dr. Juliana Claasens spoke about how to sift through the texts of the Bible to find liberating messages for women and how Church leadership should then use those liberative and liberating messages to empower women both inside and outside the Church.

Dr. Pieter Grove spoke about finances, integrity and ministry and Mr. Graig Arendse spoke about conflict and ministry.
One of us shared her short journey in the Ministry which left us teary and yet celebratory because the hand of God could be seen in her story. It was evident though in that story that patriarchy destroys women and defends maleness.

**2019 Consultation is held in Pietermaritzburg in the Natal West Synod.**

**A Stand against Patriarchal Insults**

One day all of us woke up to the insults meted out towards one of our female ministers for performing her duties as the Superintendent Minister in the circuit where the church has stationed her. Although her name was mentioned in the discussion, the insults were to all women in the ministry.

I would like to thank men and women of the MCSA and those from other churches who came out in numbers to march against these insults.

The Methodist Women’s voice was unified and solidified. This voice was clearly seen and heard on Friday the 11th of January 2019 when they, together with men of integrity, and men and women from other denominations took a stand and marched against the abuse and character assassination that was arrogantly and brutally meted out at one of them but which was also an insult to all women ministers in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.

*The march ended at the Methodist Connexional Office with the statement from women (parts of the statement are quoted below).*

While it is true that the utterances in the recording are shocking, they are neither shocking nor rare in the ears of many Women Ministers of the MCSA. Many of us can relate a story or stories when we were caricatured and humiliated – in private and in public – by colleagues in the ministry and by laity, in the name of cultural practices and twisted theologies.

The fight for gender equality, against toxic masculinity is a fight for humanity, in which both men and women must be involved. We call for all Methodist people, young and old, black and white, men and women, clergy and laity to engage in challenging the conversations (private or public), jokes and so-called “theologies” that denigrate, dehumanize and caricature human beings, on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, age, size etc.

I believe that this is an opportunity for the MCSA to discern what God is saying through the many statements that have been issued and voices that have been heard. We therefore appeal to the MCSA to be prophetic through word and deed.

The MCSA boldly proclaims the ministry of healing and transformation. We therefore remain committed to what we believe the MCSA has been called to be in times such as these – a healing and a transforming church.

*End*
Networking and consultations of Methodist women at Synod level should be encouraged and strengthened.

**NB:** For three consecutive years women in ministry have been requesting that women in ministry synod coordinators be made part of synod management teams for gender mainstreaming progress monitoring and evaluation. This is still to be realised.
The MCSA Conference 2016 resolved to appoint a Women in Ministry Task Team to work on all matters that will enhance the ministry of women within the MCSA. Such matters would include substantive recommendations of the Women in Ministry constitution, namely discrimination and justice issues relating to the ministry of women; representation of women in all structures of the church; reviewing and changing legislative and election processes; removing barriers to leadership; development of materials for addressing gender bias and sexism; and the holistic empowerment of Women in the Ministry (resolutions 2.4 and 2.12 in the 2017 Yearbook pages 95 and 97).

Project Plan and Progress
The task team is mandated to work on a Project Plan that will articulate the vision, strategic goals, action programme, monitoring and evaluation framework toward making sure that the agenda of the Women in Ministry is part of the life of the MCSA. Included as part of the Project Plan will be resources allocation and stakeholder mobilisation and co-operation.

Some progress, albeit slow, has been made and consultation between various interested and contributing entities is on-going. Mission buy-in from our Women in Ministry is key, and we recognise diversity of views on many issues. I was only very recently assigned to take over the convenorship of the committee and recognise the need for fresh impetus as, whilst some have done important work, the process has just started. As I submit this report in early July, I hope that accelerated progress will be made by September. The task team is working on the Project Plan, consulting widely including the Women in Ministry Consultation scheduled for 6-8 August 2019.

I do not anticipate, however, that a finalised Proposed Project Plan will be ready by Conference 2019, but intend to ensure that it is delivered to the Connexional Executive and Conference of 2020. This will pave the way for the plan to be considered during Synods, Circuits, Societies and other Structures in 2021.

Task Team
Fulfilling an undertaking made at Conference, the Presiding Bishop appointed the following people to serve on this Task Team:

1. Presiding Bishop Ziphozihle Siwa (Chairperson)
2. Rev Charmaine Morgan (General Secretary)
3. Rev Dr Libuseng Lebaka-Ketshabile (Connexional Convenor of WiM)
4. Rev Mogomotsi Diutlwileng (Secretary of the Task Team)
5. Mr Vusi Chuta (Member of Committee)
6. Ms Nancy Herron (Member of Committee)
7. Rev Lauren Matthews (Member of Committee)
8. Rev Faith Whitby (Member of Committee)
9. Rev Terry Booysen (Member of Committee)
10. Bishop Mike Vorster (Member of Committee)
11. Rev Purity Malinga (Member of Committee)

A proposed revised committee to be endorsed by Conference of 2019 is as follows:
1. Presiding Bishop Purity Malinga (Chairperson)
2. Bishop Jonathan Anderson (Connexional Convenor of WiM Task Team)
3. Rev Dr Libuseng Lebaka-Ketshabile (Member of Committee)
4. Dr Vusi Chuta (Member of Committee)
5. Ms Nancy Herron (Member of Committee)
6. Rev Lauren Matthews (Secretary of the Task Team)
7. Rev Faith Whitby (Member of Committee)
8. Rev Mike Vorster (Member of Committee)
9. Rev Thandeka Dintlhe (Member of Committee)
10. Mrs Bonginkosi Moyo-Bango (Member of Committee)
CHAPTER 21

STRUCTURES COMMITTEE

Bishop Mongameli Noqayi, Convenor

Introduction:
The Committee appointed by Conference for a three year term works within the terms of reference as described from time to time by the Conference to deal with all structural proposals to assist the church in attaining its Missional goals and serving as a conduit for its Missional Strategy. Its primary task is to assist the Church in its renewal by ensuring that all structures are fluid enough to absorb the Spirit of Renewal.

Year Under Review:
During the year under review the Committee has primarily focused on the Formation and Birthing of the New Synods as per the Resolutions of Conference 2018. The new Synods to be established in 2020 are Namibia, Molopo (Botswana) and Camdeboo (Karoo), whilst Mpumalanga and Aliwal North Synods are to be birthed in 2021. In addition conversations are being facilitated in respect of proposals for the multiplication of Synods in Clarkebury and Kwa Zulu Natal. The Conference appointed Rev Michel Hansrod as Connexional Shaping for Mission Enabler, for a period of three (3) years, 2019 to 2021, to assist in this facilitation. An addendum report on this work is attached.

In addition, the Committee has undertaken the following:
1. The Committee continued its consultation with the Women in Ministry Task Team and Revision Committee on the proposals in respect of Women in Ministry and Representivity.
2. Structural Proposals in respect of the composition of Synod Annual Meetings and Conference.

Connexional Structures Committee:
Conference 2018 appointed the following as members of the Connexional Structures Committee for the period 2019-2021:

Rev Mongameli Noqayi (Convenor), Presiding Bishop, General Secretary, General Treasurer, Lay President, Directors of Finance Unit, Mission Unit and Human Resource Unit, the Connexional Shaping for Mission Enabler, plus 5 members, of which one will be from a Sovereign State: Revs Mzwandile Molo, Lea Marumo and Mogomotsi Diutwileng, Mrs Thobile Dlamini (Swaziland) and Mr Vusi Chuta.
Conclusion
The Connexional Structures Committee continues to engage in the task of ensuring renewal and fluidity within the structures of our Church, to encourage, facilitate, resource and implement the Strategy, Vision and Missional Goals of the church to best serve the present age and assist in Being Shaped for Mission.

ADDENDUM
Shaping for Mission Report
Rev Michel W Hansrod, Connexional Shaping for Mission Enabler

Conference 2018 following an intensive 4-year consultative process and engagement on “How the MSCA may be better shaped for Mission” resolved to the birthing of 3 New Synods in 2020, namely Botswana, Namibia and Karoo, 2 New Synods, namely Mpumalanga and Aliwal North in 2021, and continued conversations and engagement throughout the Connexion. Further Conference resolved that the reshaping of Circuits is to be engaged simultaneously in seeking to facilitate that Circuits become more effective conduits and action units for Mission. This Addendum Report is therefore a response to the Conference 2018 Resolutions 2.40 and 2.41.

The Connexional Executive as per the Conference Directive of 2018 Resolution 2.37 met on 17th June 2019 to receive the reports on the Birthing of the following Synods, effective 1 January 2020 as per Resolution 2.40 (a): (The Full Report to the Connexional Executive is attached hereto.)

Namibia Synod: The Connexional Executive Received the reports of the Kimberly, Bloemfontein and Namibia, and the Cape of Good Hope Synods and endorsed and approved all recommendations including the election of officials and the name Namibia Synod at the Mission Synod held on 23rd February 2019. The Connexional Executive further recommended the appointment of Rev Charmaine Morgan as the Synod Bishop.

Karoo Synod: The Connexional Executive received the reports of the Kimberly, Bloemfontein and Namibia, Cape of Good Hope and Grahamstown Synods and noted, endorsed and approved the establishment of the Synod including the election of officials and the Name Camdeboo Synod at the Mission Synod held on 16th February 2019.

Botswana Synod: The Connexional Executive received the reports of the Limpopo and Central Synods and endorsed and approved all recommendations including the election of officials and name Molopo Synod at the Mission Synod held on 2nd March 2019.
Conference 2018 Resolution 2.40 (b) and 2.41 (b) and (g)

A series of consultations between affected Synods and Circuits was held for resolution on the formation of the Proposed Mpumalanga and Aliwal North Synods effective 1 January 2021.

The Queenstown and the Kimberly, Bloemfontein and Namibia Synods resolved that the Aliwal North Synod shall comprise the following Circuits:

301  Queenstown Circuit
302  Queenstown and Lesseyton Circuit
303  Molteno and Stormberg Circuit
304  Lukhanji Circuit
305  Kamastone Mission Circuit
318  Mount Arthur Circuit
319  Fransbury Circuit
520  Aliwal North Circuit
523  Zastron Circuit
524  Bensonvale Circuit
526  Blikana Circuit
527  Wittebergen Circuit

It is further recommended that Circuit 327 Ulundi remain in the Queenstown Circuit and enter the conversation in respect of the Clarkebury Synod resolution on multiplication.

The Grahamstown Synod requests that the decision on boundary changes in respect of the Alice Region be delayed until Conference 2020 and that the boundaries committee appoints an external facilitator to assist in the consultation with affected Circuits.

The Limpopo and the Highveld and Swaziland Synods resolved that the Mpumalanga Synod shall comprise the following Circuits:

1015  Majuba Circuit
1017  Masakhane Circuit
1019  Mkhondo Circuit
1020  Msukaligwa Circuit
1022  Mpuluzi Circuit
1024  Mahamba Circuit
1026  Central Swaziland Circuit
1027  Hhohho Wesley Circuit
1108  Middleburg Circuit
1109  Escarpment Circuit
1121  Mbombela Circuit
1122  Mhluzi Circuit
1123  Sabie and Shatale Circuit
1124  Lowveld Circuit
1125  Nkomazi Circuit
It is therefore recommended that Conference instructs the affected Synods to prepare for elective and preparatory Mission Synods to be held before Annual Synods in the first quarter of 2020 for reporting to an additional Connexional Executive to be held immediately following the Annual Synod to receive and endorse such Mission Synod Reports and elections.

Resolution 2.41 (c)
Conference notes that there is no report on the Consultation between the Central, Kimberly, Bloemfontein and Namibia, and Northern Free State and Lesotho Synods on boundary changes in respect of Kgatelopele (Wolmaranstad) Circuit. It is recommended that a report be submitted to Conference 2020.

Resolution 2.41 (d)
The Clarkebury Annual Synod has resolved to request Conference to Multiply the Synod to two Synods. It is recommended that the final proposals on multiplication of the Synod be presented to Conference 2020 for establishment in 2022.

Resolution 2.41 (e)
A consultation between the Natal Coastal and Natal West Synods was held to facilitate conversations on the multiplication of the existing Synods in Kwa Zulu Natal. The Natal West Synod has recommended that the current Synod boundaries be divided into Two Synods with the Mooi River as the boundary. It is recommended that a report be submitted to Conference in 2020 for establishment in 2022.

Synod Structures
The Administrative and Missional Structures of newly formed Synods are being formalised in preparation for the Inauguration of the Synods. Each Synod is encouraged to determine the need for any constitutional committee/structure and shape these according to its contextual and missional needs.

Organisational Formations in New Synods
The process on the birthing of Synod Organisations within the newly formed Synods is at various stages; following consultations facilitated at both Connexional and Synod levels this process should be completed before the end of the current Connexional Year. It is envisaged that most Synod Organisations will be multiplied following its unique Constitutional Prescripts.

Connexional Mission Unit Consultations
During the Year under review the Connexional Mission Unit facilitated regional consultations on “Shaping for Mission” to assist Circuits and Synods to be more effectively Shaped for Mission. It is envisaged that these Consultations will be facilitated for New Synods as they are formed.
RESOLUTIONS

Structures Resolutions to Conference 2019

1. Establishment of New Synods:
   A. Conference affirms the Conference 2018 Resolution 2.40 (b) on the establishment of New Synods effective 1 January 2021 in Aliwal North and Mpumalanga and instructs the Connexional Structures Committee to facilitate the implementation of these Synods with the affected Synods, Circuits and all Units and Organisations of the MCSA.
   Conference further resolves that the following Circuits shall comprise the New Synods:

   **Aliwal North Synod:**
   301  Queenstown Circuit
   302  Queenstown and Lesseyton Circuit
   303  Molteno and Stormberg Circuit
   304  Lukhanji Circuit
   305  Kamastone Mission Circuit
   318  Mount Arthur Circuit
   319  Fransbury Circuit
   513  Transgariep
   520  Aliwal North Circuit
   523  Zastron Circuit
   524  Bensonvale Circuit
   526  Blikana Circuit
   527  Wittebergen Circuit

   **Mpumalanga Synod:**
   1015  Majuba Circuit
   1017  Masakhane Circuit
   1019  Mkhondo Circuit
   1020  Msukaligwa Circuit
   1022  Mpuluzi Circuit (Contestation)
   1024  Mahamba Circuit
   1026  Central Swaziland Circuit
   1027  Hhohho Wesley Circuit
   1108  Middleburg Circuit
   1109  Escarpment Circuit
   1121  Mbombela Circuit
   1122  Mhluzi Circuit
   1123  Sabie and Shatale Circuit
   1124  Lowveld Circuit
   1125  Nkomazi Circuit
B. Conference receives the report and resolutions from Natal West, Ntl Coastal and Clarkebury Synods and instructs the Connexional Structures Committee to facilitate the conversations between these Synods and that a final report be tabled at Conference 2020.

C. Conference resolves to establish effective 1 January 2021 the Northern Natal West Synod to be birthed from the present Natal West Synod Boundaries, and instructs the Connexional Structures Committee to facilitate the implementation of this Synod in consultation with the affected Synod, Circuits and all Units and Organisations in the MCSA.

D. Conference Resolves to establish effective 1 January 2022 Two New Synods birthed from the present Clarkebury Synod Boundary and instructs the Connexional Structures Committee to facilitate the implementation of this Synod with the affected Synod, Circuits and all Units and Organisations in the MCSA.

2. Continuing Consultations
   Conference Resolves that:
   (a) The Grahamstown and Queenstown Synods continue their engagement in respect of the Alice Region to be facilitated by an External Facilitator and that a final report thereon be tabled through the Grahamstown Synod to the Conference of 2020.
   (b) That Ulundi Circuit (327) be included in the conversations in respect of the Clarkebury Synod division.
   (c) The Central, Kimberley, Bloemfontein and Namibia and the Northern Free State and Lesotho continue their engagement on boundary changes in respect of Kgateleopele Circuit under the direct facilitation of the Structures Committee and submit a final report to Conference 2020.
CHAPTER 22

MUSIC ASSOCIATION

Motto: “One song; One voice!”

1. Overview of the Work of the Association
   Appreciation and thanksgiving to the Almighty for affording the Music Association an opportunity and strength to tirelessly do His work. Much appreciation to 2017 Conference which approved the constitutional amendment which has always been an impediment to the running of the Association. As Methodist Choristers, we aspire to be like Levites and Angels surrounding God’s Throne, offering Him our praise, worship, adoration, confession, forgiveness and thanksgiving through music. This report calls for God’s Name to be praised as we report the work of Music Association from eleven (11) Synods of the Connexion which are fully participating in Connexional activities. However there is still cause for concern with the 12th Synod, (Mozambique), and most Synods which have limited participation by a few Circuits in comparison to the total number of Circuits in those Synods.

2. Objectives of the Connexional Music Association
   This report serves to reiterate the objectives of the Organisation as entrenched in the Constitution.

   Key to the Association is to learn and rehearse the liturgy as well as hymns in the Methodist Hymnal for proper rendition during divine services. This becomes a reality when church choirs during rendition, are able to interpret the hymns and touch the spirits of the congregants.

   The primary aim of the Association for 2018 was to re-align to the approved Constitution to a Triennial setup and utilise the year for revival of the Natal Coastal Synod which had not been fully participating in the affairs of music ministry. It also gave a chance to Synods to focus on rebuilding their choirs.

   The vision of the Association is to foster good inter-denominational and inter-continental relations and cooperation with other Church Choirs and coordinating structures in Southern Africa, Africa and worldwide.

3. Imperatives of Mission
   3.1. Spirituality: It is common knowledge that Methodism was born in song. Church choirs continue to lead services and introduce new chants, which most Methodists are not in favour of since this limits the use of
beats, whistles and drums during Divine services. Most Synods continue with reviving inactive choirs in different Circuits to deepen the sense of spirituality. Improving the standard of singing is done through rehearsals and being in touch with Preachers to prepare for Sunday services.

Synods embarked on Retreats and Annual Conventions as a means to deepen spirituality. In response to the plea made by Bishop Siwa to embrace diversity within the church, all languages are incorporated in the singing of liturgy and litany.

3.2. Evangelism and Church Growth
The General Music Coordinator of the Association was instrumental in ensuring the Mozambique Conference held in 2018 had a choir that led the divine service including the ordaining of ministers. The Association is still mindful of the biblical prescription found in Psalm 33:2-4 which says: “Praise the Lord with lyre; make melody to him with a harp of ten strings. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.”

In an endeavour to entrench the pillar, the Association contributes annually towards the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary. It is believed that the Seminary may introduce within the faculty, the importance of music in Evangelism and church growth, which Ministers should use in developing choirs when they have been ordained.

Synods still report dwindling numbers of participating Circuits as well as aged choristers, except for the Central Synod which reported positivity especially participation of youth and intermediates. The cause identified being the vastness of the Synods which demands resources for travelling purposes.

3.3. Justice and Service (Humanitarian Service)
The Association follows whenever the Church calls for support. The Church requested support for a school in Semonkong (Lesotho) and a donation towards the project was made. Synods are giving support to:
- Homes of the needy;
- Juvenile prisons;
- Child-headed families; and
- Places of safety
Some Synods adopted schools and made donations to needy students through the supply of sanitary pads, school uniforms etc.

3.4. Human Economic Empowerment and Development
Synods utilise Conventions as a platform for development. Topic specialists are invited to address specified topics at Conventions and to train choirs in
the rendition of songs. Presenters who are specialists in some aspects of Church life are invited to clarify the role of choristers in church. Concerts and music festivals are other ways of collecting revenue used for mission outreaches.

Invaluable lessons are acquired by attending Connexional events. Donations to different Organisations’ Conventions were made by Music Associations to grow inter-relations. Other means of growing funds for the Association include but are not limited to recording and production of Church Music CD’s recorded in different languages. We are proud to mention that this is used to exchange and learn the different chants and music growth in Church.

3.5. **Education and Training**

The Music Association is in support of education and training programmes arranged by other Organisations. The Natal West Synod Music Association represented the Connexional Music Association at the Leadership Development Symposium that was sponsored by the Black Methodist Consultation held at the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary. Plans are underway to train aspiring conductors and pianists.

4. **Achievements**

The Connexional Music Association managed to revive the Natal Coastal Synod Music Association which is actively and fully participating in the Organisational activities to date. Much appreciation goes to the Natal Coastal Synod Bishop Mandindi and the previous Executive Committee who played a pivotal role in ensuring the Synod Music Association gets on track.

5. **Challenges**

The Association challenges are still the same and an appeal is still made to the Ministers for support.

6. **Financial Position**

The financial status of the Connexional Music Association according to the audited financial statement **as at 31 December 2018 was as follows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance b/f:</td>
<td>R222 354.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income:</td>
<td>R204 790.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure:</td>
<td>R149 009.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance:</strong></td>
<td><strong>R278 134.38</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Call Account**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Interest)</td>
<td>R 2 729.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call Account</td>
<td>R57 908.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(Closing Balance)  R60 361.94
R278 143.38
+R 60 361.94
Grant total of the 2 accounts: R338 496.32

7. Future Aspirations
- Continue reviving inactive Circuits and Synods
- To embrace diversity through utilization of all Methodist hymn books and sing liturgies in all languages.
- To have the Association’s own Music Academy, where Conductors and Pianists will be trained and also teach choirs approach to good singing.

8. Recommendations
- That each Organisation begin to focus on objectives as laid down in their constitutions;
- That the introduced charismatic way of worship within the Methodist Church be relooked into and allow space for Church Choirs to lead divine service accordingly.

9. Conclusion
Amongst members called to higher service, were two key role-players, i.e. the past General Treasurer and veteran Mr. Hintsa Meke of the Grahamstown Synod and Mr. Martin Mavi who was the President of the Natal Coastal Synod. May their souls rest in peace.

The Connexional Music Association appreciates the support of the Ministers who continually encourage choirs and ensure growth of the Music Ministry. Church choral music is an important facet in the life of the church. The choir members offer their time tirelessly to the work of God. The church needs to apply its mind to the fact that during seven days of the week, church choirs meet frequently to prepare for Sunday worship. Without the support of the Ministers and the congregants, the Music Ministry of the Methodist Church will flounder and perish. We are looking forward to the day when Synods will report that their Circuits and societies have formal church choirs that will help restore the Methodist culture of proper musical performance during services!

10. Synod Structures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synod</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Portfolio</th>
<th>Contacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cape of Good Hope</td>
<td>Rev Toalshe J.</td>
<td>Synod President</td>
<td>084 238 9669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Yolisa S</td>
<td>Synod Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Sizeka.Yolisa@stellenbosch.gov.za">Sizeka.Yolisa@stellenbosch.gov.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grahamstown</td>
<td>Mr. V. Ketele</td>
<td>Synod President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Vusumzi.ketele@ecsrac.gov.za">Vusumzi.ketele@ecsrac.gov.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Msizi N</td>
<td>Synod Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:norooi85@gmail.com">norooi85@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>President Name</td>
<td>Secretary Name</td>
<td>President Email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>Mr Kolo T</td>
<td>Synod President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kolo.thomas@gmail.com">kolo.thomas@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Bam N</td>
<td>Synod Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:noluthandobm7@gmail.com">noluthandobm7@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberly, Namibia and Bloemfontein</td>
<td>Rev. W. Ndlanzi</td>
<td>Synod President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wandilendlanzi@gmail.com">wandilendlanzi@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms N. Mkese</td>
<td>Synod Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cyntombi@gmail.com">cyntombi@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Free State and Lesotho</td>
<td>Mr Mnguni T</td>
<td>Synod President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thokozanitr@gmail.com">thokozanitr@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Malete L</td>
<td>Synod Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lollymalete@gmail.com">lollymalete@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natal Coastal</td>
<td>Mr Nkosi Kubheka</td>
<td>Synod President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amaswati@gmail.com">amaswati@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Bulelwa Mbattha</td>
<td>Synod Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bulwlwamba@ialch.co.za">bulwlwamba@ialch.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natal West</td>
<td>Prof Ngcobo R</td>
<td>Synod President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:langareg@mweb.co.za">langareg@mweb.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Mthiyane N</td>
<td>Synod Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Nomusa.Mthiyane@kzndoe.gov.za">Nomusa.Mthiyane@kzndoe.gov.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Rev Makgalane</td>
<td>Synod President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:francenmabuza@gmail.com">francenmabuza@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Molebogeng Tsunke</td>
<td>Synod Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:JMaritz@lscmasakhe.co.za">JMaritz@lscmasakhe.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highveld and Swaziland</td>
<td>Rev Mabuza FN</td>
<td>Synod President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mphulod@nti.co.za">mphulod@nti.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Maritz J</td>
<td>Synod Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gmoopelwa@rustenburg.gov.za">gmoopelwa@rustenburg.gov.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limpopo</td>
<td>Mr. D. Motaung</td>
<td>Synod President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Francenmabuza@gmail.com">Francenmabuza@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Moopelwa M</td>
<td>Synod Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:JMaritz@lscmasakhe.co.za">JMaritz@lscmasakhe.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarkebury</td>
<td>Rev. B.Ralo</td>
<td>Synod President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Francenmabuza@gmail.com">Francenmabuza@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sr. N. Ndwabu</td>
<td>Synod Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Francenmabuza@gmail.com">Francenmabuza@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 23

LOCAL PREACHERS’ ASSOCIATION

Mr Magic Hlatshwayo

*Motto: Igniting God's Fire for Discipleship and Mission*

Introduction

The Local Preachers’ Association (hereinafter referred to as LPA) is an Organisation of Methodist Preachers who have accepted the calling of Jesus Christ to proclaim His Gospel within the holistic Mission of the Church. This Organisation has and shall always promote the fellowship of all Local Preachers and the people of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa within the context of her progressively unfolding vision and mission with the statements: called to be a community centred church, graciously walking in God’s love, to serve, heal and transform and to spread a holistic life-giving Gospel through leading a Christ like life.

In October 2017 at its Triennial Convention held in Lichtenburg, the LPA inducted the General President and his General Executive Committee that introduced a new theme for the period 2018 to 2020, the Theme: “IGNITING GOD’S FIRE FOR DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION” extracted from LEVITICUS 6:13.

Statistics and Overview

The year under review has revealed numbers of preachers affiliated to the LPA as follows:

- Accredited Preachers: 6636
- LPA Preachers on trial: 1019
- Total Preachers: 7655

The above mentioned Preachers represent 11 (eleven) Synods. We still have not received statistics from Mozambique. The LPA has sadly lost 360 Preachers who have been called to higher service. The number of the deceased excludes Cape of Good Hope and Natal West Synods.

Although some Preachers no longer submit annual fees, either due to personal choice or old age, or they can’t afford to, there are still some that submit annual fees.

Objectives for Period under Review

- Obligated to preach and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the land, in season and out of season, so that God’s people may believe and repent.
- To give fresh and relevant impetus to the preaching ministry of lay people.
• Each one of us has a task to perform and to undertake God’s mission with compassion.
• As Disciples of the word of God we must save souls and keep God’s fire burning on the altars.
• To promote open air preaching to the poor, and every corner of our land.
• To promote the forty, forty, twenty concept in the Synods and the Connexion at large.
• To continue with Local Preachers’ Retreats twice a year in all Synods.
• To assist vulnerable communities through outreach programmes, this without publicity.
• To encourage Local Preachers to observe the vision and mission and be indebted to the MCSA ethos.

Achievements, Highlights, Challenges and Future Plans
• We have collected approximately 40 manels, a few shirts and trousers and are still to collect waistcoats for our Mozambique Preachers and other vulnerable Preachers across the Connexion. We are planning to deliver them after meeting with the Mission Unit Director, as it is difficult to cross the border with goods.
• We successfully visited seven LPA Synod Conventions, namely: Queenstown, Clarkebury, Limpopo, NFS and Lesotho, KNB, Highveld and Swaziland as well as Cape of Good Hope, where we experienced the power of God’s work especially through outreach programmes.
• We also participated in some of the Synods LPA elections and inductions.
• We visited our sister Organisations Triennials and Synod Conventions for greetings and well wishes.
• We visited some Synod Bishops induction services.
• Our Annual Connexional LPA General Committee Meeting was successfully held in February at Emseni Christian Centre in Benoni.
• We successfully held our first Connexional LPA Executive Committee Retreat at Orkney in the Matlosana Circuit.
• Our main challenge is the Trip to Rome failure debacle which has still not been resolved. This hinders our progress, as people want answers and refunds of their funds. We invited the lawyer representing the LPA on the matter, as well as the committee which was formed by the affected people, to our Executive Meeting in February at Emseni in order to formulate the way forward. The lawyer is attempting to locate the travel agent to whom the funds were transferred.

THE IMPERATIVES OF MISSION

Spirituality
• The Connexional LPA Executive Committee will engage with the MCO, Leaders of Organisations and Unit Leaders, to plan the Methodist Evangelical Revival which will to be held in Kimberley from the 19th to the 20th October.
• We will continue with the DRD (Discipline, Respect and Discernment) model in
all Synods. This model was created in order to assist the church to fight against various social ills.

- We have in all Synods and Circuits, embarked on Retreat concepts to revive Preachers and promote unity among God’s people.

**Evangelism and Church Growth**

- The LPA is engaging in Pulpit and open Air preaching, conducting street revivals, singing and praising in most of our Synods to proclaim the word of God to our communities in hospitals, prisons and to those who need the most.
- Our Evangelical Revivals are being held in three fold, at Synod, Regional, and at Connexional levels. 2019 will be at Connexional level in Kimberley.

**Justice and Service**

- The Constitution of the LPA has been amended and is now available in all South African indigenous languages, so that it could reach all members with thorough understanding.
- The current Executive is in conversation with the former General President, the legal representative as well as affected parties, to resolve the matter of the failed Trip to Rome. A report will be provided once the matter has been finalised.

**Human and Economic Development and Empowerment**

- The LPA is continuing with outreach programmes, where we assist poor and vulnerable communities with various items according to their needs.
- As stated before, we are continuing with the project of giving assistance to our Mozambiquan and Local Preachers. Items such as manels, waistcoats and other uniforms will be provided after meeting with the Mission Unit Director.

**Education and Training**

- The studies and training of Local Preachers has been reviewed, and the revised curriculum and programmes will seek to encourage impeccable character and ethics. New guidelines for Local Preachers studies have been made available through booklets provided by the Education for Ministry and Mission Unit (EMMU).
- Thanks to the work done by two LPA Executive Committee members who are also members of EMMU for assisting with the Preachers studies at Connexional, Synods and Circuit levels.

**The State of Our Finances**

- With God’s help we are now able to run our office due to the financial help of the Synod Assessments, though still owing the Central Synod an amount of more than R150 000 that was lent to us to host the Triennial Convention in 2017. We borrowed that money as the past Executive did not have the money that was paid to them for the Triennial Convention.
Our bank balance is able to sustain the day-to-day needs of the LPA and allows us to execute our duties.

Connexional LPA Important Dates

- The Methodist Evangelical Revival will be held in Kimberley, KNB Synod from the 19\textsuperscript{th} to the 20\textsuperscript{th} October 2019, from 10am the 19\textsuperscript{th} to 10am the 20\textsuperscript{th}.
- The Synods LPA Presidents meeting will be held on the 18\textsuperscript{th} October 2019 at Kimberley KNB Synod at 16H00. (The Revival venue)
- The Preachers Sunday is on the 30\textsuperscript{th} June 2019 in all Synods and the collection of the day goes to the EMMU Office.
- The Preachers Sunday Theme is: "IGNITING GOD’S FIRE TO SHAPE TOMORROW TODAY".
- The Triennial Convention will be held in the Natal West Synod from the 21\textsuperscript{st} to the 26\textsuperscript{th} October 2020 and the venue is still to be announced.
- The Induction of the newly elected General President Rev Sandile SH Makhaye and his committee will be on the 22\textsuperscript{nd} October 2020.
- The General LPA Executive Committee Meeting will be held from the 13\textsuperscript{th} to the 15\textsuperscript{th} October 2020 at Emseni Christian Centre in Benoni.

The LPA General Executive Committee Officials

- General President: Mr Magic M Hlatshwayo
- Ex-General President: Rev Peacemaker T Sikotoyi
- General Vice President: Mr Isaac M Gulwa
- General Secretary: Rev Moagi C Sekhejane
- General Vice Secretary: Mrs Mapula L Zondo
- General Treasurer: Mr Mandla Maseko
- General Committee Member: Rev Morapedi M Diutlwileng
- General Committee Member: Mr Dlangamandla Mabusela
- General Committee Member: Mrs Elsie Mokhemisa

In Conclusion

To God be the Glory as we pursue our calling and we again thank the Holy Spirit who keeps us on fire as we Ignite God’s Fire for Discipleship and Mission, and not let the fire go out on our altars – it must be kept burning at all times.

SHALOM, SHALOM
CHAPTER 24

WOMEN’S WORK

CONNEXIONAL WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION
Mrs Cathy Robyn, General President

Theme: Together in God’s creation through Faith with Trust to work for transformation as a servant leader.

Membership
Total No. of Branches: 105

The Women’s Association is active in 5 geographic Synods in South Africa and Namibia. However changes are taking place as influenced by the Methodist Church of Southern Africa boundary amendments; loss of some Branches to some Synods and gains by others, are currently in progress.

Spirituality
The work of the Women’s Association is firmly grounded in the deep spirituality of its members stretching across different generations of women who mentor each other in prayer while reaching out in prayer support, taking Christ’s spirit into the homes and families in the communities.

Much is done using available resources in our Connexion, such as forming partnerships in classes of Discipleship courses and strengthening our relationship with God.

Evangelism and Church Growth
We hear the cry of the church for believers to serve and be a part in Shaping Tomorrow Today. We use the gift which God has given us and together we can make a difference. We seek to be consistent in prayer, invite and encourage people to attend prayer sessions. Prayer groups are playing an active role in communities, churches and schools. Visitations to the elderly and weekly prayer sessions.

The World Day of Prayer programme is an annual activity on the Evangelism calendar. This programme includes all persons from different denominations.

Spiritual Retreats were held during the year as a means of refreshing our inner being and for guidance.

A donation of Audio Visual and New Testament Bibles were received from the Bible Society and distributed to Grade 7 Learners throughout the Connexion. The Bible Society will be celebrating 200 years of existence in 2020.
Justice, Service and Reconciliation
The Women’s Association claims the Love of God makes this world a beautiful place and that the peace of God binds us together. So our members created spaces to support single parents; to relax and share their experiences and approaches as how to parent; supporting congregants to uncover self-love that comes from embracing being a child of God. This forms the foundation of building relationships, a peaceful home and society.

Women’s Association members took a stand to speak out against Gender Based Violence and supported victims of violence in courts.

During the Fire and Flood disasters earlier this year, donations were sent to Relief Management Centres and so living our Motto “By Love Serve Ye One Another”.

Development and Economic Empowerment
Attending the Leadership Development and Investment Symposium we were made aware of the challenges that are a threat to the Creation of God. As living beings we need to take full responsibility for our lack of commitment and have a greater sense of accountability for that which God has entrusted to us. Workshops: Cancer Knockers were sewn (a cost effective substitute for breast prosthesis) used in the treatment for Breast Cancer patients. Part of Empowerment projects were designing bags using second-hand T-shirts and also making sandals. The Susanna Wesley apron project is still in progress.

Pastoral Care
Is the active pursuit of attitudes, practices and programmes that promote and develop the intellectual, emotional, physical, social and spiritual dimensions of individuals through the enhancement of a safe, caring environment where support structures are evident. The Pastoral Care Members are well cared for in the Connexion. We encouraged all the Synods to keep contact and make them part of the Ministries. Members are the Queens of the Women’s Association, our strength and our source of wisdom. We salute them!

Education and Christian Formation
In Shaping Tomorrow Today, we recognise the value of our youth, not only in the church but in our communities. We were brought back to the vulnerability of our youth and we urgently need to seek God’s face to intercede for our children. Youth Camps and Sunday School excursions were times of educating/sharing about the pitfalls in life. The Women’s Association assisted with Holiday Camps during school holidays which brought a time of exploring talents and sharing their stories, and to be in a safe environment under supervision. The Women’s Association supported a powerful puppet show by Sunday School kids, addressing crime and the violation of children’s rights. This raised awareness of how important it is to take note what the youth are saying.
World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

Statistics show that this part of our work is not fully presented in all areas of women’s work. However women in the Connexion observed the important dates and campaigns on the World Federation calendar.

World Federation Study day: Combined services with Women’s Auxiliary, Women’s Manyano and Young Women’s Manyano sisters in Synods following a set Program. Women in the Southern and East Africa Area are eagerly awaiting the Area Seminar which will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 27 to 30 November 2019.

Various Project highlights:

“Child day at work” whereby girls participated and spend the day working with different Managers. It was indeed a learning curve for the girls as they spent eight hours at work. They were also encouraged to complete their tertiary studies after matric.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s), our focus areas were:
* No. 2 – Zero Hunger
  An outreach program was held supporting vulnerable children.
* No. 4 – Quality Education
  Children were taught on the symbolism of the South African flag.
* Plan of action:
  • Encourage the youth to study the area of Sustainable Development Goals.
  • Reaching out and adopt a student from another country.

Challenges
Some of the challenges faced by our Members in the Connexion are: Travel distances, violence and ill health.

Conclusion
We acknowledge the uniqueness of all women and offer support in all areas of our Synods to attract all to Women’s Work of the Church.

Our gratitude and appreciation to all local Ministers and our Women in Ministry for assisting and supporting the work of women in the church.

To God be the Glory.

“By Love Serve Ye One Another”.
## WOMEN’S AUXILIARY

**Mrs Mary Ellerbeck, General President**

### Number of Branches and Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch Type</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Branches</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch Members</td>
<td>2317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country and Postal Branches</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country and Postal Members</td>
<td>792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Membership</strong></td>
<td><strong>3109</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Christ’s love compels us to sing a new song as we the women of the Women’s Auxiliary strive to know Christ and make Him known. We rely on the Fruit of the Spirit to change us so that we can reflect the glory of our Saviour as we go out in His Name to spread love and compassion.

### Connexional Meeting

The Connexional meeting was held at Emseni Retreat Centre, hosted by the Highveld and Swaziland Synod. The theme of the meeting was “Christ’s love compels us to sing a new song.” The business was well handled by Mrs Cheryl Greaves and her Committee.

Church services were very meaningful, with wonderful messages and lots of singing. The programme included excellent speakers and the delegates benefitted from the topics and discussions. Rev Charmaine Morgan described the plans to change the Synod boundaries to enable the church to be more mission orientated. Rev Makabulo, Secretary of Church Unity Commission, described the work of the Commission and its future plans. Mrs Thini Ngonyama, General Treasurer, gave an in-depth description of the workings of the financial management of the Church, and Mrs Beth Kok presented the history of the Women’s Auxiliary Diary.

Two Resolutions were passed at the meeting:

1. The outgoing General and Synod Executive are responsible for handing over all minutes and records of special events pertinent to their term of office to the incoming executive. All previous minutes and records are to be sent to the Cory Library for archiving.

2. The expenses of the General Executive, the Ex-General President, the Synod Presidents or their substitutes attending Connexional meetings shall be paid from the general purpose Fund. In the year that the General Executive Elect take office, their travelling expenses to Connexional meeting shall be paid by the general purpose Fund.
The meeting closed with the commissioning of Mrs Mary Ellerbeck as the new General President by the Presiding Bishop, Rev Z Siwa.

**Spirituality**
All Synods report that branches commence meetings with devotions, many branch members attend Bible Study groups or Cell Groups and many belong to prayer chains. The Women’s World Day Of Prayer is well supported as is the Week of Prayer for Church Unity. Enriching annual Women’s Auxiliary Sundays are celebrated. Synod Executives encourage branch members to do in-depth devotions and Bible studies and some even send out monthly challenges.

**Evangelism and Church Growth**
Most branches are involved in church activities, encouraging members to become fully involved in the church. Hospital and home visits of the sick and frail, are carried out. This maintains a link between the church and those no longer able to attend worship. Congregational lunches and teas are served. Congregational members are provided with food parcels where necessary. Outreach programmes of each branch are seen as a way of encouraging people to come to know Christ as their personal Saviour and Lord. Carol services were held at Retirement Homes.

**Justice and Service**
During the takeover year we had two General Justice and Service Secretaries, both ladies stressed the importance of the justice component of the portfolio, and encouraged Synods to get involved in the Sanitary Towel Projects. Prison visits were carried out and some Women’s Auxiliary Branches supported the Kairos Prison Ministry. Small bags are filled with goodies for both women and girls and given to the special police department that deals with rape; the bags were given to the victims in their time of need. Street people, those born to mothers who have nothing, as well as Methodist Children’s and Old Aged Homes were supported. Shoes, scarves, clothing and blankets are given out with love and a prayer that the recipients will come to know Jesus.

**Country and Postal**
A monthly newsletter from both the General and Synod Country and Postal Secretaries is sent to members who can no longer attend meetings due to ill health or distance from the church. These letters are greatly appreciated by the ladies as they are a link with friends and also keeps them up to date with church activities. The devotional message in the letters is a welcome reminder that Jesus remembers them and loves them always.

**Human and Economic Development, Empowerment and Education**
Synods report that Crèches and Nursery Schools are supported as well as facilities where young and old can learn skills such as knitting and sewing. Many outreach
programmes ensure human dignity, especially those in hospitals where baby clothes and blankets are provided to those in need. Sanitary towels, distributed at schools, enable girls to attend regularly. Rape victims receive personal items that provide a little comfort.

**Jubilee Fund**

The Women’s Auxiliary was once again able to assist a Minister’s widow and her children with a once off substantial gift which was greatly appreciated. The money given is from the interest earned on the Jubilee Fund investment.

**Finance**

All monies raised by the Women’s Auxiliary are used to further the Kingdom of God in this beautiful country. Church buildings are often given face-lifts by the ladies. Methodist Funds are supported and Children’s and Old Aged Homes receive gifts of cash and kind. Many members, especially the pensioners, find it hard in the current economic climate to meet all the demands made on them but still do their best to support the mission work done in their Branch or Synod.

**World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women**

Cheryl Greaves was able to spend time with the Area President of the WFM&UCW at the Connexional Meeting of the Women’s Association in Uitenhage. The cost of travelling to Zimbabwe or Kenya for a two hour meeting was discussed and the Area President offered to try and arrange a meeting in South Africa in February 2019. World Federation Day was celebrated.

**Conclusion**

The Holy Spirit fills us with the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control as we go forward singing a New Song, endeavouring to know Christ more fully and to share His love with all as we make Him known.

The General Executive pays tribute to Cheryl Greaves and her team who led the Women’s Auxiliary so graciously. As we take the baton, we will endeavour to lead the ladies of this wonderful Organisation by the power and strength of God our Father to whom we give all the glory, honour and praise.

*I, the lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I have made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?*
Here I am Lord
Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart.
INTRODUCTION
Connexional Women’s Manyano, the Missionaries, still pursue the focus area for 2017-2020: “Inspire, empower and mentor the girl-child and women.” It is so fulfilling for the women and the Organisation to give meaning and intention to the focus area. It is not just about implementing programmes but adding value to lives and worshipping God through action. The passion for the mission of God propels women to engage in various activities that are categorised according to the mission pillars of the MCSA.

SPIRITUALITY
Through the sound theological knowledge and exegesis of our clergy, especially female ministers within the MCSA, the souls of the membership were enriched, mended, healed and spiritually uplifted. At Conventions and Triennials it was a joy to listen to their exegesis of scriptures and hear the interpretation that says to women – it’s not a lost cause, there is still hope and a blessed future irrespective of the circumstances. It cleared certain misconceptions, women related to the interpretations and they were very hope-giving. Many women testified to new positive perceptions gained. Scripture reading and prayer are the cornerstones of the Organisation. Teachings about the spiritual disciplines were encouraged and practised.

JUSTICE AND SERVICE
Synods held seminars for women, addressing issues that affect them as widows, divorcees, single parents, married women and as women generally. Experts in various fields (eg. lawyers, psychologists etc.,) were called in for intervention and advice. Such sessions were life-changing for some women. The CCS Secretary portfolio is a crucial one as they are foot soldiers responsible for social justice and ensuring that the focus area is implemented. More training and up-skilling of CCS Secretaries was done. Outreach is sustained by the Synods. The Wellness Team showed up where they were needed the most and offered counselling and a ministry of presence. The Organisation showed compassion by working with the Mission Unit in preparing for the funeral of a gender-based violence victim. A donation to the Gift of Givers for flood victims in Mozambique and Zimbabwe was made in the form of clothing. Monetary donation of R50 000 was done through the Relief Fund.
Human and Economic Development and Empowerment

Development of the girl-child targeting three areas – character-formation, public speaking and Do-It-Yourself (DIY) was planned. It is joy to report that through Camps of Girls by various Synods and the Connexion this was achieved, but is still on-going. Training on hat-making, fine-beading and fabric painting were done and there are women who make an income through the skills acquired. Through Execoach and the ETDP-SETA, Facilitators and Mentors were trained and accredited.

A multi-disciplinary Wellness Task Team was established. This is not a duplication of the MCSA policy but the team benchmarked from it. It was then customised to meet the needs of the membership of the Organisation. It is a useful vehicle for healing and transformation. Empowerment was gained through seminars, symposiums, Bible studies and presentations too. Women were developed and grew a lot from these.

Education and Christian Formation

The Organisation continues to support ECDC’s by financial contributions to the Mission Unit to enable it to give grants to those who apply. Performance of learners that were given programme-loaded laptops is more than satisfactory. One learner has relocated due to death in the family. Leadership 2030 has just started. It’s a programme on empowering the next layer of leadership. Wives of Ministers on probation – education continues. With the help of Rev Pumla Nzimande, the training of ministers’ wives is now structured.

Congratulations

Praise be to God for the winds of change within the MCSA regarding women leadership. Our unwavering pledge of support goes to all our sisters who have been elected to lead the people of God at various levels. To mention but a few, congratulations to:

- Rev. Purity Malinga (Presiding Bishop Elect)
- Rev. Yvette Moses (Bishop Elect – Cape of Good Hope Synod)
- Rev. Faith Whitby (Bishop Elect – Central Synod)
- Synod Secretaries and Synod Presidents of various Departments and Organisations.

Highlights

- The Wellness Team is in operation.
- The R1,5 million that was fenced for the Convention Centre seed money for the last hosting district was released.
- All monetary contributions for the year under review were done.
- Accreditation for Facilitators and Mentors was achieved.
- Skills training (crafting) was done and women earn revenue from that.
- Netball tournament – encouraging wellness and fun.
Future Plans

- Planned skills training (entrepreneurial).
- Digitising and safe storage of the Organisation to be handed over to the new Executive at the Triennial 2020.
- Umlandu woManyano Book Launch at Triennial 2020.

Conclusion

What a blessing and privilege that God chose the Manyano and its leadership to serve Him and His people. This privilege is not taken for granted but is highly valued. The servants of God listed below, thank God for allowing them to serve Him at this high office. Thanks to the women of the Organisation for equipping them and supporting them.

They are:

- Mrs Evergreen Rulumeni and Mrs Xoliswa Ngqangweni (CCS)
- Mrs Abegail Mpahlwa and Mrs Nomonde Mini (Finance)
- Mrs Busisiwe Nxitywa and Mrs Noxolo Makumsha (Secretariat)
- Mrs Vuyokazi Toto-Mdingi (Communications and Justice)
- Ms Nomvuzo Mbiza (Education)
YOUNG WOMEN’S MANYANO

Mrs N P Motswenyane, General President

Theme: Shaping Tomorrow – Today.
Sub-theme: “Self-Actualisation of Young Women”.

Preamble
We, the membership of the Young Women’s Manyano created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our calling and engage in ministry and mission. We depend on the Presence and Power of the Holy Spirit to grow even though we seem to be experiencing a difficult period with the new scourge of fathers killing their children and themselves, killings in our schools, political leaders as well as the homeless people.

Objectives
• To be an Organisation that is healed holistically, and cares for our environment.
• To promote values, encourage and nurture the Junior Manyano.
• To empower members on entrepreneurial skills, support especially those heading their families in a holistic manner.
• To restore dignity and faith to young women within our communities.

Overview of the YWM Work
1. Spirituality
We emphasize the deepening of spirituality within the Organisation by arranging workshops, Bible Studies, Retreats and Spiritual Camps. Teachings on contemporary issues is done at Local, Synod and Connexional levels. We fully engage in the 40 days of LENT as well as Easter Holy week which uplifts our spirits. We encourage mountain prayers which reconnects us with our Creator, encourages and promotes devotions within our family units.

2. Evangelism and Church Growth
We organise outreach campaigns to motivate non-believers, and also those who have lost their direction and may not have their full trust in our Lord Jesus Christ. We continue with visits to Prisons, Hospitals, Pensioners (old aged homes), Orphanages and Rehabilitation Centres, to bring them hope. We use Social Media platforms as a tool to spread the Word of God in this 4th industrial era. Central Synod Young Women’s Manyano continues to strive to retain as well as grow, by implementing their strategy with the “Twinning Plan” in which advantaged Circuits are motivated to support the disadvantaged ones; not only
monetarily but through evangelising together and through inter-denomination worshiping.

3. **Justice, Service and Reconciliation**
Cape of Good Hope Synod Young Women’s Manyano participated in a demonstration against taxi violence at the Delft taxi rank. A special prayer was conducted at the taxi rank especially for those who have been forced to flee their homes and seek refuge from their homes and communities, as well as those who have lost their loved ones due to taxi related violence. They referred one grief-stricken woman to a place of safety where she could get emotional support. The Heatherdale Children’s Home received four soccer balls, blankets, 50 soft teddy bears and toy animals to be used during counselling. COGH is providing a full bursary which covers school uniform, stationery and school excursions to a needy primary school child. In collaboration with the Department of Justice, Health and Social Development they provide emotional support to the most vulnerable, distressed, unemployed, HIV/AIDS and assist those child headed families to get social grants and ID documents.

Following the matter that was raised at Pretoria City Mission, Fourways Circuit Young Women’s Manyano led a Sunday Service highlighting the issues faced by women and children. Fourways Circuit participated in the Total Shutdown March against Gender Based Violence in August 2018. Natal Coastal Synod had a march during their July 2018 Convention where a memorandum was handed to the Umlazi Police Station calling for tougher visibility in this township in the fight against crime and violence towards women and children. During their 2019 Annual Convention Clarkebury Synod donated full school uniforms to forty learners of De La Rey Mkhatshwa J.S.S. and toiletries to 100 learners of Mthweni SSS. Northern Free State and Lesotho Synod provided twenty disadvantaged children from Dr Sello Junior Primary School, with full winter school uniforms, including school shoes and school bags. Two homes, namely, Mohau and Kamohelo Orphanages, were also provided with toiletries and blankets. Natal West Synod provides members with a platform to do handwork for lifelong learning and earning. In East London, the Connexional Young Women’s Manyano donated sleeping items for the Orphanage as well as sanitary and cosmetics for Junior Manyano and other children in need that were identified by the Synod.

4. **Human and Economic Development and Empowerment**
Mozambique is continuing with their project of making sanitary towels. Members are encouraged to share the information they have about job opportunities. This is happening on our Synod Facebook and WhatsApp pages. Cape of Good Hope and Natal Coastal Synods conducted and hosted a one-day Training for Circuit Treasurers, Secretaries and Christian Citizenship Secretaries within their
Synods. Natal Coastal Synod identified and provided six members from different Circuits, with machines to sell airtime and electricity vouchers. Natal Coastal Synod donated curtains to the female residence at the school which hosted the 2018 Synod Convention. Natal Coastal Synod Young Women’s Manyano hosted a successful Night of Worship and a fundraising initiative of selling Thursday in Black dresses to the women within the Connexion.

5. Education:
Clarkebury Synod Young Women’s Manyano held music competitions where Junior Manyano competed, singing Ndiyakholwa, Siyakudumisa and Gcobani, in order for them to better understand their meaning and importance. Clarkebury Synod Young Women’s Manyano continues to pay school fees, uniforms and boarding fees for two learners. The total amount that has been spent is R20 000. A contribution of R10 000 has been made to the Mission Unit, towards the bursary fund of the Synod. Natal West Synod Young Women’s Manyano is creating partnerships with local libraries and retired teachers to assist with Mathematics.

6. Junior Manyano Annual Report
“Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray”.
– Proverbs 22:6

6.1. Fellowship
- Through worship, service and fellowship, our children are offered a variety of events and activities to grow in their Christian faith.
- The Junior Manyano Annual Synod Convention, which offered a time for deeper learning through presentations, fun and fellowship with Christian friends, was a huge successes in most Synods. Some Convention events included activities like presentations about the late former South African President, Nelson Mandela’s history. A relaxed atmosphere was created for younger children to give them a chance to be social and participate in colouring-in activities.

6.2. Outreach
- The Junior Manyano donated their time by feeding the hungry, donating gifts to orphans and running errands for elderly people.
- Highveld and Swaziland Synod held their Junior Manyano Inaugural Convention at Tiger Lodge this year, where through presentations that were done, children managed to open up about incidents taking place in their lives. These incidents included sexual and physical abuse, leaving them feeling hopeless regarding our justice system which fails them. Highlights of the Convention included, amongst others, singing and poetry which was performed by the children.
- During the CCS Outreach, HISWA launched a programme for children and each Circuit submitted a name of the Junior Manyano who will
be working as a team with the Junior National Commissioner to assist other children in various Circuits. This will assist the children that feel that their cases are not followed up and resolved. The National Junior Commissioner will be following up these cases with SAPS.

6.3. **Fun Activities**
- COGH Junior Manyano took great pleasure and pride from the variety of sporting activities. They participated in different games such as soccer, netball, spoon-egg races, sack races and jumping castles for younger children. Activities such as Boat Cruises, Red bus tour and Bake for Fun kept children entertained throughout the year.

6.4. **Creative Arts**
- A Junior Manyano talent show was conducted in Natal Coastal Synod and this was a blessed occasion where many children glorified Him with their God given talents. All children were awarded for their participation.
- During the 2018 Natal Coastal Synod Junior Manyano Convention at Clerpine Circuit in 2018, they were taught about God, Church and life, encouraged about education, and empowered on skills. They hosted talent shows where Junior Manyano members were able to showcase their talents, for which they were judged and awarded accordingly.
- Clarkebury Synod taught their Junior Manyano’s more specifically on Ndiyakholwa, Siyakudumisa and Gcobani so they could understand the importance of these to the Methodist Church.

**Challenges**
- High rate of unemployment and substance abuse.
- Single parenthood and child-headed families.
- Dread diseases. (Parent mortality)

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**
**Highveld and Swaziland Synod**
- Donated twenty cafeteria tables to Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary, during their 2019 Convention.
- Highveld and Swaziland Synod has been blessed by having one of their members from Vereeniging Circuit who is the National Junior Commissioner of Police.
- They visited Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary again and donated the following:
  - Breakfast products that amounted to R35 000.00
  - A cash cheque of R10 000,00
  - Groceries worth R10 000,00.
- Highveld and Swaziland Synod donated school uniforms and groceries to ten children from different schools in Alberton and Germiston Circuits. Groceries
were provided to a child-headed home of five children in Katlehong, the eldest child being seventeen years of age.

- The number of graduates as well Doctorates within the Young Women’s Manyano has increased.

**South Durban**: Adopt a Child: Young Women’s Manyano at South Durban supports children of their members who have passed away, with groceries, stationery and clothes.

**Clerpine Circuit**: 67 minutes 67 blankets: Blankets are handed over annually to a chosen charity organisation which are hand-made by members.

**Durban Circuit 712**: Junior Manyano members are given school uniforms and school bags every year. The Natal Coastal Synod Young Women’s Manyano started a Bursary Fund at their 2018 Convention to assist children in need within the Synod. This bursary will fund one student in both the North and South regions of Natal Coastal Synod every year going forward.

**Future Plans**
To continue empowering our members on Entrepreneurial skills. To have and continue with joint sustainable Mission Projects with other Organisations within the Church. Mozambique continues with their relationship with the Female Penitentiary in Maputo Province, hospital and orphanage.

**Conclusion**
We are thankful to God our Creator for another year of Service, Discipleship and Fellowship, for His Love and Grace, Blessings, Wisdom and Protection. The Gracious and Merciful Lord has been and is still with us through our journey. He is still God and is enough. We are in continuous prayer and wish the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Conference delegates a successful and Spiritual 2019 Conference.
CHAPTER 25

MEN’S WORK

CONNEXIONAL YOUNG MEN’S GUILD

Rev Nkonsinathi Geja, General President

1. Introduction

It is with great pleasure and humility to report on the work of Young Men’s Guild during these challenging and exciting times. It is time for the YMG having acknowledged and honestly accepted the historical reality of undue patriarchal advantages that men have enjoyed and the consequent retardation of its ability to engage in advancing women leadership, to take strides and establish its role in the acceleration of women leadership in the MCSA.

The emancipation of women and their ultimate leadership is not an act of charity or the result of a humanitarian or compassionate attitude but a fundamental necessity for the creation of a society that does not stifle and deprive women from expressing and developing their potential as human beings made in the image of God. It is appropriate therefore to acknowledge and congratulate Rev. P Malinga on her election as the Presiding Bishop of our church. We pledge our unwavering support to her and all other Synod Bishops that were elected to lead our Church.

2. Visits to the Synods

The YMG Connexional Executive Committee (EXCO) has managed to visit all Synods as planned and interacted with members on the ground. The EXCO has also managed to attend the Triennial Conventions of the LPA and the Women’s Manyano. We however, could not attend the Connexional Youth meetings but have tendered due apology for this inability and trust that we shall be able to do so in future. Our Synods are urged and encouraged to attend Youth synods and their activities at their respective Synods. The EXCO has also interacted with various structures for ecumenical fellowship.

3. Finances

The YMG is doing fairly well with its finances and continues to make efforts in ensuring stability to manage and implement its mission. It serves to mention that the general economic downturn in our country is felt by our members and we work under difficult times of poverty and unemployment.
4. Mission Imperatives

The following is a summary of activities conducted in various Synods with an attempt to address the mission imperatives and objectives of the organisation:

4.1 Spirituality

The pillar remains the critical inspiration tool to the members and the communities they serve. The members conduct mostly revival services and bible studies. Most of the members also join the Local Preachers Association (LPA) to deepen their knowledge and understanding of faith. In some areas, the members visit spiritual camps to enhance their spiritual formation. In some synods our members conduct combined prayer services with other denominations.

4.2 Evangelism and Church Growth

The two elements of the pillar are interconnected and relate well for the Organisation. This is shown by the fact that the more we evangelise, the more the opportunity for church growth and that of the Organisation. The members continue to evangelise through street revivals, prayer meetings, conventions and sometimes door to door. The members also visit hospitals and prisons to evangelise patients and inmates respectively. The regional conventions and or zonal conventions (Inkanyamba) are also utilised as opportunity to evangelise. However, there was a need to develop new ways of evangelising in the suburbs, taxi ranks, malls and other public amenities. Our evangelism strategy/approach must be relevant to the changing times. The message developed must also be appropriate within the time space available to us.

4.3 Human and Economic Development and Empowerment

There is not much activity that is reported on this by the synods. Possibly it is because the synods are not able to capture appropriately the programmes and activities done in this area. However, in some synods it is reported that there are various projects that are conducted to empower the members and vulnerable people. They are also providing support to sister organisations by donating money or giving support in kind for their various activities. The YMG has in the last three (3) years built five (5) houses for deserving families in various synods. The houses were fully furnished and groceries provided. Members were also encouraged to profile their services for other church members to procure them where necessary or possible. Speakers were invited to empower members with knowledge on various matters/issues of relevance including business opportunities.

4.4 Justice, Service and Reconciliation

The YMG in various synods has raised the bar on the drive to stand against the abuse of women and children. Our members continued to say we can’t tolerate men including our members abusing women and children. Marches
were held in all the synods to express our zero tolerance stance towards these social ills. Our members continue to support many families during times of distress with food parcels (groceries), blankets and other relief materials. Some synods have also responded to a call to support Mozambique as a result of the recent hurricane disaster. The organisation is also involved in various mission activities organised by the church. Charity projects activities like YMG family day, Men’s day, and sports day/golf day were conducted to build Christian citizenship in the communities. The YMG has built several houses for poor families which were fully furnished with the support of sister organisations.

4.5 **Education and Christian Formation**

Most of our synods have established bursary funds to support poor students towards their education. The support was made available at all education levels including those at our Seminary. Today there are students in schools, universities and Technicon’s supported by the YMG. Various workshops (motivational and wellness) were conducted for the benefit of our members. During the wellness sessions, various specialists and/or professional practitioners were invited to conduct free tests on HPT, HIV, TB, Glucose, Cancer and related diseases affecting young and old, within our communities. The YMG has also supported Children’s Ministry by conducting sessions with them. We have also partnered with the Black Methodist Consultation for the training and empowerment of leadership in the YMG and other sister Organisations. The inaugural training summit was held at the Seminary during October 2018 and a declaration of commitment was agreed upon. The Baqwa Month as agreed upon was not utilised effectively for our education and Christian formation. Only one or two synods reported on having conducted activities during the February/Baqwa Month. The Natal West synod has developed a newsletter to publish the stories about the positive work the YMG is doing that is not acknowledged/recognised by our church and mainstream publications.

5. **General Department of Development and Social Responsibility**

The YMG is still proceeding with the Philani Projects (Clinic) in the KNB Synod. However, there were serious challenges that we have experienced as the project implementation is now in the hands of the Eastern Cape Department of Health. However, there has been an agreement with the KNB Synod on way forward and an amount of R65 000 was contributed to assist the KNB Synod in this project. Regarding the Halfway House Project, the MOU has now been received from the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) and was signed by our Presiding Bishop, Rev. Siwa and the National Commissioner: DCS at the 2019 Triennial. The project shall be rolled out to the synods for implementation.
6. Membership of the YMG (2018 Statistics)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synod</th>
<th>Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cape of Good Hope</td>
<td>609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grahamstown</td>
<td>1 714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>2 201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim, Nam and Bloemfontein</td>
<td>2 683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Free State and Lesotho</td>
<td>867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natal Coastal</td>
<td>1 676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natal West</td>
<td>1 950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>1 888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highveld and Swaziland</td>
<td>1 223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limpopo</td>
<td>2 302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarkebury</td>
<td>1 594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18 344</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The new leadership of Mozambique Synod has promised to improve their participation in the Connexional activities. They have promised a number of changes to their structure and that will improve their responsiveness to Connexional needs. The year under review has seen a serious drop in the membership of the Organisation. Most of our Synods have lost members with Clarkebury and Grahamstown indicating the negative impact this has been on their plans and overall finances. Many factors like unemployment and poverty are contributing to this negative phenomenon despite concerted efforts by various Synods to grow the Organisation.

7. Synod Demarcations

The 2018 MCSA Conference in Mozambique resolved to proceed with the demarcation of the Synods as suggested in the past. The matter was presented at last Connexional General Executive Committee (CGEC) meeting in Welkom as well as in the 2019 Triennial Convention to allow the Organisation to get involved from an informed position. The conversation is ongoing and plans shall be made as when the need arises. The pending changes across the Connexion require that the Organisation review some of its activities/meetings and other related matters to cater for these changes.

8. Highlights

The General President, Rev. Geja and his committee were inducted. There was also election of the General President of the YMG, Rev. Phumlani Jam-Jam from Natal West Synod. We congratulate his election and pledge the support of this gallant organisation to him.

Further, at the 2019 Triennial Convention our Presiding Bishop, Rev. Siwa signed a long outstanding MoU with the Department of Correctional Services for the implementation of the Halfway Project.
9. **2022 Triennial Convention**
   The 29th Triennial Convention shall be held on 8-12 June 2022 in Natal West Synod at which Rev. Phumlani Jam-Jam and his committee will be inducted as the General President of the YMG.

10. **Future Plans**
   The YMG intends to roll out “Raising-A-Boy-Child Project” that shall engage Boys and Men to address issues of gender inequality and discrimination by interrogating the existing dominant model of Masculinity and help to prevent gender-based violence against women. This project shall engage young men in schools, colleges and communities through healthy conversations with experts around sexual health and gender-sensitive behaviour through leadership-driven training, interactive workshops, formal and informal “an hour with a boy” talks. Further, the project aims to strengthen father-son relationships and cultivate authentic manhood in boys, a lifestyle of coaching Godly values and beliefs related to masculinity and leadership culminating in a rite of passage which marks a release from childhood into adulthood.

11. **Conclusion**
   The YMG witnessed two passionate members inducted to the office of Bishops, Rev. L. Mandindi, our Ex-General President, as the Bishop of Natal Coastal Synod and Rev. S. Mokgothu as the Bishop of Limpopo Synod. We give thanks to God for the leadership of these members. We are faced with a number of challenges, primary among these include but not limited to domestic violence, rape and killing of children, family breakages, high unemployment rate, poverty, drugs and alcohol abuse.

   We are, however, grateful to God that in our times, the YMG Organisation is still committed to spread Christ’s gospel and committed to bring about change to the lives of people through evangelism.

**YMG Connexional Executive Committee**

- General President: Rev. Nkosinathi A. Geja
- Ex-General President: Rev. Samson M. Nhlapo
- General Vice President: Bro. Zalisile N. Libali
- General Secretary: Bro. Tommy A. Bunguzana
- General Recording Secretary: Bro. Lindilizwi L. Mngxekeza
- General Treasurer: Bro. Madontsolo K. Sitonga
- General DDSR: Bro. Nkosinathi M. Siyolo
- Education Convener: Rev. Fumanekile S. Gura
- Research Convener: Bro. Mnoneleli A. Gqiba
- Community Development Convener: Bro. Magidela S. Manga
## CHAPTER 26

### CONFERENCE AWARDS

The Methodist Conference Award for Excellence in Service to Church and Society is awarded to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Awarded to</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Durban</td>
<td>Mrs Hluphekile Gladness Ntuli</td>
<td>For Excellence in Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Durban</td>
<td>Mr David Wylde</td>
<td>For Excellence in Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Port Elizabeth</td>
<td>Mrs Jabu Mngomezulu</td>
<td>For Excellence in Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Port Elizabeth</td>
<td>Mr Artur Julião Mukhatchua</td>
<td>For Excellence in Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Pretoria</td>
<td>Mr Zandile Jakavula</td>
<td>For Leadership in the Church and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Pretoria</td>
<td>Dr Cynthia Kabanyane</td>
<td>For Empowerment and Human Development Work in the Church and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Pretoria</td>
<td>Justice Dikgang Moseneke</td>
<td>For Exemplary Wesleyan Witness within the Public Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td>Mrs Joan Chilvers</td>
<td>For Dedication to Methodist History and Heritage in Southern Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td>Mr Roy Struthers McAllister</td>
<td>For Lifelong Faithful Service to the Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td>Ms Nancy Herron</td>
<td>In Recognition of Championing Justice and Service throughout the Connexion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td>Mr Linda Twala</td>
<td>For Excellence in Community Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Maputo</td>
<td>Mr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela</td>
<td>For Excellence in Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Maputo</td>
<td>Mr Vusi Chuta</td>
<td>For Excellence in Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Maputo</td>
<td>Ms Constance Simelane</td>
<td>For Excellence in Education in Swaziland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>Mrs Leanne Stellenberg</td>
<td>Contribution to Church and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>Deacon Philip Ata Kgosana</td>
<td>Contribution to Church and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>Mrs Nomabelu Mvambo-Dandala</td>
<td>Contribution to Church and Society</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Bishop/Official</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRESIDING BISHOP</strong></td>
<td>2020-2024</td>
<td>Bishop Purity Malinga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LAY PRESIDENT</strong></td>
<td>2018-2020</td>
<td>Mr James M Nkosi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Term: 2015-2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GENERAL SECRETARY</strong></td>
<td>2020-2024</td>
<td>Rev Michel Hansrod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GENERAL TREASURER</strong></td>
<td>2015-2019</td>
<td>Mrs Thini Ngonyama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BISHOPS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape of Good Hope</td>
<td>2020-2024</td>
<td>Bishop Yvette Moses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grahamstown</td>
<td>2018-2022</td>
<td>Bishop Jacob Freemantle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>2017-2021</td>
<td>Bishop Mthobeli Matyumza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Term: 2014-2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>2020-2024</td>
<td>Bishop Charmaine Morgan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberley, Namibia and</td>
<td>2018-2022</td>
<td>Bishop Kenaleone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloemfontein</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ketshabile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Free State and</td>
<td>2019-2023</td>
<td>Bishop Bana Setshedeli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natal Coastal</td>
<td>2018-2022</td>
<td>Bishop Linda Mandindi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natal West</td>
<td>2018-2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Term: 2015-2017</td>
<td>2023-2027</td>
<td>Bishop William Dlamini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Rev Vuyo Dlamini)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>2016-2020</td>
<td>Bishop Gary Rivas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2021-2025</td>
<td>(Rev Faith Whitby)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highveld and Swaziland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limpopo</td>
<td>2019-2023</td>
<td>Bishop Sidwell Mokgothu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moçambique</td>
<td>2018-2022</td>
<td>Bishop Dinis Matsolo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Terms: 2012-2014; 2015-2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarkebury</td>
<td>2018-2022</td>
<td>Bishop Mongameli Noqayi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camdeboo</td>
<td>2020-2024</td>
<td>Bishop Louis Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molopo</td>
<td>2020-2024</td>
<td>Bishop Matsshediso Molale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role</td>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warden of the Order of Deacons</td>
<td>2018-2022</td>
<td>Deacon Douw Grobler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warden of the Order of Evangelism</td>
<td>2018-2022</td>
<td>Rev Nompithizelo Sibidla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNIT LEADERS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Unit Director</td>
<td>Appointed 2009</td>
<td>Mrs Bonginkosi Moyo-Bango</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecumenical Affairs Unit Director</td>
<td>2018-2022</td>
<td>Rev Michael Vorster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education for Ministry and Mission Unit Director</td>
<td>2016-2020</td>
<td>Rev Pumla Nzimande</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# 2020 Connexional Diary

## JANUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>New Year’s Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>MCO Opens</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>Children and Youth Unit Executive Meeting</td>
<td>Kempton Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Connexional Unit Leaders Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-16</td>
<td>Mission Resource Fund Training</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-19</td>
<td>Molopo Synod Inauguration and Induction</td>
<td>Gaborone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>Probationers’ Seminar</td>
<td>eMseni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-26</td>
<td>Namibia Synod Inauguration and Induction</td>
<td>Windhoek and Rehoboth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-30</td>
<td>Ordinands’ Retreat</td>
<td>eMseni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-29</td>
<td>EMMU General Committee</td>
<td>eMseni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-2 Feb</td>
<td>Camdeboo Synod Inauguration and Induction</td>
<td>George</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## FEBRUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Education Sunday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-9</td>
<td>Education Week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mozambique Heroes Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-7</td>
<td>Bishops’ Meeting – Capacity Building Workshop</td>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>Children’s Ministry Training, Mission Unit</td>
<td>Pietermaritzburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>Local Preachers Association General Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>eMseni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>Young Men’s Guild General Committee Meeting</td>
<td>tba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-9</td>
<td>Lay Leaders’ Consultation</td>
<td>Natal West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mission Unit Advisory Board Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>DEWCOM</td>
<td>eMseni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Methodist Publishing House Board Meeting</td>
<td>Cape Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Lay Presidents’ Every Member Ministry Strategy Meeting</td>
<td>Natal Coastal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Aliwal North Mission Synod</td>
<td>Queenstown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-19</td>
<td>Order of Evangelism – Secretaries Consultation</td>
<td>eMseni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-20</td>
<td>Mission Unit Consultation</td>
<td>Molopo Synod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Communications Unit Board Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Mpumalanga Mission Synod</td>
<td>Manzini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Finance Unit Investment and Advisory</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>MJR Training</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-28</td>
<td>Heritage Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Cape Town</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MARCH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Revision Committee</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Structures committee</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>Young Women’s Manyano Connexional Executive Meeting</td>
<td>Natal Coastal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Connexional Trust Properties Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Marsh Insurance Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Medical Aid Committee</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Inter District Interim Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Mpumalanga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>Connexional Music Association General Exco Meeting</td>
<td>Natal Coastal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-15</td>
<td>Children’s Ministry Indaba</td>
<td>CoGH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>MCO Unit Leaders Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-19</td>
<td>Local Preachers Department Secretaries Consultation</td>
<td>tba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-20</td>
<td>Bishops’ Meeting</td>
<td>East London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>South Africa Human Rights Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Independence Day – Namibia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-25</td>
<td>Pension and Medical Roadshow</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-26</td>
<td>Mission Unit Consultation</td>
<td>Mozambique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Inter District Interim Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Aliwal North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pension and Stipend Augmentation Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-31</td>
<td>Pension and Medical Roadshow</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**APRIL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>Pension and Medical Roadshow</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>Holy Week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Family Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Connexional Unit Leaders Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>District Treasurers Consultation</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Inter District Interim Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Natal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-22</td>
<td>Pension and Medical Roadshow</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-23</td>
<td>Mission Unit Consultation</td>
<td>Camdeboo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>Deacons Convocation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Inter District Interim Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Clarkebury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Swazi Flag Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>South African Freedom Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-30</td>
<td>Connexional Chaplains Consultation</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-30</td>
<td>Pension and Medical Roadshow</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Workers’ Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Namibia Cassinga Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Inter District Interim Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Aliwal North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Methodist Publishing House Board Meeting</td>
<td>Cape Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Inter District Interim Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Mpumalanga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>SMMS Peter Storey Annual Lecture</td>
<td>PMB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>SMMS Graduation</td>
<td>PMB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>MCO Unit Leaders’ Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>MCSA Presbyter Convocations</td>
<td>All Synods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-16</td>
<td>MCSA Synods</td>
<td>All Synods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Medical Aid Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Connexional Trust Properties Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Ascension Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Africa Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Marsh Insurance Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Heritage Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Port Elizabeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Pentecost Sunday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**JUNE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>Mission Unit Consultation</td>
<td>Lesotho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Inter District Interim Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Natal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mission Unit Advisory Board Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Ecumenical Affairs Board Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Finance Unit Investment and Advisory Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Order of Evangelism General Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Durban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pension Fund Meetings</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Inter District Interim Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Clarkebury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Stipend Augmentation Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Youth Day Celebrations</td>
<td>Pta Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Connexional Executive</td>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>South Africa Youth Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Connexional Unit Leaders Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Marsh Insurance Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Finance Unit Executive</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Independence Day Mozambique</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Local Preacher’s Sunday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>JULY</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Botswana Sir Seretse Khama Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-5</td>
<td>Connexional Youth Executive and Conference</td>
<td>Natal Coastal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>DEWCOM</td>
<td>eMseni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-12</td>
<td>Connexional Women’s Manyano Triennial Convention</td>
<td>Port Shepstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Order of Evangelism – Graduation</td>
<td>Pretoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-16</td>
<td>Preliminary Stationing Meeting – Bishops</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Connexional Unit Leaders and Organisation Heads meet with Synod Bishops</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>South Africa Mandela Day</td>
<td>tba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Botswana President’s Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Revision Committee</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Structures Committee</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-25</td>
<td>Music Association Connexional General Exco Meeting</td>
<td>Natal Coastal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Communications Unit Board Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-30</td>
<td>EMMU General Committee</td>
<td>eMseni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>AUGUST</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>Methodist Schools Consultation</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>South African Women’s’ Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Connexional Unit Leaders’ Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-13</td>
<td>Women in Ministry Consultation</td>
<td>Lumko Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Inter District Interim Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Aliwal North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-21</td>
<td>New Superintendents’ Training – EMMU</td>
<td>eMseni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Connexional Trust Properties Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Finance Unit Investment and Advisory Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Inter District Interim Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Natal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Inter District Interim Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Clarkebury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Women’s Manyano Orientation Workshop</td>
<td>tba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Inter District Interim Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Mpumalanga</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SEPTEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Swaziland Somhlolo Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mozambique Victory Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-9</td>
<td>Connexional Executive</td>
<td>Kimberley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-13</td>
<td>Ordinands’ Retreat</td>
<td>Kimberley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>131st MCSA Annual Conference</td>
<td>Kimberley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>MCSA Ordination Service</td>
<td>Kimberley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-27</td>
<td>Women’s Association Biennial Meeting</td>
<td>Cape Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-27</td>
<td>Young Women’s Manyano CCS Connexional Workshop</td>
<td>H and Eswatini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>South African Heritage Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-27</td>
<td>Women’s Manyano CCS Planning Meeting</td>
<td>Central Synod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>District Treasurers Consultation</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Medical Aid Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-3 Oct</td>
<td>Connexional Women’s Auxiliary Meeting</td>
<td>Port Elizabeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Botswana Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OCTOBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Inter District Interim Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Clarkebury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>EMMU – Candidates’ Examination</td>
<td>Various</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Independence Day Lesotho</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mozambique Independence Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-11</td>
<td>Inter District Interim Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Mpumalanga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Connexional Music Association – Music Competitions</td>
<td>Natal Coastal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-13</td>
<td>Connexional Womens Manyano Presidents’ Retreat</td>
<td>Queenstown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mission Unit Advisory Board Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Ecumenical Affairs Board Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Stipend Augmentation Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>MCO Unit Leaders Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-18</td>
<td>Inter District Interim Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Aliwal North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-23</td>
<td>EMMU Training for Order of Evangelism and Biblewomen</td>
<td>eMseni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Finance Unit Investment and Advisory Committee</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pension Funds Meetings</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-25</td>
<td>Local Preachers Association Triennial</td>
<td>Natal West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Local Preachers Association General President Induction</td>
<td>Natal West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Revision Committee</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Structures Committee</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-25</td>
<td>Wesley Guild Consultation</td>
<td>Clarkebury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Inter District Interim Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Natal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOVEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Induction of the Synod Bishop</td>
<td>Highveld and Eswatini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Finance Unit Executive</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Methodist Publishing House Board Meeting</td>
<td>Cape Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Induction of the Synod Bishop</td>
<td>Natal West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>Synod Secretaries and Statistical Secretaries Meeting and Training</td>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-13</td>
<td>Bishops’ Meeting</td>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Induction of the Synod Bishop</td>
<td>Central Synod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Connexional Trust Properties Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Induction of the Synod Bishop</td>
<td>NFSL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>1st Sunday of Advent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DECEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>World Aids Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Marsh Insurance Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>MJR</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Namibia Human Rights Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>South African Day of Reconciliation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Day of Goodwill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Swaziland Incwala Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Revised Common Lectionary 2020 Year A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Epiphany 2019</th>
<th>First Reading</th>
<th>Psalm</th>
<th>Second Reading</th>
<th>Gospel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liturgical Colour: White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3rd Sun Epiphany January 26</strong></td>
<td>Isaiah 9:1-4</td>
<td>Psalm 27:1, 4-9</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 1:10-18</td>
<td>Matthew 4:12-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4th Sun Epiphany February 2</strong></td>
<td>Micah 6:1-8</td>
<td>Psalm 15</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 1:18-31</td>
<td>Matthew 5:1-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5th Sun Epiphany February 9</strong></td>
<td>Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)</td>
<td>Psalm 112:1-9 (10)</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)</td>
<td>Matthew 5:13-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transfiguration February 23</strong></td>
<td>Exodus 24:12-18</td>
<td>Psalm 2 or 99</td>
<td>2 Peter 1:16-21</td>
<td>Matthew 17:1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Season of Lent Liturgical Colour: Purple</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ash Wednesday February 26</strong></td>
<td>Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12</td>
<td>Psalm 51:1-17</td>
<td>2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10</td>
<td>Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lent 1 March 1</strong></td>
<td>Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7</td>
<td>Psalm 32</td>
<td>Romans 5:12-19</td>
<td>Matthew 4:1-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lent 2 March 8</strong></td>
<td>Genesis 12:1-4a</td>
<td>Psalm 121</td>
<td>Romans 4:1-5, 13-17</td>
<td>John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lent 3 March 15</strong></td>
<td>Exodus 17:1-7</td>
<td>Psalm 95</td>
<td>Romans 5:1-11</td>
<td>John 4:5-42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lent 4 March 22</strong></td>
<td>1 Samuel 16:1-13</td>
<td>Psalm 23</td>
<td>Ephesians 5:8-14</td>
<td>John 9:1-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lent 5 March 29</strong></td>
<td>Ezekiel 37:1-14</td>
<td>Psalm 130</td>
<td>Romans 8:6-11</td>
<td>John 11:1-45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liturgy of Palms April 5 or</strong></td>
<td>Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29</td>
<td>Matthew 21:1-11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liturgy of the Passion April 5</strong></td>
<td>Isaiah 50:4-9a</td>
<td>Psalm 31:9-16</td>
<td>Philippians 2:5-11</td>
<td>Matthew 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Holy Week Liturgical Colour: Purple</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Reading 1</td>
<td>Reading 2</td>
<td>Reading 3</td>
<td>Reading 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed April 8</td>
<td>Isaiah 50:4-9a</td>
<td>Psalm 70</td>
<td>Hebrews 12:1-3</td>
<td>John 13:21-32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Easter Liturgical Colour: White or Gold**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading 1</th>
<th>Reading 2</th>
<th>Reading 3</th>
<th>Reading 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Easter 2 April 19</td>
<td>*Acts 2:14a, 22-32</td>
<td>Psalm 16</td>
<td>1 Peter 1:3-9</td>
<td>John 20:19-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter 5 May 10</td>
<td>*Acts 7:55-60</td>
<td>Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16</td>
<td>1 Peter 2:2-10</td>
<td>John 14:1-14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* During Eastertide a reading from Acts is often substituted for the lesson from the Hebrew Bible.

**Season after Pentecost**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>First OT reading</th>
<th>Alternate OT reading</th>
<th>Liturgical Colour: Green</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trinity Sunday Colour: White June 7</td>
<td>Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Psalm 8</td>
<td>2 Corinthians 13:11-13</td>
<td>Matthew 28:16-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proper 15</td>
<td>August 16</td>
<td>Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133</td>
<td>Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Psalm 67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Saints Day</td>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Revelation 7:9-17</td>
<td>Psalm 34:1-10, 22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Advent Liturgical Colour: Purple

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advent 1</th>
<th>November 29</th>
<th>Isaiah 64:1-9</th>
<th>Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19</th>
<th>1 Corinthians 1:3-9</th>
<th>Mark 13:24-37</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Christmas Liturgical Colour: White or Gold

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>or Nativity</td>
<td>December 24 and 25</td>
<td>Isaiah 62:6-12</td>
<td>Psalm 97</td>
<td>Titus 3:4-7</td>
<td>Luke 2:1-7, 8-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or Nativity</td>
<td>December 24 and 25</td>
<td>Isaiah 52:7-10</td>
<td>Psalm 98</td>
<td>Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)</td>
<td>John 1:1-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Scripture References</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Year's Day</td>
<td>Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 8, Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 2:15-21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epiphany: White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epiphany of the Lord</td>
<td>Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Sunday after Epiphany</td>
<td>1 Samuel 3:1-10, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Sunday after Epiphany</td>
<td>Jonah 3:1-5, Psalm 62:5-12, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## List of Conferences, Presidents, Presiding Bishops, Lay Presidents and General Secretaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>1883</td>
<td>Rev John Walton, MA</td>
<td>Rev Robert Lamplough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grahamstown</td>
<td>1884</td>
<td>Rev John Walton, MA</td>
<td>Rev Robert Lamplough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durban</td>
<td>1885</td>
<td>Rev Richard Ridgill</td>
<td>Rev Robert Lamplough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>Rev Fredrick Mason</td>
<td>Rev Robert Lamplough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberley</td>
<td>1887</td>
<td>Rev Robert Lamplough</td>
<td>Rev J Smith Spencer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Williams Town</td>
<td>1888</td>
<td>Rev Henry Tindall</td>
<td>Rev J Smith Spencer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Elizabeth</td>
<td>1889</td>
<td>Rev J Smith Spencer</td>
<td>Rev James Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Rev S Evans Rowe</td>
<td>Rev James Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pietermaritzburg</td>
<td>1891</td>
<td>Rev Peter Hargreaves</td>
<td>Rev James Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cradock</td>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Rev James Scott</td>
<td>Rev James Thompson, MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>1893</td>
<td>Rev James Thompson, MA</td>
<td>Rev Theophilus Chubb, BA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloemfontein</td>
<td>1894</td>
<td>Rev Theophilus Chubb, BA</td>
<td>Rev Philip Tearle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grahamstown</td>
<td>1895</td>
<td>Rev Erza Nuttall</td>
<td>Rev Philip Tearle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durban</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>Rev Philip Tearle</td>
<td>Rev John E Parsonson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Williams Town</td>
<td>1897</td>
<td>Rev James Scott</td>
<td>Rev John E Parsonson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Rev James Thompson, MA</td>
<td>Rev John E Parsonson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East London</td>
<td>1899</td>
<td>Rev William Wynne</td>
<td>Rev Alfred T Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pietermaritzburg</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Rev William B Rayner</td>
<td>Rev Alfred T Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Elizabeth</td>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Rev Alfred T Rhodes</td>
<td>Rev Ezra Nuttall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberley</td>
<td>1902</td>
<td>Rev Robert Lamplough</td>
<td>Rev Ezra Nuttall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>1903</td>
<td>Rev Nendick Abraham</td>
<td>Rev Ezra Nuttall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durban</td>
<td>1904</td>
<td>Rev Ezra Nuttall</td>
<td>Rev Arthur P Chaplin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grahamstown</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Rev Arthur P Chaplin</td>
<td>Rev Charles Pettman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>1906</td>
<td>Rev Richard F Hornabrook</td>
<td>Rev Charles Pettman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloemfontein</td>
<td>1907</td>
<td>Rev William J Hacker</td>
<td>Rev Charles Pettman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East London</td>
<td>1908</td>
<td>Rev George Weaver</td>
<td>Rev Charles Pettman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pietermaritzburg</td>
<td>1909</td>
<td>Rev Wesley Hurt</td>
<td>Rev Charles Pettman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grahamstown</td>
<td>1910</td>
<td>Rev Charles Pettman</td>
<td>Rev Henry Cotton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberley</td>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Rev Joseph Metcalf</td>
<td>Rev Henry Cotton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>Rev Albert H Hodges</td>
<td>Rev Henry Cotton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durban</td>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Rev William Pescod</td>
<td>Rev Henry Cotton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Elizabeth</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Rev T Edward Marsh</td>
<td>Rev Henry Cotton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East London</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>Rev Robert Matterson</td>
<td>Rev Henry Cotton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>1916</td>
<td>Rev Griffith W Rogers</td>
<td>Rev Henry Cotton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Rev Henry Cotton</td>
<td>Rev James Robb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Rev Samuel Clark</td>
<td>Rev James Robb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>1919</td>
<td>Rev James Pendlebury, BA</td>
<td>Rev James Robb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>1920</td>
<td>Rev George Robson</td>
<td>Rev John W Househam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>1921</td>
<td>Rev Arthur J Lennard</td>
<td>Rev John W Househam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Rev Charles S Lucas</td>
<td>Rev John W Househam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Rev John W Househam</td>
<td>Rev William H P Clulow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>1924</td>
<td>Rev John W Watkinson</td>
<td>Rev William H P Clulow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Rev Frederick Holmes</td>
<td>Rev William H P Clulow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Rev Andrew Graham</td>
<td>Rev Alfred A Stile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>1927</td>
<td>Rev Theo R Cumick BD</td>
<td>Rev William H P Clulow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>1928</td>
<td>Rev William Flint DD</td>
<td>Rev Thomas Stanton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>1929</td>
<td>Rev Geo H P Jacques</td>
<td>Rev Thomas Stanton, MBE; DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Rev Allen Lea</td>
<td>Rev Thomas Stanton, MBE; DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>1931</td>
<td>Rev Ernest Titcomb</td>
<td>Rev Thomas Stanton, MBE; DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Rev John A Alcock</td>
<td>Rev Thomas Stanton, MBE; DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Rev William Meara</td>
<td>Rev Thomas Stanton, MBE; DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>1934</td>
<td>Rev Henry W Goodwin</td>
<td>Rev Thomas Stanton, MBE; DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Rev Thomas Stanton, MBE; DD</td>
<td>Rev Arthur C File</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Rev A Arthur Wellington</td>
<td>Rev Arthur C File</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Rev William Meara</td>
<td>Rev Arthur C File</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Rev Edwin Bottrill</td>
<td>Rev William H Irving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Rev Lorenzo S H Wilkinson</td>
<td>Rev Arthur C File</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Rev William Eveleigh</td>
<td>Rev William H Irving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>Rev William B Allcock</td>
<td>Rev William H Irving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Rev Arnold Nichols</td>
<td>Rev Edward W Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Rev William W Shilling, BSc</td>
<td>Rev F J Rhead Marsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Rev William R Whalley</td>
<td>Rev F J Rhead Marsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Rev William Meara</td>
<td>Rev Alison E F Garrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Rev Cecil C Harris</td>
<td>Rev Alison E F Garrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Rev E Lynn Cragg, BA; BD</td>
<td>Rev Alison E F Garrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Rev Edward W Grant</td>
<td>Rev Alison E F Garrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Rev Joseph B Webb, MA; DD</td>
<td>Rev Alison E F Garrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Rev Stanley Le Grove Smith</td>
<td>Rev Alison E F Garrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Rev Alison E F Garrett</td>
<td>Rev Stanley B Sudbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>Rev J Wesley Hunt</td>
<td>Rev Stanley B Sudbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Elizabeth</td>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Rev Herbert W Rist, MA</td>
<td>Rev Frank H Edmonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Rev Joseph B Webb, MA; DD</td>
<td>Rev Frank H Edmonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pretoria</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Rev Stanley B Sudbury, DD</td>
<td>Rev Frank H Edmonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Rev William Illsley</td>
<td>Rev Frank H Edmonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East London</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Rev Clifford K Storey</td>
<td>Rev Frank H Edmonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pietermaritzburg</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Rev C Edgar Wilkinson, MSc</td>
<td>Rev Frank H Edmonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberley</td>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Rev Leslie A Hewson, MA</td>
<td>Rev Frank H Edmonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uitenhage</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Rev Frank H Edmonds</td>
<td>Rev Lloyd G Griffiths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durban</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Rev Deryck P Dugmore, MA</td>
<td>Rev Stanley B Sudbury, DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>1963</td>
<td>Rev Stanley G Pitts, BA</td>
<td>Rev Stanley B Sudbury, DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pretoria</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Rev Seth M Mokitiimi</td>
<td>Rev Stanley B Sudbury, DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Rev Wilfred W Hartely, BCom</td>
<td>Rev Stanley B Sudbury, DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pietermaritzburg</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Rev Robert C Bellis</td>
<td>Rev Stanley B Sudbury, DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberley</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Rev Lloyd G S Griffiths</td>
<td>Rev Stanley B Sudbury, DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloemfontein</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Rev Cyril Wilkins</td>
<td>Rev Stanley B Sudbury, DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Rev Dr C Edgar Wilkinson, MSc; DD</td>
<td>Rev Stanley B Sudbury, DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durban</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Rev Dr Alex L Boraine, MA; PhD</td>
<td>Rev Stanley B Sudbury, DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Elizabeth</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Rev Stanley G Pitts, BA</td>
<td>Rev Stanley B Sudbury, DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pretoria</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Rev Jotham C Mvusi</td>
<td>Rev Cyril Wilkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Rev Vivian W Harris, BA; BD</td>
<td>Rev Cyril Wilkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberley</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Rev Abel E Hendricks</td>
<td>Rev Cyril Wilkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pietermaritzburg</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Rev C R Stephenson, MA; BD</td>
<td>Rev Cyril Wilkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benoni</td>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Rev Abel Hendricks</td>
<td>Rev Cyril Wilkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East London</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Rev Dr Donald C Veysie,</td>
<td>Rev Cyril Wilkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Rev Andrew M Losaba</td>
<td>Rev Cyril Wilkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welkom</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Rev Howard F Kirby, BA; BA Hons</td>
<td>Rev Cyril Wilkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grahamstown</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Rev Dr T Simon N Gqubule, BA; BD; MTh; PhD</td>
<td>Rev Cyril Wilkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Rev Dr Khoza E M Mgojo, BA; BD; MTh; MA; PhD</td>
<td>Rev M Stanley Mogoba, PhD; DTh; MA (Bristol) Hon; AFTS; LL.D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durban</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Rev Fremont C Louw, BA; MA</td>
<td>Rev M Stanley Mogoba, PhD; DTh; MA (Bristol) Hon; AFTS; LL.D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pretoria</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Rev Peter J Storey, BA</td>
<td>Rev M Stanley Mogoba, PhD; DTh; MA (Bristol) Hon; AFTS; LL.D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>President/Presiding Bishop</td>
<td>Secretary/General Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloemfontein</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Rev Ernest N Baartman</td>
<td>Rev M Stanley Mogoba, PhD; DTh; MA (Bristol) Hon; AFTS; LL.D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pietermaritzburg</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Rev John P Scholtz, BA</td>
<td>Rev M Stanley Mogoba, PhD; DTh; MA (Bristol) Hon; AFTS; LL.D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benoni</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Rev Dr Khoza E M Mgojo, BA; BD; MTh; MA; PhD</td>
<td>Rev M Stanley Mogoba, PhD; DTh; MA (Bristol) Hon; AFTS; LL.D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Rev M Stanley Mogoba, PhD; DTh; MA (Bristol) Hon; AFTS; LL.D</td>
<td>Rev Vivian W Harris, BA; BD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Rev M Stanley Mogoba, PhD; DTh; MA (Bristol) Hon; AFTS; LL.D</td>
<td>Rev Vivian W Harris, BA; BD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welkom</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Rev M Stanley Mogoba, PhD; DTh; MA (Bristol) Hon; AFTS; LL.D</td>
<td>Rev Vivian W Harris, BA; BD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Elizabeth</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Rev M Stanley Mogoba, PhD; DTh; MA (Bristol) Hon; AFTS; LL.D</td>
<td>Rev Vivian W Harris, BA; BD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinetown</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Rev M Stanley Mogoba, PhD; DTh; MA (Bristol) Hon; AFTS; LL.D</td>
<td>Rev Vivian W Harris, BA; BD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benoni</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Rev M Stanley Mogoba, PhD; DTh; MA (Bristol) Hon; AFTS; LL.D</td>
<td>Rev Vivian W Harris, BA; BD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umtata</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Rev M Stanley Mogoba, PhD; DTh; MA (Bristol) Hon; AFTS; LL.D</td>
<td>Rev Vivian W Harris, BA; BD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Rev M Stanley Mogoba, PhD; DTh; MA (Bristol) Hon; AFTS; LL.D</td>
<td>Rev Vivian W Harris, BA; BD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Elizabeth</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Rev H Mvume Dandala, MA</td>
<td>Rev Ross A J Olivier, BA (Hon), BTh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pretoria</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Rev Ivan M Abrahams, BA (Hons); BTh, CSS (California)</td>
<td>Rev Ross A J Olivier, BA (Hon), BTh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Rev Ivan M Abrahams, BA (Hons); BTh, CSS (California)</td>
<td>Rev John P Scholtz, BA (Rhodes); MA (Bristol) Hon; AFTS; LL.D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Rev Ivan M Abrahams, BA (Hons); BTh, CSS (California)</td>
<td>Rev Vuyani G Nyobole, BTh Hon (Rhodes); BEd (Natal); MEd (UWC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>President/Presiding Bishop</td>
<td>Secretary/General Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloemfontein</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Rev Ivan M Abrahams, BA (Hons); BTh, CSS (California)</td>
<td>Rev Vuyani G Nyobole, BTh Hon (Rhodes); BEd (Natal); MEd (UWC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pietermaritzburg</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Rev Ivan M Abrahams, BA (Hons); BTh, CSS (California)</td>
<td>Rev Vuyani G Nyobole, BTh Hon (Rhodes); BEd (Natal); MEd (UWC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East London</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Rev Ivan M Abrahams, BA (Hons); BTh, CSS (California)</td>
<td>Rev Vuyani G Nyobole, BTh Hon (Rhodes); BEd (Natal); MEd (UWC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maseru Lesotho</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Rev Ivan M Abrahams, BA (Hons); BTh, CSS (California)</td>
<td>Rev Vuyani G Nyobole, BTh Hon (Rhodes); BEd (Natal); MEd (UWC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ezulwini Swaziland</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Rev Zipho D. Siwa, BTh (Rhodes); BA Hons (UPE); BTh Hons (Rhodes)</td>
<td>Rev Vuyani G Nyobole, BTh Hon (Rhodes); BEd (Natal); MEd (UWC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mthatha</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Rev Zipho D. Siwa, BTh (Rhodes); BA Hons (UPE); BTh Hons (Rhodes)</td>
<td>Rev Vuyani G Nyobole, BTh Hon (Rhodes); BEd (Natal); MEd (UWC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durban</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Rev Zipho D. Siwa, BTh (Rhodes); BA Hons (UPE); BTh Hons (Rhodes)</td>
<td>Rev Vuyani G Nyobole, BTh Hon (Rhodes); BEd (Natal); MEd (UWC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Elizabeth</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Rev Zipho D. Siwa, BTh (Rhodes); BA Hons (UPE); BTh Hons (Rhodes)</td>
<td>Rev Charmaine Morgan, BLog (UP) BTh Hons (UNISA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pretoria</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Rev Zipho D. Siwa, BTh (Rhodes); BA Hons (UPE); BTh Hons (Rhodes)</td>
<td>Rev Charmaine Morgan, BLog (UP) BTh Hons (UNISA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Rev Zipho D. Siwa, BTh (Rhodes); BA Hons (UPE)</td>
<td>Rev Charmaine Morgan, BLog (UP), BTh Hons (Unisa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maputo</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Rev Zipho D. Siwa, BTh (Rhodes); BA Hons (UPE)</td>
<td>Rev Charmaine Morgan, BLog (UP), BTh Hons (Unisa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Rev Zipho D. Siwa, BTh (Rhodes); BA Hons (UPE)</td>
<td>Rev Charmaine Morgan, BLog (UP), BTh Hons (Unisa)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## LIST OF FUTURE CONFERENCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Last hosted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Kimberley and Bloemfontein</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Natal West</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>Northern Free State and Lesotho</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Highveld and Swaziland</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>Clarkebury</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td>Natal Coastal</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Memoria

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us new birth

into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ

from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish,

spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the

salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5
Obituaries that were not available for print in the 2020 Yearbook:

Rev Marcel Smulders  
Rev Walter Gill  
Rev Pinkerton Jojozi  
Rev Dennis Gee  
Rev Bryan Verwey  
Rev Meshack Gaanakgomo  
Rev Othnel Gaanakgomo  
Rev Bruce Edwards  
Rev Ben Olivier  
Rev Paul Shone  
Mr Thabiso Mokhopa  
Rev Clyde Gerber

Ministers who have passed away September 2018-September 2019:

Rev George Lewis  
Rev Victor Tshangela  
Rev Selby Madwe  
Rev Owen Calverley  
Rev Mokhatle Malefetse  
Rev Cyril Wilkins  
Rev Brian Gibson  
Rev Ben Maseko  
Rev Patience Ngubane  
Rev Joe Mangole  
Michael Mackinosh  
Rev Solomon Sibanyoni  
Bishop Jonathan Anderson
George was born in Krugersdorp on the 12\textsuperscript{th} March 1931 and at the age of five moved with his family and seven siblings to Homestead Ave in Randfontein, where he completed his schooling. The family attended Randfontein Methodist Church and were staunch members there.

He started working on the mines at age 16 and later married his childhood sweetheart, Lorraine in 1956. They had two daughters, Sheena and Jean. After obtaining an Engineering Diploma, George left the mines and went on to complete a teacher’s diploma and later worked at Jan Viljoen Technical High School in Randfontein. George was also a great sportsman, playing rugby at school and then later became an avid boxer and squash player.

In 1964 George and Lorraine moved to Anstey’s Beach on the Bluff in Durban. He was a great fisherman and went fishing at every opportunity, sometimes bringing fish home for breakfast. There was always an excuse to find a new fishing spot and have picnics on the beach. He taught at George Campbell Technical High School for many years and later at Grosvenor Boys High School, finally becoming Deputy Principal at Mansfield High School and coached rugby throughout his teaching career. This love for rugby continued throughout his life as he was a passionate and enthusiastic Springbok supporter. By then he and Lorraine had parted ways and he later married Ann, who already had two children, Loy and Martin. Together George and Ann had a son named Michael. Through this they became a loving and happy blended family and those bonds remain strong to this day.

They attended the Bluff Methodist church where Ann became a Sunday School Teacher. One night while George was alone at home he heard the call of God to go into the ministry and responded by becoming a Sunday School Superintendent while studying to become a local preacher. He ministered in this way at Bluff Methodist Church. He retired from teaching in 1986, and took over the Ministry at Addington Methodist Church, as a candidate for full-time ministry. He was later ordained by the Methodist Church of SA, and then ministered at Central Methodist Church. In 1992 George and Ann accepted the calling to Mtubatuba Methodist Church. Ann sadly passed away at the end of that year. George still went and ministered there for seven years. The extended family celebrated many wonderful Christmases there.
and George loved the many fishing trips to St Lucia and game drives in the local reserves.

He retired in 1998 but he didn’t leave the Ministry as he was invited to Minister in Cornwall, England. There he ministered at seven different local churches for the next three years. Here George was blessed to marry Rose, whom he had led to the Lord in Mtubatuba five years previously. They were married in November 2000 in Cornwall on a very sunny happy day. They lived there until July 2001 and then moved back to South Africa where they purchased a home in Harbour Park, Gordon’s Bay.

George continued preaching and ministering at Strand Methodist Church and other local churches in the area.

George was blessed with five children, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. All of whom received a unique nickname. He was a precious and wonderful husband, a beloved father and grandfather.

A true man of God, living each moment for the Lord. He was a good and faithful servant to the end.
Ben Maseko, “Oom Ben”, was born on the 24th July 1948 at Kliptown. He was the last born out of seven children born to Mseleni and Zondekile (nee Shiba); thus the name Benjamin. At the age of seven he lost his father after which the Kliptown area where they were residing was transferred to Mfulo North. This transfer meant being separated from friends with whom he had grown up.

In this new area families were settled according to their ethnicity which meant for him separating from his non-Nguni speaking friends as they were sent to another area. He began schooling at the Lutheran Church School in Central Western Jabavu where he only stayed for one year because the following year they were transferred to Phakamani Lower Primary School in Zondi. He attended here until he moved to Fred Clark Higher Primary for higher primary education. The passing of his mother forced him to go and stay with his younger father at White City Jabavu, thus attending the local school Donaldson Higher Primary until he completed standard six.

The following year he started his schooling at Morris Isaacson High School. After completing his Junior Certificate, he started work which coincided with his involvement with his local church. He got involved in Youth work, teaching in the Sunday school, leading in the Wesley Guild. This involvement resulted in his feeling the call to the Ministry.

In 1970 he resigned from his job to be trained as a Youth Trainer/Leader in the National Youth Leadership Training Programme (NYLTP). He was in the first group to undergo the training, which at the time was operating under the theme “Give one year of your life”. He saw this as a test for his calling to the Ministry. At the completion of this training, he and a fellow trainee, Aaron Mtshali, were appointed to Zululand Mission to promote Youth work. Upon his return, he was employed by his home circuit, namely the Johannesburg African Circuit to continue in Youth work. Here he became convinced about his calling. He was the first candidate to have come from his home Society or even Section namely Jabavu, under the able leadership of Rev. LM Masombuka to whom he owed much.

After being accepted by the 1972 Conference, he began his long journey in the Ministry in Nelspruit African Circuit under Rev. NS Lukhele. He went to the Federal Theological Seminary at Alice, however they did not stay as in that year FEDSEM was expropriated. On completion of his Theological Training, in 1977 at Pietermaritzburg, he was sent to Tembisa in the Germiston Circuit. He always referred to that period as one where his faith was put to the test, due to domestic problems. In the year 1979 he was ordained at the Cape Town Conference and was
sent to Katlehong South, which was later named AS Ngubeni Memorial. He was the first minister to stay in the new manse and serve in the new church. In 1980, he was diagnosed with diabetes, just after the passing of Rev. AS Ngubeni who was also diabetic.

In 1981, he married Malenki Eunice born Tshehle who he met while ministering at AS Ngubeni. Soon after this, he was sent to Kuruman and Postmasburg Circuit and began work in 1982. Here he was the first non-Setswana-speaking minister to be appointed Superintendent and also the first among his fellow ordinands of 1979. His knowledge of multiple languages was a great advantage here where Setswana was the dominant language. During his service here, he helped build the manse in Mothibistad, a manse and church building at Postmasburg, a church building at Danielskuil, Bendel and Batlharos. After his seven-year stay, in 1989 he was sent to Pietersburg for five years. Here again his knowledge of Sesotho was a great advantage because the area was a predominantly Sepedi-speaking area. Like his previous circuit, he found himself being the first Nguni-speaking circuit superintendent.

In 1994, he began work in KaNgwane, this time a predominantly Swati-speaking area. He only served for a year, a term which he used to joke about saying that his call was not to serve his own but his in-laws. This is because in 1995, he began to work in Ficksburg and Ladybrand Circuit which is on the borders of Lesotho.

It was while serving in Ficksburg, that his health began to deteriorate, particularly his eyesight due to diabetes. Upon realising that he could no longer work to his satisfaction, he decided to call it a day even before the end of the year. He then retired to his home in Katlehong in September 1997 where he still assisted in the circuit. During his retirement he reignited his passion which he had for years, that of writing plays for television and radio, something that goes as far back as when he was in school.

Whenever he spoke about his experience, he would pay tribute to his former Superintendent, Rev. AS Ngubeni, the man who stood by him during the most difficult times of his Ministry and in turn “infected” him with diabetes as a remembrance. Throughout his ministry, his wife was always by his side even in the most critical stage when he lost his sight. She continued to support and love him up to the end of his life.

After 47 years of being a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and 38 years of marriage he was called to eternal rest on the 9th January 2019 at the age of 70. He is survived by his wife Malenki Eunice, four children and eight grandchildren as well as his older sister.

_Lala Ngekuthula Ngcamane,_
_S’dwabasiluthuli, Khubonyeka Ndlovu!_
REV PATIENCE PN NGUBANE

2 December 1958-20 January 2019


Amabanga aphansi wawafunda eVumelani LP School waphothula eMatikuletsheni KaMashue Sibonelo High School.

Wadlulela eNdaleni Training College lapho aqeqeshelwa khona ubuThishela, ufundise eXopo Laandskop Mission.


Wagcotshelwa ubufundisi ngonyaka ka1995. Usebenze kulama Circuit alandelayo:
• Uqale Donnybrook Circuit
• Newcastle Circuit
• Nyanyadu Circuit
• Harding Circuit

Wagcinela eNorth West Province kwiCentral District lapho abuya khona ngenxa yempilo ebutha kathaka.

Cyril Wilkins was born into a loving, stable English working-class family more than 100 years ago. Although he was proudly South African he always valued his British roots.

As a very young man he felt that God had called him to full-time service and with the encouragement of his local minister he responded to an advertisement in The Methodist Recorder for candidates to the Ministry in South Africa and travelled to London for an interview. The very next morning there was a letter in the post telling him that his application had been successful.

Instead of being jubilant, he was troubled because he keenly felt his commitment to his widowed mother and wondered how she would cope if he was so far away. Reluctantly, he planned a letter of apology. That same day, his mother received a letter from her brother-in-law. He had been transferred to a different part of the country and was concerned about his shy wife being lonely and had asked Cyril’s mom whether she would consider coming to share the new venture with them. She was delighted and eager to join them. What a confirmation of God’s calling, His provision and His personal guidance.

So, as a 20-year-old Cyril left his hometown in England and with three others set sail on the Stirling Castle to begin new lives in Africa. He was sent to Kimberley as a candidate and the norm was that after a year the candidates would be sent to theological college to complete their training before being ordained as fully-fledged Ministers. Hitler changed all of that. War broke out and colleges closed. His one year in Kimberley extended to four.

He was then sent to Bloemfontein to work under Rev Leslie Hewson. One evening when he was preaching a very lovely young woman quietly found a place in the pews. She had intended going to the local NG Church but found that she had misread the time of the service. Instead of going home she spontaneously popped into the Methodist Church where she was introduced to Cyril. God’s eyes had a cupid-like twinkle. Myra helped Cyril learn Afrikaans and so began a life-long romance, based on shared faith, deep respect and warm companionship.

Cyril was ordained, joined the Airforce as a chaplain and was sent ‘North’ to serve with the South African Airforce in Italy and Egypt.
After the war he returned to Bloemfontein to marry Myra and together they served in Ladybrand, Potchefstroom, Benoni, Manning Road and Durban North. On the occasion of his 100th birthday Cyril shared with Presiding Bishop Siwa his deep gratitude for the many years he had served as a minister. "My life in the ministry has been God’s gift to me and I am very grateful to God for calling me.”

Many a person in his congregation marvelled at the way he preached without reference to notes: each sermon reflected his commitment to God’s word, his prayerful and disciplined preparation, his desire to include others in the adventure of being a Christ follower and his love of the gift of language and communication. He had the rare quality of engaging with individuals and making each message personal and relevant.

He dearly loved preaching and being involved in Bible Study groups and continued in both almost to the eve of his Century.

In his fiftieth year he became President of Conference – a role where he served with integrity, dignity, wisdom and wit. He and Myra travelled throughout the country that year enjoying being part of a wider team and sensitively bringing encouragement and connection to ministers in more isolated or stressful posts.

Education was something Cyril regarded highly and promoted with zeal. For many, many years he served on the Board of Governors of both Epworth and Kearsney and was very proud of the calibre of education promoted by the Methodist Church.

For many decades and in various parts of South Africa he was a loyal Rotarian. Even in retirement he found that being an active Rotarian gave additional purpose to his life. He greatly valued the efforts made by Rotary to enhance the lives of children, the elderly and the vulnerable as well as the stimulation and fun brought by both speakers and members.

In 1973 Cyril became Secretary of Conference – a position that he held until he retired and a position that only Charmaine Morgan will fully appreciate.

He and Myra had 20 years of retirement together – rich years where they travelled, pursued interests, deepened friendships, enjoyed grandchildren and walked hand in hand.

2003 began for him with the death of his life’s partner. Myra died on New Year’s day after a long illness born with great courage and inimitable grace.

In spite of his deep loss, he continued to live life to the full. What a tribute to her. He did not allow age to hamper him from visiting his son, Ivor and family in far-flung
New Zealand, or re-visiting friends and family in England – including members of the church in Darlington where he had initiated a year-long pulpit exchange many years before, and doing long road trips in South Africa.

He was also grateful to live his life out in his much-loved Montrose Cottage where he was well cared for by Beatrice and Sharon. He valued being part of the local church family and his eyes sparkled when friends visited.

An unforgettable highlight in 2018 was his 100\textsuperscript{th} birthday. Seventeen family members gathered for a four-day, four-generational celebration and he loved every minute of it. Because he was a Swindonian the Queen honoured his birthday with a card. It has such a lovely photograph of her and he was delighted.

Cyril was deeply moved by the visit of Church colleagues who came to his Cottage at that time, to honour him, with Psalms, prayers and delicious cake!

Right to the end of his life, in spite of a frail body and very poor sight, he maintained a positive outlook and an ongoing interest in all that Life has to offer. Rarely a day passed without his declaring, “LIFE IS GOOD!” His outward lookingness and faith-filled hope continued to inspire those close to him

Rest in Peace, Good and Faithful Servant.
REV VICTOR VINCENT QUNTA TSHANGELA

26 March 1950-1 March 2019

Victor Vincent Qunta Tshangela was born on the 26th of March 1950, to Mnyamezeli and Vuyiswa Tshangela at Ntlabeni Location, in Mount Frere, Eastern Cape.

School and Work Life
He did his Primary education at Mount White Primary School. After he passed his Standard 6, he went and did his secondary education at Osborn Secondary School, where he completed his matric and was a high achiever in mathematics. He then proceeded to Madikoti Technical College in Limpopo where he studied Engineering. After completing his studies at the college he then went to work for the department of Agriculture and Road Works as a Quantity Surveyor.

He also once worked as a salesman for Old Mutual, and as a Project Manager at Ncora Irrigation Scheme. As he was working in these places he joined Golden Products as a way to earn extra income.

Married Life
When he started working he met the love of his life, Nobefundisi Manyala, whom he married in August 1975. They were blessed with four children: Kholeka, Pumeza, Mncedi and Akhona. Through everything he made sure his children got education, and hence they are all professionals now. He loved his wife dearly, his children, and the Tshangela family as a whole.

His Ministry
Whilst he was still working, he heard God calling, when He said to him, “My son, go and feed my sheep”. He then proceeded to Rhodes University in Grahamstown, to study a Degree in Theology. The Methodist Church of Southern Africa stationed him in the following circuits: Estcourt and Colenso Circuit (Mtshezi), Natal West District; Mhlathuze (Ndulinde) Circuit, Natal Coastal District; Coalfields Circuit, Limpopo District; Education for Ministry and Mission Unit, Pretoria; Grahamstown Circuit, Grahamstown District; Mount Frere Circuit, Clarkebury District.

During his ministry he obtained a Masters in Theology through the University of Durban Westville. In November 2012 he was appointed as District Bishop in the Clarkebury District. In his first year as District Bishop he sadly lost his wife, on the 10th of June 2012. He retired from ministry in the year 2015.
In everything he did he put prayer first, because his trust was always in the Lord. He continued doing God’s work even after retirement, because he loved the Lord and the Methodist Church.

He passed away on the 1\textsuperscript{st} of March 2019 after he was in and out of hospital for some time because of illness. He leaves behind four children, a brother, two sisters, and 6 grandchildren.

\textbf{Rest in peace Bhele, Nontanda, Mbuthoka Langa, Qunta, Mafu Nontsundwana!}
Rev Selby Lawrence Madwe was the 8th born of the nine children of the late Mr Shadrack and Mrs Sarah-Ann Madwe. He was born on 24th February 1963 in KwaMashu, Durban. He began his primary education at the Zamokuhle Primary School, KwaMashu and proceeded to matriculate at the legendary Dr John Langalibalele Dube High School, also in KwaMashu, in 1983. In 1984 he attended a one-year-course, the National Youth Leadership Training Programme (NYLTP), under the directorship of Rev Otto Mbangula.

Selby’s life-long journey as a presbyter began shortly after matriculation. He ardently responded to God’s call, and his candidature, for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA), was accepted by the MCSA Conference 1985 in Bloemfontein, which was presided over by the late Reverend Ernest N Baartman, whose academic work and leadership would intuitively influence Selby’s interpretation of the Bible (and the Old Testament particularly), theology and ministry for the rest of his life. Rev Madwe’s ministerial formation and academic studies took place at the Federal Theological Seminary in Southern Africa (Fedsem, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal Province), Rhodes University and Fort Hare University. That is where he completed both BTh and BTh Hons degrees, and subsequently returned to mentor many young theologians as their part-time tutor for numerous years.

The first Circuit where he was stationed as a probationer, and served the Lord with all his heart until 1988, was the Port Elizabeth North Circuit 218. That is where he met Nobuntu Precious (néé Mbane) Madwe, a loving daughter of Lindeka Winnifred Mbane. They were joined in life-long holy matrimony in 1988. Nobuntu, a Connexional leader and a nationally-esteemed educator among her peers, wholeheartedly affirmed Selby’s call and literally followed him everywhere the MCSA stationed him. Their marriage was graciously blessed with equally-loving and God-fearing three children – Luyolo, Anelisa and Ntabozuko. They truly and unreservedly supported Selby’s ministry in the various parts of Christ’s vast vineyard during both the mountain-top-celebrations as well as the valley-low-moments, which are characteristic of the life of a Methodist presbyter in southern Africa. He was ordained as presbyter in Full Connexion with the MCSA in 1992, during the time of Rev. Dr Stanley M Mogoba as the Presiding Bishop of the Church.
He also served in the following Circuits:

- Botshabelo : 1993-1995
- Bensonvale : 1996-2002
- Annshaw - Alice : 2003-2011
- South Durban : 2012-2016
- Healdtown : 2017-2019

Everywhere Selby was sent or invited, he served the Lord with dignity, humility and an abiding love for the people. His evangelical approach to ministry did not end at the pulpit, but he was always involved with social issues. Recently, and to the benefit of the legendary Healdtown Comprehensive School, he served and played a leading role in the Religious Heritage EXPO and the Historic Schools Restoration Project of the Department of Education in the Eastern Cape. A true community leader who always placed the needs of God’s people first.

Various organisations in the MCSA, both at Connexional and Synod (District) levels, could not turn a blind eye on Rev Madwe’s leadership abilities. As a result, he served as the Connexional Chairperson of the Black Methodist Consultation (BMC) from 2005/6 to 2007/8. His role in “making the BMC the centre of influence in the MCSA” is recognised by many as one of his cardinal contribution when he was at the helm of its leadership, together with his Connexional Executive Committee members (ie Mr Mteteli Caba, Ms Bulelwa Mpepo and Ms Maureen Konyana who served as General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary and Treasurer, respectively). In the Kimberly, Bloemfontein and Namibia (KNB) Synod, Selby served as the Education for Ministry and Mission Unit (EMMU) Synod Supervisor of Studies. He diligently assisted numerous candidates, probationers and ordinands on their journey towards ordination and beyond. He also served as the President of the Young Men’s Guild (YMG) in the Grahamstown Synod between 2009 and 2011. Once again, in 2015, he was elected to serve as the President of the YMG in the Natal Coastal Synod for a period of three years. In 2017, God called him to labour again in the Grahamstown Synod – the Synod where his active ministry started and ultimately ended.

Selby will be remembered for his passion for the ministry, dedication to his work, his love and how deeply he cared for the people of God. In the community he was an activist who championed the agenda of the needy and the marginalised. He had an innate ability to get along with strangers and a non-judgemental, yet firm, approach to delicate issues. That enabled him to establish good and long-lasting relationships/friendships with his colleagues in the ministry, in particular. His true love for the Lord, Nobuntu and children, the MCSA as well as Africa and all its people-centred and God-loving liberation leaders, was evident in all his inspirational sermons, informative speeches and life-changing actions both inside and outside the Church.
Sadly, towards the end of 2018, his health started to deteriorate rapidly and he was intermittently admitted to various hospitals. On Palm Sunday, 14th April 2019, Jesus called Reverend Selby Lawrence Madwe to higher service. He is survived by his loving wife, their three children, mother-in-law and siblings.

“You have fought the good fight, you have run the race, you have kept the faith. Now there is in store for you the crown of righteousness” (2 Timothy 4: 7-8).

Rest in perfect peace, Bhele, Langa, Ntuli, Qunta, Shankomo.
Owen Calverley was born in the district of Beaufort West. At a very early age he lost both his parents. His adoptive father ensured that he received an education at the Union High School in Graaff-Reinet. After completing his schooling he moved to East London where he entered the business world. In the course of time he was to become the manager of a number of wholesale outlets in the Southern Cape.

Owen sensed the call of Christ at an early age. While still at school he dreamed of preaching to the poor and the down-trodden, his pulpit a wooden box and the congregation seated on the ground. In East London he joined the Methodist Church, where he became a very young Local Preacher in 1948, preaching regularly in a number of churches around the Circuit. While sensing an early call to the ordained ministry, he put this aside so as marry at the young age of 21. His bride, Iris, was a widow with a young daughter, Verena, who was then in an orphanage. His own orphaned experience immediately prompted him to adopt her as his own. Two children, Carol and Owen jnr, were born of this marriage.

In the course of his business activities he met Stella, who was to become his second wife. Owen retired from corporate business and they were married in 1977, settling on a farm near Albertinia. In 1980 he suffered a massive heart attack. The doctors regarded his recovery as a miracle and recommended an ‘easier’ life. The couple moved to the Durbanville area and became members of the Bellville Methodist Church. There Owen continued his ministry as a respected and highly-acceptable Local Preacher in the Tygerberg Circuit.

But the early sense of being called to full-time ministry was as strong as ever, taking the form of a passion for ministry in the neglected area of hospital chaplaincy. In 1988, at the age of 58, Owen offered as a candidate for the ministry before the Cape Synod, and after a short period of probation was ordained in 1990. In his chaplaincy work, chiefly in the Tygerberg Hospital setting, he developed a particular compassionate interest in caring for HIV/AIDS patients. At the time there was generally little concern for such sufferers because of the prevailing fear of infection. Owen, however, felt that his recovery from his heart attack had given him a second chance to do what God was calling him to do. He stood by these patients in particular, counselling, supporting and encouraging them in the face of the fear-filled unknown.
This led, too, to a much-appreciated supportive and counselling ministry to doctors and nurses and other members of hospital staff. Increasingly, too, Owen developed a valuable ministry to colleagues, alerting them to, and informing them about, the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In his contributions at Synods and other District gatherings he was ‘Mr. HIV/AIDS’ who helped many to understand and appreciate the dimensions of the issue and how to respond to it.

Despite becoming a supernumerary at the end of 1994 his valuable ministry did not end. Having become involved in the Windsor Park Society in the Kraaifontein area, he was asked to pastor this dysfunctional congregation for the year of 1999. He and Stella moved into Windsor Park to identify with the community. They stayed for three years, by which time the church was again functioning normally.

At the age of 72 Owen decided to start scaling down his activities. This was a difficult decision as both patients and medical staff had come to rely so much on his ministry in their midst.

At the time of his ordination Owen chose not to join the Church’s pension fund nor to receive any emolument which could preclude a younger colleague from receiving a stipend. Stella’s support and the income from their house rental company made this possible. His wish was not to become an itinerant minister but to be allowed to remain in Cape Town so as to focus on his hospital ministry.

In his last years Owen was afflicted with Alzheimer’s Disease, finally requiring specialised residential nursing care. He is survived by Stella, and his children Verena, Carol and Owen.
Rev Mokhatle Daniel Makepeace Malefetse was born on the 16th of March 1976 at Makapanstad. He was the last-born son out of four children of Lydia and the late James Percy Malefetse.

Mokhatle started school at Makapanstad Primary School, then proceeded to Tau-Sebele middle school and matriculated at Motshegoa High school. He then furthered his studies in tourism at Damelin. In 2002 he candidate for the ministry of word and sacraments and he was accepted. In 2004-2005 he went to John Wesley College (Kilnerton) to complete his seminary formation and in 2007 he obtained his Diploma in Theology.

He was ordained in 2009. In his ministry he has served the following circuits: Khunwane Circuit, South Rand Circuit, Cwecweni Circuit, Xora Circuit, Mahamba Circuit, Mahikeng Circuit, Coalfields Circuit and Zebediela Circuit.

Rev Mokhatle Malefetse was married to the love of his life Mandisa Malefetse on the 15th of December 2012. He became sick in 2017 and his life deteriorated in March 2019. He succumbed to death on Thursday, the 16th of May 2019.

Rev MDM Malefetse is survived by his wife Mandisa, Mother, two Sisters, nephews and niece.

Robalakakgotso Mokwen, Mphogle.
Brian was born in the United Kingdom on 17 August 1937. His early employment was as a signalman on the British Railways and then in a local furniture store.

He came to South Africa as a Prospective Candidate for the ministry of the Methodist Church in South Africa and was probably among the last of those who were recruited by the Commissioners in England on behalf of the South African Conference.

Brian candidated and was received on probation in 1962 and was appointed to the Stanger and Umhlali Circuit during 1963 before going to study at Rhodes University from 1964-1966.

1967 was a significant year for Brian. He was appointed to the Uitenhage Circuit and served there until the end of 1969. He was ordained by the 1967 Conference in Pietermaritzburg. It was here that he established a friendship with the Burger family. Many years later, on the 14 December 1996, Brian was to marry the widow Anna Margaretha Maria Burger in Mossel Bay. The ceremony was conducted by Rev James Gribble.

Following his stint in the Uitenhage Circuit, Brian served for a year in the Carletonville Circuit at Fochville and then served in the Mafeking and Lichtenburg Circuit at Lichtenburg from 1971 to 1981. He served in Stutterheim and Komga Circuit at Stutterheim from 1982 to 1986 before taking up his appointment in Mossel Bay in 1987 where he ministered until his retirement at the end of 2000.

Congregation members speak of him as a minister who was very caring. Such care is born out by the number of Methodist members that have maintained contact with Brian over the years and continued to visit him during his retirement. He continued during his retirement to offer care and ministry to many. He was a gifted storyteller and people remember him being able to tell stories during leaders’ meetings and church gatherings that held them enthralled. He was a forthright preacher and was not afraid to go against popular opinion from the pulpit.

Brian was a bachelor for nearly 60 years and only married Anna in 1996. He proved to be a devoted husband. As Anna’s health declined, he took care of her on his own for as long as he could. People speak of bumping into him at the supermarket as he rushed around with a trolley buying the items needed for the household. When Anna went to live at Huis Elsje, because she could no longer be...
cared for at home, Brian visited her daily in the mornings and the afternoons. Her death left him truly bereft.

During his tenure in Mossel Bay it was Brian’s custom to attend mass at St Thomas Catholic Church. After Anna’s death Brian decided to be confirmed in the Catholic Church and made his first Communion at the Easter Vigil in 2016.

Brian’s health declined substantially after Anna’s death, becoming more and more difficult as he lost the ability to speak properly and then struggled with his eyesight and skin cancer. Brian passed to higher service on 2 June 2019.

We give thanks to God for a life well lived in dedicated service to God and His people. May light perpetual shine on him and may his soul rest in peace.
REV JOSEPH MANGOLE

26 July 1940-19 June 2019

Joseph Mangole, the son of the late Piet and Nkae Mangole, was the fourth child in a family of four siblings. He was born on 26 July 1940 in Potchefstroom in the North West. He received his primary education at Tlhabane Amalgamated School. He studied his JC at Bafokeng High School from 1957 to 1959. He studied matric at the Madibane High School in Gauteng from 1960 to 1961.

While he was working at SACCA Food Industry in Braamfontein in 1963, he heard and answered the call to the ordained ministry. This was under the guidance of the Rev EE Mahabane in the Johannesburg African Circuit.

From 1966 to 1968, he studied at the Federal Theological Seminary in Alice, where he completed his Diploma in Theology. In 1970, he was received into Full Connexion in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and was ordained at the Conference in Durban.

He served in the following circuits:
• 1964 to 1965: Thaba-nchu Circuit.
• 1971 to 1976: Sasolburg Vaal South Circuit.
• 1977 to 1978: Welkom Circuit, where he was the youngest superintendent minister.
• 1979: Ficksburg Circuit.
• 1980 to 1983: Botswana.
• 1984 to 1989: Nelspruit East Circuit (Now called the Mbombela Circuit).
• 1990: Mafeteng in Lesotho.
• 1995 to 2006: Molteno Circuit.

From 1975 to 1976, he studied further to improve his qualifications. He attained a Post Graduate Diploma in Theology from the Bossey Ecumenical Institute in Geneva, Switzerland.
He contributed to the broader life of the church by servings as:
• Youth coordinator in the Northern Free State and Lesotho District.
• Assistant secretary of the Northern Transvaal and Botswana District Synod.

He served beyond the boundaries of the church in his role as Superintendent of the Tlhabane Township in Local Government from 1992 to 1994.

He did mission work in urban and industrial mission centres in the following places:
• Gosner Mission, Frankfurt, Mainz, Bad-Boll in West Germany.
• Manchester and Sheffield.
• Ilkley District, Leeds.
• Paris, France.

He was a well read English scholar and he spoke the language eloquently. He married Ntombentsha Etheline Ngxota on the 12th January 1971. Sometime after her death, he married Angeline Motau. He is survived by her, his children and grand-children.

Robalaka kagiso Mokgatla!
Solomon Tiga Sibanyoni was born at Schagen which is situated near Nelspruit (now called Mbombela) on the 13th of June 1932 into a big family of the Sibanyonis whose origin was in Eswatinikahoho.

His parents were Idah and Jeremiah Sibanyoni. During the early 1930s the whole family migrated to a place called Mataffin which is nearer to Nelspruit then Schagen. Mataffin is a very large estate belonging to HL Hall & Sons. Their new home was situated at one of the extreme ends of the large estate. A greater part of his childhood and early years was spent at this part of the estate. His primary education started at the farm school in Mataffin in which he passed Standard 4. It was a common practice in those days for boy children to work on the farm after passing standard 4. However, his Aunt Sarah (who was married to Zechariah Nkosi in Sabie) advised his father Jeremiah to let him continue attending school in Sabie instead of going to work on the farm in Mataffin. So he proceeded with his secondary schooling in Mashishing (while living with a Sibanyoni family there) where he completed his matric.

He trained as a teacher at Kilnerton and Bantu Normal College in Pretoria while he stayed at Hezekiah Sibanyoni’s home in Mamelodi. Equipped with a teaching qualification he came back home to teach at Nkunzi Secondary.

A calling to ministry hit him in 1961 and in the years 1961 to 1963 he trained as a minister at a bible college affiliated to the University of Fort Hare. From 1964 to 1966 he did circuit work part-time as part of his training as a minister. During the training as a minister he did degree work as well, with the University of South Africa, which culminated in him obtaining a BA degree and being ordained as a minister of the Methodist Church in 1966.

Solomon met Obeline Joyce Mbele in 1962 at Edenvale Hospital (where she was training as a nurse). He was doing missionary work as part of his training as a minister. One thing led to another and they got married on 11 January 1964.

They were blessed with a daughter, Gugulethu, in October 1966 when Solomon was doing circuit work in Vryheid.

Between 1967 and 1968 Solomon registered, studied and obtained an Honours Degree, cum laude, at the University of Fort Hare. Circuit work then took them to Fort Beaufort for the period 1968 to 1969 where they were blessed with a son, Nokosinath, in August 1969. Between 1970 and 1974 Solomon was doing circuit
work in the Eshowe Circuit based in Ngwelezane in Empangeni. Here they were blessed with another son, Fika, in January 1971.

In 1975 Solomon obtained a Bachelor of Divinity degree from the University of Zululand after which he was offered a lecturing post at the University of Fort Hare. He held this post from 1976 to 1986. In 1982 he was offered a scholarship to study for a Masters’ Degree in Sacred Theology, which he obtained in 1983 from the Union Theological Seminary in New York.

In 1986 he was offered a lecturing post at the then newly-established Elijah Mango College in kaBokweni, a post he held from 1987 until his well-deserved retirement in 1997.

After retirement Solomon continued being active in the church until his untimely passing on 6 July 2019 leaving behind his wife (of 55 years), three children an 11 grandchildren.

BISHOP JONATHAN DUNCAN ANDERSON

26 November 1958-5 September 2019

The first impression most people had of Jonathan Anderson was his height. His physical size, however, was not what left, or leaves, a lasting impression.

The stature of Jonathan’s personality, relationships, ministry and legacy is found in other things, among them, his love: love for the Lord, God’s creation, God’s Africa, God’s church, and Louise his wife, their family, and friends. Some will remember him as shy, scholarly, quiet, ‘laid back,’ calm and with a balance of strength and gentleness. He certainly had integrity, humility, an unforced wisdom, and a passion for equipping God’s people. A peace-maker and reconciler, without doubt, but one with a sense of adventure, a nonconformist side, a sense of humour, with no need to impress anyone. He enjoyed the game of bridge, and the games of cricket, rugby and football (and was a life-long supporter of the Scottish club, Heart of Midlothian FC). He also enjoyed classical music, and together with Louise, loved the bushveld. His choice of reading ranged from the deep to the light-hearted.

For Jonathan, it was his call from God to set-apart ministry at an early age that gave meaning, purpose and direction to his life.

He was the youngest of a family of four children whose parents were Ken and Athens; his sisters are Carol and Heather, and David is his identical twin brother.

David, like Andrew who led his brother Simon Peter to Jesus, was instrumental in Jonathan’s conversion. Jonathan joined Forest Hill Methodist Church where he responded to a call to preach and qualified as a Local Preacher while still at school. He candidated for the ordained ministry of the Methodist Church, and studied at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, from where he obtained his degree in theology.

Jonathan’s first pastoral appointment was at Westville, Durban. He completed his compulsory national service as a Military Chaplain, based in Cape Town, but spending time on the border. From there he was sent to Oudtshoorn where he met and later married Louise. Louise’s son, Charl, had previously met Jonathan on one of his pastoral visits to the border, where Charl was also completing national service. While in Oudtshoorn he ministered to two other churches, Bridgton and Bongelethu. The latter was then something of a ‘hotspot.’ And at one stage only
the Roman Catholic priest and Jonathan were welcome in that community. He was no doubt under surveillance for some of his mail from overseas was opened and resealed before delivery. Louise’s employer was also visited by the security police and questioned about her. Jonathan’s sense of justice and commitment to his pastoral responsibilities meant that he never wavered in ministry to this community.

While in Oudtshoorn he completed his honours degree in theology.

In 1990, he accepted an invitation to Evander, where he also ministered to two other societies, Bethal and Kriel, and also represented the MCSA at St. Peter’s Secunda, which is a United Church. For a time he also served as Superintendent of the Standerton Circuit.

After five years he accepted an invitation to Vereeniging where he served for ten years. While there he achieved a life-long dream and reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. It was also during this time that he became involved with DEWCOM and EMMU and served as the Highveld and Swaziland District Supervisor of Studies.

Under his leadership, IST events became more than just about completing assignments. They were about ministry, pastoral care and supporting one another in prayer; they were about equipping for the joys and sorrows of ministry and mission; they were about teaching and modelling that ministry is, above all else, about servanthood; they were about shaping ministry for the future. This too is part of his legacy.

From Vereeniging he moved to Kempton Park where he served for seven years. It was during this time that he was elected to the Vice Chair of the District, and later as Bishop. He was re-elected twice.

As Bishop, Jonathan was motivated by his deep, deep, concern for what he called the soul of our church. For the MCSA to follow its vision of a Christ-healed Africa for the Healing of the Nations, he believed deeply that healing needed to begin with ourselves. A change of names, structures or boundaries mean little or nothing, without a change of heart – they’re just a rattling of the bones!

Psalm 51 played a central role in his own spiritual formation – he prayed it aloud every day:

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin ...
Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me ...

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit,
a broken, and contrite heart,
you, God will not despise ...

Jonathan knew that the renewal of the soul of the church needs to begin with ourselves. It was this regular *examen* of conscience that challenged the temptations of privilege, position and power. At the heart of this prayer was a longing for a greater openness to the ministry of the Holy Spirit to and through him.

During the final five years of his life he battled with cancer, courageously, with dignity and submission to God’s will, yet seeking to serve as Bishop to the best of his ability and strength.

His witness during this time, was that his strength was in his ability to embrace his weakness, brokenness and vulnerability, and offer these up to God, as the sacrifice of ‘a broken, and contrite heart.’ He found that brokenness can also be a means of grace, and with the apostle Paul, responding to the promise that God’s grace is sufficient, was able to testify: ‘For when I am weak, then I am strong’ (2 Cor. 12:10b). Jonathan lived and died knowing that the last word always belongs to Jesus, who is resurrection and life – and that the last word is always a new word, the beginning of something better.

We thank God for his legacy, and rejoice with him that he has entered into the fullness of his inheritance in Christ (1 Pet 1:4).
MICHAEL LOCHLAN MACKINTOSH

18 March 1932-12 September 2019

Mike Mackintosh, as he was known to friends and colleagues, was born in the Stellenbosch area, but grew up at Oranjemund where his father had taken up a position on the diamond mines. He attended the Rondebosch Boys’ High School in Cape Town as a boarder. After matriculation he was employed in a clerical capacity in the banking sector.

Sensing a call to the mission field he enrolled for training at the Bible Institute, Kalk Bay. Later he was persuaded to enter the Methodist ministry instead, and offered as a Candidate in 1958. Having been accepted on probation by Conference, his first appointment was at Walmer in Port Elizabeth. This was followed by a year at Umhlali in the Durban Indian Mission. The years 1961 to 1963 saw him at Rhodes University, Grahamstown for formal theological training.

The final year at Rhodes was marked by significant milestones. He was ordained in Port Elizabeth in October, returning to Grahamstown for final examinations and completion of the BA degree. Earlier that year he had met Rosemary Kerr at an Easter camp, and they were married in Queenstown in November.

Their travels together as a couple, and then as a family, began at Idutywa in the Butterworth Circuit (1964-1966). A ministry of one year at Potgietersrus was followed by years in Pretoria, first at Gezina and then at Waverley (1968-1973), and then by a return to Walmer (1974-1978) where he had begun his ministry. A brief ministry followed at Knysna (1979-1981) before Mike was seconded to military chaplaincy. For the next ten years he served as a naval chaplain based at Simon’s Town, at the same time ministering to the local civilian congregation. His final appointment was at Port Alfred in the Kowie Circuit (1992-1996). When he retired at the end of 1996 he and Rosemary returned to settle in Simon’s Town. After some years there they moved to Fish Hoek.

Michael Mackintosh was first a man who loved and enjoyed his family. Together they went on many memorable caravaning holidays over the years. He shared with them his enthusiasm for rugby and cricket and delighted them with his love of puns and spoonerisms. Mike the minister was a diligent and faithful servant of the Gospel. He gently touched people’s lives with his warmth, kindness and
keen sense of humour. At the memorial service in the Simon’s Town church many appreciative tributes were paid by people whose lives had been enriched by his ministry.

He is survived by Rosemary, his loyal and supportive partner of 56 years, their children Ian, Russell, Heather and Alistair, and 11 grandchildren.