

## Chapter 2 RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONNEXIONAL EXECUTIVE 2020

### 2.1. COMPOSITION OF THE CANDIDATES SCREENING COMMITTEE

The Connexional Executive, noting the 2019 Conference resolution on psychological profiling (*Resolution 40 Yearbook 2020, pg. 106*) and the report that must be given by the Clinical Psychologist to the Synod Screening Committees, directs the Revisions Committee to consider amendments aimed at alignment, to The Methodist Book of Order para 4.16 that:

- In each Synod a Candidates' Screening Committee appointed by the Bishop shall interview Candidates for the Ministry prior to Synod.
- The Committee shall comprise at least two Ministers, and three lay Members including a psychologist or social worker, with the Synod Supervisor of Studies as convener.
- The Education for Ministry and Mission Unit shall send representatives from, but not limited to its Connexional Committee.
- The prescribed form and procedure shall be followed including whatever prior medical and other testing that has been specified from time to time.
- The Committee shall report on each Candidate and make its recommendations to Synod.

### 2.2. REPRESENTATION OF THE EMMU IN THE SDC AND CDC

The Connexional Executive notes with concern the gap between the EMMU Rubrics that are aimed at the formation of Probationers not only academically, but also in character. These Rubrics are often not taken into consideration when applying discipline as per Chapter 11 of The Methodist Book of Order. The result thereof is the inability to fully apply the Rubrics in the process of disciplining probationers.

***To ensure seamless processes between the EMMU Rubrics and Chapter 11 on Discipline of The Methodist Book of Order, The Connexional Executive directs the Revisions Committee to consider the following amendments:***

- a) The Synod Supervisor of Studies or a representative from the Synod EMMU Committee becomes a member of any Synod Discipline Committee in any case where a Probationer is heard, inter alia to ensure that the EMMU Rubrics are considered in the process.
- b) When the matter is referred to the Connexional Disciplinary Committee, the Director of EMMU be included in the Discipline Committee inter alia to ensure that the EMMU Rubrics are considered in the process.

The Connexional Executive therefore directs the Revisions Committee to consider the following amendments of Chapter 11, 11.8 and 11.32 (7.1.3 and 7.1.4 respectively) of The Methodist Book of Order aimed at ensuring seamless application of both *Discipline of Probationers and EMMU Rubrics through the representation of the EMMU in the SDC and CDC*.

### 2.3. PROPOSED COMPOSITION OF THE CDC – (11.32 THE METHODIST BOOK OF ORDER, PG. 142 TWELFTH EDITION 2016)

- **11.32.** Conference shall appoint a Connexional Disciplinary Committee consisting of not fewer than seven persons of whom at least two shall be ordained Ministers and at least

three Lay Members, all appointed for a term of three years and not exceeding three (3) consecutive terms.

- The Conference shall appoint one of the members to be the Convener.
- At least one member shall have the equivalent of at least five (5) years high court experience as an attorney or advocate or five (5) years of litigation experience.
- **The EMMU Director shall form part of the CDC when the matter pertains to a probationer and the EMMU Rubrics shall be taken into account.**

#### **2.4. SUSPENSION AND DISCONTINUANCE OF PROBATIONERS**

The Connexional Executive notes that at times ministers (*in probation*) are suspended and or given pastoral leave by the Presiding Bishop. *CE further note that the Connexional Disciplinary Committee may also impose a sanction as an outcome of a disciplinary process, of suspension on ministers. All these impact on the training of the probationers and seminarians.*

*The Connexional Executive therefore resolves that:*

1. When such suspension is temporal whilst the matter is still under review or the Probationer is given Pastoral Leave and then is later reinstated, that *their ordination shall be deferred by a year.*
2. When the Suspension is the *sanction, as an outcome* of the Disciplinary Committee process, the Probationer *shall be deemed to have been discontinued and will restart the process of Candidature and follow all the processes related to candidature.*

The Connexional Executive directs the Revisions Committee to consider such an amendment.

#### **2.5. CALLING THE BAN FOR AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS – ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS UNIT**

The Connexional Executive affirms the lead that the Namibian government has taken, by calling the ban of autonomous weapons (*killer robots*), the Connexional Executive urges all countries in the MCSA Connexion to join this call.

The Connexional Executive therefore, requests the Presiding Bishop to: -

- write directly to the Governments of Botswana; Lesotho; Mozambique; South Africa and eSwatini and to our ecumenical councils of Churches within our Connexion ***urging them to advocate that their respective governments join this call for the ban on autonomous weapons.***

#### **2.6. SYNOD COORDINATORS – THE ORDER OF EVANGELISM**

The Connexional Executive resolves that, *Synod Secretaries* of the Order of Evangelism be referred to as *Synod Coordinators* of the Order of Evangelism in order to better classify their role and directs the Revision Committee to consider the proposed amendment.

#### **2.7. SECRETARIES OF THE ORDER OF EVANGELISM**

The Connexional Executive reaffirms, the Conference 2019 resolution (44. pg. 108 Yearbook 2020) and encourages all Synods to implement and ensure compliance to the 2019 Conference resolution by including Synod Secretaries of the Order of Evangelism as members of the Synod Executive.

#### **2.8. RESOLUTION TO BE REFERRED TO THE REVISIONS COMMITTEE ON CANDIDATURE PROCEDURE – THE ORDER OF EVANGELISM**

The Connexional Executive refers the following proposed amendments to the Revisions Committee *for review* against current practice and previous resolutions on the Order of Evangelism Candidature, for presentation in Conference 2021:

Clause 14.4.11 be added and read as follows:

- The school of vocation is mandatory to all those who wish to offer as Bible Women and Evangelists.
- The process of candidature *page 159, paragraph 14.5. Clause 14.5.3, the last sentence be amended and read as follows:*
  - Synod Secretary of the Order of Evangelism, who shall forward the same to the Warden, who shall forward the same to EMMU Registrar for approval.
  - EMMU Registrar after approval in collaboration with Warden of the Order shall forward the forms to Synod Supervisor of Studies for screening.

## 2.9. THE SCREENING COMMITTEE – THE ORDER OF EVANGELISM

The Connexional Executive resolves that, Clause 14.5.4 be amended and read as follows:

- Synod Supervisor of Studies (SSS) who shall be the convener, Synod Secretary of the Order of Evangelism, Connexional EMMU representative, Psychologist or Social Worker, one ordained minister appointed by the Bishop, one commissioned Bible Woman and one commissioned Evangelist, one Lay person appointed by the Bishop.
- Superintendents *where possible* encouraged to attend the ~~come to~~ screening with their applicants.
- Four (4) members of the Screening Committee shall be considered as the quorum necessary to proceed with screening.
- **All candidates' forms together with all other documents shall be forwarded to EMMU by the 31<sup>st</sup> October.**
- After screening committee, SSS, shall present names of the successful prospective candidates to Synod for acceptance and approval (candidates must be present at the Synod, for acknowledgement).
- The SSS shall then forward names to EMMU Registrar for Conference approval.
- After conference approval, successful candidates will begin their 1<sup>st</sup> year probation and training in October of the conference year.

The Connexional Executive directs the Revisions Committee to consider the above amendments in The Methodist Book of Order for presentation in Conference 2021.

## 2.10. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE - DEWCOM

Conference 2019 directed that DEWCOM develop a discussion document on MCSA position and Theology of Marriage. DEWCOM has established a sub-committee to trace a timeline and previous work that has been done on this. The elements of this include:

- Historical development of Marriage and LGBTIAQ+ conversations and resolutions
- Marriage and Family Life Conference in 2015
- The DEWCOM Report to Conference 2017
- DEWCOM Resolutions to on Civil Unions
- DEWCOM Submission to Conference 2019

The Connexional Executive notes and affirms the work done by DEWCOM on Marriage and family life and resolves that this work has to be a collaboration with the Marriage and Family Life Standing Committee and the LGBTIAQ+ Committee.

The Connexional Executive further *resolves that* this work continues for submission to the 2021 Conference and directs the Marriage and Family Life Standing Committee in collaboration with LGBTIAQ+ Committee to continue working on this and may consult DEWCOM for historic work as and when needed for final submission to Conference 2021.

## 2.11. SACRAMENTAL LIFE IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC - DEWCOM

### *Background*

The Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA), like other Churches around the world, finds itself shattered by the extraordinary and unprecedented circumstances precipitated by the global Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. Among other economic and social effects, the pandemic has resulted in local church congregations being prevented from gathering in corporate worship and, as a consequence, receiving Holy Communion.

While the Methodist Book of Order (para. 1.15 – 1.35) provides the polity, and theological and liturgical foundations for the regular celebration of Holy Communion, no particular provisions are made for practice in times of a pandemic. The incidence of Covid-19 has spurred the MCSA to explore how we can respond creatively within this unique situation while still abiding with the principles and provisions of our polity. Where context and the Spirit of God demands, we need to adjust our practices in ways that will help the lived faith of the church to adapt and flourish.

In April 2020, the Office of the Presiding Bishop mandated the Doctrine, Ethics and Worship Committee (DEWCOM) to facilitate a theological discussion on Holy Communion in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. This discussion elicited numerous contributions from Methodist clergy and laity, and addressed various issues on Eucharistic theology in relation to our liturgical practice, sacramental living and the socio-economic inequalities that characterise our Connexion. (A summary of this discussion is attached.) Key to this discussion was the question whether 'online' Holy Communion could be practiced in a way that is consistent with our stated theological understanding of Holy Communion. While diverse responses to this question were articulated, the preponderance of theological opinion concluded that 'online' Holy Communion, within this context, could indeed be practiced with theological integrity, subject to a number of conditions.

In the light of the above DEWCOM therefore offers the following recommendations and guidelines, in the form of a resolution:

### 2.11.1 Noting that:

- The extraordinary and unprecedented circumstances precipitated by the global Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in local church congregations being prevented from gathering in corporate worship for the past few months.
- Notwithstanding the announcement of the resumption of limited public worship services under strict conditions in some of the countries within the Connexion, the nature and likely trajectory of this pandemic is such that many churches and certainly many church members, especially those most vulnerable to infection, will be unable to gather in corporate worship for the foreseeable future.
- The extreme material hardship, emotional trauma, social strain and spiritual isolation that many are enduring in this moment makes the sacramental presence of the church and the extension of the means of grace into people's lived experience all the more crucial and urgent.
- The sacrament of Holy Communion is a foundational resource for the life of faith, an imperative of our Lord, and one of the key ways in which our belonging within the body of Christ is affirmed. It also plays a pivotal part in shaping the church's mission

and witness in the world, by calling members of the body of Christ to the daily practice of sacramental living.

The Connexional Executive receives the following suggestions from DEWCOM:

- Every Circuit and Society, within the constraints imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic and in keeping with our Methodist discipline, should exercise a sacramental presence in life-giving ways that will reach people where they are and meet them in their places of need.
  - The Presiding Bishop permits the use of 'online' Holy Communion for a limited time, while the necessity not to gather for public worship in order to avoid the spread of Covid-19 infection endures. For the sake of clarity, 'online' Holy Communion refers to the following:
    - A communion service that forms part of a clearly defined and intentional worship gathering of a church community meeting remotely, typically each in their own home, yet connected through the use of some form of digital technology.
- 2.2.2. The celebrant of such a communion service would be an ordained minister or probationer with dispensation who would lead the communion liturgy in the usual way, as per our Methodist practice.
- 2.2.3. This communion liturgy would be shared with the gathered worshipping community through some digital channel, typically a video or audio recording or live feed.
- 2.2.4. Each participating home would have the physical elements of bread and wine present – duly consecrated through the words and actions of the celebrant in the communion liturgy, the active participation in faith of the members of the body of Christ, and the agency of the Holy Spirit – which the communicants would share among themselves when invited by the celebrant to do so.
- 2.11.2 The Presiding Bishop grants ordained Methodist ministers' special dispensation to celebrate such 'online' Holy Communion services. Such dispensation will be regarded as temporary and can be revoked by the Presiding Bishop at any time. It will be in force only for as long as public worship services remain inhibited due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2.11.3 In light of the reality that 'online' Holy Communion is accessible only to people who have the privilege of access to the necessary technology and data to participate in such services of Holy Communion, and that many people are excluded by their material and social circumstances from participation in such Holy Communion services:
  - People participating in 'online' Holy Communion services are made mindful of those who are excluded from 'online' Holy Communion services and express their solidarity with the needs of all people so excluded.
  - People participating in 'online' Holy Communion services are urged to contribute actively and materially to the relief of the needs of the poor as part of their act of worship.
  - Prayers of intercession be said before the Passing of the Peace and the Eucharistic Prayer ('The Thanksgiving') for those who are poor, marginalised or excluded for whatever reason from Holy Communion, specifically mentioning those individuals and communities who are nearest to the congregation.
- 2.11.4 DEWCOM, together with the Ecumenical Affairs Unit, informs the Church Unity Commission and other ecumenical partners of this resolution and engage with

them on the theological and practical implications for celebrating 'online' Holy Communion during moments of crisis like Covid-19.

The Connexional Executive notes and affirms the work done by DEWCOM on Sacramental Life in a time of a Pandemic and refers the final submission of this report for decision to Conference 2021.

## 2.11. POSSIBLE REMEDIES FOR THE USE OF TERM SYNODS - DEWCOM

The following proposals are offered by DEWCOM, in order of recommendation, as possible remedies for the problems in respect of the current ambiguous usage of the term "Synod". Whichever option is preferred, it is essential to find a way of distinguishing between the geographic / missional area and the annual gathering within it.

**Option 1:** Rescind and revert to the former usage of Synod and District

This would clarify the distinction between the annual gathering (Synod) and the geographic / missional area (District), but fails to remedy the difficulty whereby entire nations are referred to as Districts.

**Option 2:** Revert to the former usage of Synod and find a new term for District

In other parts of the church, different terms are used to refer to what the MCSA has always called Districts. In the Episcopal tradition – "diocese". In the Presbyterian tradition – "presbytery". In the United Methodist Church – "Conference". Two particular suggestions are offered that are worthy of consideration for the MCSA:

a. **Connexion.**

This term (with the original English spelling) has a rich Methodist heritage that speaks to the sense of community that is at the heart of our common life and shared witness. The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary offers this definition: "A body, or circle of persons, connected together, or with whom one is connected by political, religious or commercial ties."

The term "Connexion" is currently used to refer to the entire body of the MCSA. Should it be enlisted as the new name for District, the wider Connexion of the MCSA as a whole could then be referred to as the General Connexion. So, for example, one could say that the Limpopo Connexion is part of the General Connexion of the MCSA.

b. **Diocese**

This is a term familiar to the Episcopal / Anglican tradition. The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary offers this definition: "The district under the pastoral care of a bishop; the sphere of jurisdiction of a bishop."

Should either of the above suggestions be seriously considered, it is essential that more detailed theological reflection (which is beyond the scope of this paper) be undertaken of the implications of such a change, before being adopted.

**Option 3:** Retain the current usage of "Synod" to refer to the geographic / missional area, and use a modified term to refer to the annual gathering

Possibilities for a modified term to refer to the annual gathering would include the following:

c. **Annual Synod**

So, for example, one could speak of the Annual Synod of the Limpopo Synod.

d. **Synod Annual Meeting**

Synods would therefore hold a Synod Annual Meeting, analogous to Circuits holding a Circuit Quarterly Meeting or Societies holding an Annual Society Meeting.

The Connexional Executive receives the discussion document from DEWCOM on the use of the term “Synod” and refers it to Synod gatherings for discussion and report to Conference 2021.

### **2.12. TWOFOLD PATTERN OF ORDAINED MINISTRY WITHIN THE MCSA - DEWCOM**

DEWCOM requests the Connexional Executive to reaffirm the current definition and practice of the Twofold Pattern of Ordained Ministry within the MCSA, the ministry of Word and Sacraments, Presbyter, as found in chapter four of our Book of Order (2016), and Word and Service, Deacon, as found in chapter thirteen of our Book of Order (2016), and the respective works of these Orders of Ordained Ministry within the life of the Church, as set out by our current understanding as found within our Book of Order, 2016 edition.

DEWCOM notes the ongoing conversation about the Synergising the Orders, and that this is ongoing work, and advises Conference that the outcome of this work may directly impact on any doctrinal amendments or work thereon as it relates to our current definitions and practice of Orders of Ordained Ministry.

DEWCOM further commits to make this theology pattern of our ordained ministry of our programme for discussion and education in 2021.

The Connexional Executive notes and affirms the work done by DEWCOM on the twofold pattern of ordained ministry within the MCSA and encourages the continued programmes and education by DEWCOM and request DEWCOM to present a fuller discussion document to Conference 2021.

### **2.13. PASTORAL COMMISSION FOR MINISTERS RETURNING FROM CHAPLAINCY TO FULL-TIME MINISTRY – CONNEXIONAL CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE (CCC)**

The Connexional Executive notes, the CCC proposal to the MCSA Conference that, ministers coming from the Chaplaincy, be subjected to a pastoral commission when applying to be accepted back into full itinerant ministry. This practice would then ensure consistency *at exit and at re-entry* for chaplaincy and back into full itinerant ministry respectively.

The *Connexional Executive* therefore requests the Revisions Committee to assess processes (The Methodist Book of Order, 12<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2016. para 4.90 pg. 43-46) including pastoral commission terms of reference for ministers applying to exit full time itinerant ministry or secondment in consideration of creating consistency in the application of our regulations.

The *Connexional Executive further* directs the Revisions Committee to consider presumptions made by CCC that, all ministers appointed in the Essential Services departments (Secondments) *do not* enjoy the same status and privileges as chaplains, for reporting to the Conference 2021.

### **2.14. RESOLUTION FROM WOMEN IN MINISTRY TASK TEAM**

The Connexional Executive celebrates and affirms the landmark reforms in legislative decisions of 2018 and 2019 Conferences which enabled a more equitable representation of female leadership in all decision-making spaces of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.

The Connexional Executive affirms the “Freedom from fear & violence”, MCSA Against GBV Campaign led by the Presiding Bishop across the Connexion for seven weeks.

The Connexional Executive further notes the continued and heightened cases of abuse and gender-based violence within our society and church life and concedes, that the vital justice-work of redressing the deep systemic, socio-cultural and theological biases within our organisational culture, that entrench and legitimise such violence, is not complete.

The Connexional Executive affirms the work of the Women in Ministry Task Team and resolves *that*, at the beginning at January 2021:

- Each Synod ensures the establishment of an active Gender Desk or Justice desk within their Synod Mission Unit.
- That the Synod Mission Unit, and/or Gender-Justice Desk, should align themselves to the goals and objectives set out by the Connexional Women in Ministry Task Team generally and in particular in terms of GBV work.
- That the Connexional Women in Ministry Task Team share the goals and objectives with Synod Mission Unit, Gender-Justice Desk for implementation.
- That Synod Gender-Justice Desk reports to the Synod Executive Committee and the Annual Synod Gathering through the Synod Mission Unit.

### **2.15. BOUNDARIES MPUMALANGA SYNOD**

The Mission Synod hosted by Central Eswatini Circuit and Presided over by the Limpopo Synod was held 22 February 2020. In attendance was the Presiding Bishop, General Secretary, Highveld and Eswatini Synod officials and the Mission Unit Director. All Circuits forming this New Synod was represented. The full report including the nomination and election of officials, and resolutions was forwarded for endorsement, approval and elections to the birthing Synods – Limpopo and Highveld and Eswatini. As a result of the Declaration of a State of Disaster on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and consequent regulations the Connexional Executive held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2020 resolved to suspend the holding of Annual Synods and Conference for 2020 and the formation of New Synods until 2022. The Connexional Executive therefore resolves that the process of the Birthing of the Mpumalanga Synod shall proceed as soon as the necessary regulations are relaxed, and report to Conference 2021.

The Connexional Executive *affirms and defers to the 2021 Conference*.

### **2.16. BOUNDARIES ALIWAL NORTH SYNOD**

Hosted by the Queenstown and Lesseyton Circuit the Mission Synod for Aliwal North Synod was held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February presided over by the Queenstown Synod Officials with the attendance of the Mokale-Montle Synod Officials, Presiding Bishop, General Secretary and the Directors of the Mission and Communications Units.

The Circuits forming the Synod were all present and participated in the formation business of the new Synod as led by the Interim Committee. Amongst other matters of business, the Mission Synod duly nominated its officials and resolved on a Name for the new Synod. The reports of the Mission Synod were referred for endorsement, approval and elections to the birthing Synods, Queenstown and Mokale-Montle. As a result of the declaration of a State of Disaster the Connexional Executive on 23<sup>rd</sup> May resolved to suspend the holding of Annual Synods and Conference and further resolved to suspend the birthing of the Aliwal North Synod to 2022.

The Connexional Executive therefore resolves that the process of the birthing of Aliwal North Synod shall resume as soon as the regulations allow for gatherings of the committees needed for its formation, and report to Conference 2021.



### **2.17. CONTINUING CONVERSATIONS**

Conference 2019 resolved that the Natal Coastal and Natal West Synods continue conversations on the possibilities arising from various inter Synod gatherings and report on their progress to Conference 2020 through their Annual Synods.

Due to the suspension of Conference 2020 as well as the formation of New Synods this work is referred to Conference 2021.

Clarkebury Synod was tasked by Conference 2019 to following further engagement to forward to Conference 2020 as firm resolution on the multiplication of the Synod effective 2022. Given the suspension of Conference 2020 this work is deferred to 2021 Conference and the formation of the multiplied Synods to be affective 2023.

The Connexional Executive therefore resolves that all other matters referred by Conference for reporting to the 2020 Conference are suspended for reporting to Conference 2021.

### **2.18. RESOLUTION FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE**

The Connexional Executive instructs the Standing Committee on Divorce & Remarriage to prepare a guide for Minister/Deacons who are facing Divorce or Remarriage. The booklet shall be aligned to the processes of Remarriage and Divorce as contained in the Book of Order,

### **2.19. ALTERNATIVE MODELS OF MINISTRY**

The Connexional Executive resolved to amend the terms of reference of the Assessment Model Team appointed the Finance Executive in 2019 to include a Review, in its entirety of the continued sustainability of the MCSA, its entities and all its Assessment Models, the Connexional Executive further agreed that the team be authorised to co-opt skilled persons, Organisational and Synod Treasurers. The following were appointed Dr Sithembile Mbetse, Mr Sibuyi Ngundze, Dr Xolobile Ngumbela in addition to the existing committee of Mr Erich Roberts, Ms N Hlathi, Ms N Mnconywa, Ms A De Boer, Ms Carin Cronje, Ms Thini Ngonyama, Rev's Sidwell Mokgothu, Gary Rivas, Sean Mc Guigan and Michel Hansrod (Convenor). This Team is mandated to meet and report progress by Conference 2021 through the Connexional Finance Executive.

### **2.20. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CO-OPERATIVE BANK**

The Connexional Executive notes, that the members of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA) have for several years envisaged a funding model that would economically empower both the devotees and the church. In line with the dream, the Connexional Executive embraces the concept of financial resourcefulness and sustainability as proposed by Limpopo SEC.

The Connexional Executive therefore, directs Finance Unit to co-opt a team of experts as advisors in order to explore methods that would generate income for the Methodist Church of Southern Africa to ease reliance on members' periodical pledge and relief Circuits from assessments.

- The objective is for the church to be financially viable without overburdening its members. It should be borne in mind that the economy of South Africa is shrinking and members may in future not be able to voluntarily contribute towards the funds of the church as it has been the Methodist tradition.
- COVID-19 has exacerbated the situation as many companies are closing and unemployment is rising.

- This state of affairs makes it urgent for the MCSA community to come up with an initiative that would financially sustain the church in years to come.

The Connexional Executive further directs the Finance Unit to assess **the establishment of a cooperative bank**.

Through a team of experts, to be co-opted by the Finance Unit, to investigate the establishment of a Cooperative Bank and report to 2021 Conference.

### **2.21. SYNOD DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

The Connexional Executive notes and refers to the Revisions Committee for consideration the following proposed amendment on the composition of the Synod Disciplinary Committees.

Allowing "small Districts" (5.5.12) to reduce the size of the Synod Disciplinary Committee to not fewer than two (2) ministers (which may include Supernumeraries) and no less than three lay members. The quorum to remain unchanged.

### **2.22. SYNOD STATIONING COMMITTEE**

The Connexional Executive notes and refers to the Revisions Committee for consideration the following proposed amendment on the appointment of Synod Stationing Committees:

Allowing "small Districts" (5.5.12) to reduce the size of the Synod Stationing Committee to the Ex Officio members, together with two ministers and two lay members, elected by the Synod.

### **2.23. SYNOD TRUST PROPERTIES COMMITTEE**

The Connexional Executive notes and refers to the Revisions Committee for consideration the proposed amendment on the appointment of Synod Trust Properties Committees.

Allowing "small Districts" (5.5.12) to reduce the size of the Synod Trust Properties Committee to the Ex Officio members, together with and one minister and three lay members, appointed by the Synod.

### **2.24. RESOLUTION ON TENTMAKING MINISTRY**

The Connexional Executive refers to the Human Resources Unit and Finance Unit for discussion that the MCSA considers and introduces a form of Tentmaking Ministry for Presbyters, wherein Itinerant Ordained Ministers in Full Connexion may apply with motivation from the CQM and endorsement from the Bishop to the Presiding Bishop to serve the Circuit part time, non-stipendiary, itinerant with the proviso that:

1. The permission to serve part time non-stipendiary is for one year at a time,
2. It is not open to Probationer Ministers or Ministers within the first year after Ordination,
3. The Minister will attend all events as required of the Synod,
4. Assessment shall include 85% of the Connexional assessment (85% of the portion of Assessment that goes towards Connexional costs) as calculated per Minister, plus medical assessment,
5. If the minister continues to contribute to the pension Fund, the Circuit shall make the Circuit contribution,

6. The minister may receive a travelling allowance and housing or part thereof, and this will be taxed as normal,
7. The minister will give at least 15 hours a week to Circuit work,
8. As an Itinerant Minister in full Connexion a Tentmaking Minister is itinerant and subject to be moved as per the processes of the MCSA.
9. This is subject to the Church being satisfied with the primary employment of the Minister. The Minister may not be employed for a Concern which may represent a conflict of interest, or a moral dilemma for the Minister or Church.

### **2.25. CHANGE IN THE CONSTITUTION OF CIRCUIT QUARTERLY MEETING (CQM)**

The Connexional Executive refers to the Revisions Committee for consideration that Society Treasurers be included in the membership of CQMs, for transparency and administrative purposes.

### **2.26. SYNOD NAME CHANGES**

The Connexional Executive resolved that the Queenstown Synod be renamed Kumkani Hintsa Synod, effective January 2021.

### **2.27. RESOLUTION ON WRITING THE NAME MOKALA-MONTLE**

The Connexional Executive resolved that the name of the Mokala-Montle Synod be written with a hyphen between the noun “Mokala” and the adverb “Montle, as Mokala-Montle.

### **2.28. CHURCH RESERVE FUND – CONTRIBUTION RATE**

#### **Background**

The Church Reserve Fund (CRF) was established in 2005. In 2006 actuarial advice given to the Church indicated that the level of funding in the Supernumerary Fund Reserve (SFR) far exceeded the funding requirement to meet the purpose for which the Supernumerary Fund Reserve was established.

Contributions would from then on flow between the SFR and the Church Reserve Fund on a variable basis as the needs of the Supernumerary Fund Reserve determined. As a result, the Variable Contribution Rate (VCR) proposal was approved by the Actuary, Investment & Advisory Committee, the Trustees of the Supernumerary Fund and the Finance Unit Executive in the final quarter of 2006, and by Conference 2007, to be operative with effect from January 2007.

Annually, the “three portions” have been collected, one part to a Minister’s pension, one part to the CRF, and one part to the SFR.

Later, the allocation was none to the CRF, and one to the Minister’s pension, and two parts to the SFR. Both the CRF and SFR 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 the church as well as elected from among members as per its rules, and very carefully controlled by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority, the Supernumerary Fund Reserve and the Church Reserve are administered by the Finance Unit Executive under the direction of the Connexional Executive and Conference.

In 2016 Conference resolved 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 resulting in a significant saving for Circuits.

The 2018 Conference resolved that the CRF serves as a reserve to guarantee that in a financial eventuality of calamitous proportions the CRF 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.

The Connexional Executive resolves that:

- Given the current context, we are faced with as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Finance Unit Executive be authorised to use Church Reserve Fund for the church's obligations that emanate from the assessment income decline imposed by the lockdown impact on the church.
- The Finance Unit through its investment subcommittee investigates the reinstatement of contributions to the Church Reserve fund for consideration at *Conference 2021*, and possible implementation in 2022.