



**THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**

*a Christ-healed Africa for the healing of the nations*

**MISSION UNIT  
CONFERENCE REPORT  
2021**



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## HIGHLIGHTS



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**Guided by God's Mission:**

**Reimagining healing and transformation**

**Insurgency, Violence and Unrest**

**MCSA Covid – 19 Response Report**

# Guided by God's Mission Reimagining Healing and Transformation

## *The Mission 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*

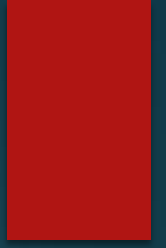




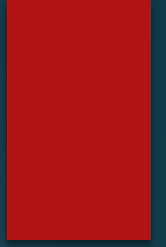
In 2019, the Mission Unit embarked on an impact assessment and a significant amount of work had been undertaken. However, in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Conference 2020 call:

***Guided by God's Mission: Reimagining Healing and Transformation,***

it became necessary to extend the work already done. The areas of focus identified in the previous year (2019) had to be revisited so as to intentionally work towards igniting conversations across the Connexion, geared at imagining the type of missional church we ought to be, during and beyond the pandemic.



November 2020 the Mission Unit Advisory Board, the Task Team appointed to assist in facilitating the reimagining process, and the Presiding Bishop's Office met to reflect and determine a process for the review.  
This resulted in the call for more consultative process.



Subsequently, the Connexional Mission Coordinators conversation, resolved that the 2021 Mission Consultation be the genesis of a Connexional conversation and encouraged that Synod Coordinators advocate for Synod conversations.

The resolution was prepared and tabled before the May 2021, Annual Synods.



## Synod Responses to the Resolution

1. 13 of the 15 agreed to the need of Synods one day mission conversations,
2. Some of the Synods took a different approach to a one day mission synod approach (3 of the 15),
3. Synods that have already had their Mission Conversations (4 of the 12 reported and submitted the outcomes),
4. Some of the remaining 8 indicated that they will be hosting theirs later in the year as a result of the congestion of their diaries,
5. Camdeboo Synod (a Mission Consultation was held), and
6. Individual submissions to the Mission Unit on reimagining mission



## Consolidation of Reports Received

### Most synods agreed that:

- There is a need to revisit our mission approach and focus should be on how we resource our work,
- How do we consolidate our interventions as the MCSA
- How are we being intentional in strengthening our ecumenical mission initiatives
- How do we deepen our involvement in community based initiatives
- What new models are we to implement for Church Growth and Evangelism
- How do we make our churches safe spaces for the vulnerable e.g. GBV, Children, refugees, asylum seekers, etc
- How do we capacitate ourselves for situations such as: pandemics, conflict, unrest, etc
- How do we effectively use and make technology accessible as a tool for proclaiming the gospel





## Suggested interventions as per the pillars

### Spirituality:

- Redefining our spiritual formational models to focus on human development (emotional, psychological, sexual, and physical-being)
- Review the effectiveness and productive nature of leaders meetings to ensure that they become places of spiritual accountability. Moving small Group and class meetings to the centre and design intentional programmes and resources to fulfil the above.
- Missional Leadership programmes for small groups and class leaders because of the indispensable role such leaders play.
- Review and reconfigure spiritual formation models – Do current ways produce disciples who understand s themselves as agents of healing, justice, peace, righteousness and love?



# Evangelism and Church Growth

- MCSA TV Channel – the likelihood of this move reaching millions of people is high, Why Not? Is it tradition or conservatism holding us back.
- Regularise Online services and Online radio as a tool for evangelism.
- Rethinking how we evangelise and exploring models used in other African Countries



## Human Empowerment and Economic Development

- Use of church land for sustainable job creation and sustainable livelihoods.
- Use of infrastructure for income generation purposes by the local church.
- Entrepreneur Development Desk:
  - \* To establish the desk within the pillar
  - \* The vision of this desk will be to train and develop successful entrepreneurs around the connexion
  - \* To Register this programme with the relevant Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) or equivalent authority in the respective countries of the Connexion.
  - \* To apply for government Skills Development Funding (SDF) from the relevant SETA or other such authorities in the countries of our Connexion  
Develop tithing and giving material that address current changing paradigms of society.



## Human Empowerment and Economic Development (conti)



### Connexional Triennial Mission Award:

- Host an Expo for enterprise of Methodist around the Connexion.
- Couple that with the Presiding Bishop's Golf Day for Mission with a possible Gala Dinner.
- Proposal for Mission Groups Gathering
- Mission Groups are a critical piece for sustainability and growing mission at both the local and Connexional levels.
- If resources gathered for they gathering could be closely looked at more could be done for mission than is the case at the moment.
- A well orchestrated prayer intensive and well negotiated process need to be engaged on to change our annual gatherings to at least bi-annual gatherings.
- All hosting costs for the gap year go into "capital projects fund (CPF)".
- The CPF may assist in establishment of the MCSA TV channel and or MCSA multi-purpose centre.



## JUSTICE AND SERVICE

- GBV responsive programme- 3-4 years plan on how we respond to the scourge of GBV. This should not be a optional plan for societies but an obligation informed by our convictions and theological beliefs.
- Corruption- the lack of response by the church to corruption is a worrying factor. Corruption is one of the crippling effects our time.
- Eco theology- our response to climate change. Developing resources for local churches.
- Inequality and the historical challenges in South Africa and other countries within the Connexion remains to a challenge. As we re-imagine healing and transformation we ought to thinking how about how we heal the church from the ripple effects of colonial and apartheid legacy.
- \* Capacitating and Equipping Clergy to respond to conflict and unrest situations



# Education and Christian Formation

## Education:

Restoring our involvement in education:

- \* outline the role of the church in education
- \* help synods on how to partner with the local education structures
- \* reclaim the churches place in schools (independent and schools under our name run by governments)

## Christian Formation:

EMMU and MU to assist local churches in creating material and or resources for empowerment in this area.



## Youth Focus.

### Education, Youth and children

- ▶ Unattended traumas experienced due to high rate of unemployment, social ills and economic deprivation.
- ▶ The church should be visible in learning institutions, early learning centres, primary schools, secondary, high school and tertiary.
- ▶ Train Pastoral Care counsellors to focus on young people.
- ▶ Review the role of MethSoc in institutions of higher learning.
- ▶ Transform the culture that young people cannot fulfil what is perceived to be.