



The Methodist Church of Southern Africa

Tel: +27 (0)11 615 1616
+27 (0)87 056 1201
Fax: +27 (0)11 615 1511

Methodist Connexional Office
33 Ernest Oppenheimer Ave
Bruma Office Park, Bruma
Private Bag X11
Garden View 2047

30 January 2025

TO: All District Bishops, Lay Leaders, Superintendents, Circuit Ministers, Circuit Stewards and All Methodist People

Dear Beloved Methodists in your various capacities,

[A Pilgrimage of Renewal: The Journey to Mission Congress 2025](#)

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The 2024 Annual Conference launched the Pilgrimage of Renewal, marking the beginning of our transformative journey toward the Mission Congress 2025. This pilgrimage represents a pivotal moment for all Methodists in Southern Africa as we engage in prayerful conversations to discern God's call for our mission over the next ten years.

[A Bottom-Up Approach to Discernment](#)

Our leadership is committed to a bottom-up approach, ensuring that the voice of the people (vox populi) shapes the agenda for discussions at the Mission Congress in September 2025. At the Conference, each District received a stone—symbolizing a commitment to prayerfully engage in mission-focused conversations and seek God's guidance for the years ahead. This process will extend through our Circuits and Societies, forging a united path forward.

We invite all Districts, Circuits, and Societies to embark on this Pilgrimage of Renewal, encouraging full participation in shaping the vision of where God is leading us.

[Steps to Follow in the Pilgrimage of Renewal](#)

1. Mission Facilitators

Each District, Circuit, and Society is invited to elect three (3) Mission Congress Facilitators who will:

- Ignite passion and inspire conversations about our mission at the local level.
- Ensure that every District, Circuit, and Society launches the Pilgrimage with enthusiasm and communicates its significance.
- Work with ministers and lay leaders skilled in liturgy and prayer to create meaningful worship experiences, translating the Conference liturgy to make it accessible while preserving the essence of the journey.
- Ensure that every District, Circuit, and Society receives a stone inscribed with its name, symbolizing unity and purpose.

A Christ-healed Africa for the Healing of Nations

Presiding Bishop:
Rev Pumla Nzimande
E-mail: presbish@mco.org.za

General Secretary:
Rev Musi SJ Losaba
E-mail: gensec@mco.org.za

Lay President:
Mr Xhanti T Mhlubulwana
E-mail: laypresident@mco.org.za

General Treasurer:
Mr Rannoi Sedumo
E-mail: rannoi@mco.org.za

2. Mission Congress Champions

The Bishop, Lay Leader, Circuit Superintendent, Circuit Ministers, Circuit Stewards, and Society Stewards will serve as Mission Congress Champions in their respective areas. Their role is to inspire and facilitate mission-focused conversations and prayers across all levels of the Church.

3. The Symbol of *Isivivane*

- Each District, Circuit, Society, Mission Group, and Ministry will receive a stone inscribed with its name during the Pilgrimage of Renewal launch at the District level.
- When Circuits gather, each Society should bring its stone, and when the District gathers, each Circuit should bring its stone, forming an *Isivivane* (a sacred pile of stones symbolizing collective commitment and shared journey).
- When Societies meet—including classes, Mission Groups, and Ministries—they may also have their own stones. These gatherings should be creative spaces for mission conversations, reflecting on how we are called to serve God, one another, and creation.

4. Sharing Stories and Conversations

Each District, Circuit, and Society must have a Mission Coordinator. If a Coordinator is not in place, one must be elected at the next Circuit Quarterly Meeting (CQM) or Leaders Meeting. These individuals should be passionate about mission and possess strong administrative skills.

4.1. Responsibilities of Mission Coordinators:

- Collect and summarize stories from mission conversations.
- Highlight key points and assign titles to each discussion.
- Submit summaries to the Circuit Mission Coordinator, who will forward them to the District Mission Coordinator.
- The Mission Unit Director will compile all stories within 14 days of the Circuit conversations.

Note: Two or three raw, unedited stories should be included to ensure the *Connexion* receives authentic insights.

5. Processing and Discussing the Stories

The Mission Director, in collaboration with Connexional Mission Congress Facilitators, will organize the collected stories and return them to Districts and Circuits for further discussion during the Days of the People of God.

5.1. Days of the People of God: The Pilgrimage Pit Stops

- These gatherings will take place in March/April and July/August 2025.
- The District Bishop will set the schedule for Districts to come together to:
- Review the mission discussions from Societies, Circuits, and Districts.
- Identify key themes for the Connexional Mission Congress Facilitators to address.
- Submit feedback to the Mission Director via District Mission Coordinators within 14 days.

6. Setting the Mission Congress Agenda

- The Mission Congress Agenda will be shaped by feedback from the Second Pit Stop of the Days of the People of God (July/August 2025) and insights from Synods.
- Subject matter experts will facilitate further exploration and discussions on emerging themes.

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7. The Mission Congress: A Time of Discernment

The Mission Congress (September 2025) will bring together representatives from all Circuits, Districts, and Mission Groups. This will be a sacred time of discernment, seeking God's guidance for the Methodist people of Southern Africa as we strive to bring healing, transformation, and renewal to our communities.

8. Prayer Waves: A Call to Spiritual Discipline

Throughout this journey, the Methodist Church of Southern Africa is called to deepen its commitment to prayer. Every member is encouraged to set aside time for focused prayer.

8.1. Prayer Leadership Structure:

- Connexional Prayer Warriors will lead the prayer efforts.
- Each District must appoint two (2) Prayer Warriors, and each Circuit must appoint two (2) Prayer Warriors.
- Districts must submit these names to the Mission Director by February 7, 2025.

Rev. Mogomotsi Diutlwileng, the Connexional Prayer Facilitator, will provide further details on the prayer program in due course.

9. Questions and Communication

If you have questions, the following leaders will be equipped to provide guidance by February 17, 2025, via Zoom:

- District Bishops
- Lay Leaders
- Superintendents
- Circuit Ministers
- Circuit Stewards
- Mission Facilitators

Details will be communicated through local leadership.

We urge everyone to share this information widely to ensure it reaches every Methodist within our Connexion. For further inquiries, contact the Mission Unit at missionunit@mco.org.za.

10. Dreaming and Contextualizing the Journey

I invite communities to think of way in which this journey can be enriching in their local communities using symbols, analogies and practices that people will connect with for them to be on a Pilgrimage of Renewal. The journey must all time be about the people for the people.

Conclusion: A Prophetic Moment for Our Generation

Let us use this time to listen to God and one another, discerning His message for the Methodist people in Southern Africa. The 2024 Conference has called for this collective voice, following the Bosberaad and Synods of 2024. It is a time for the MCSA to speak with one prophetic voice, ensuring that God's will is heard in every Society, Circuit, and District.

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In September 2025, we will come together to declare: “Thus says the Lord.” This is a sacred moment for our generation—a time to leave a lasting word and affirm that God’s voice is central to our mission.

As the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, we are called to be an alternative community—a people of healing and transformation. God is calling you. God is calling me. God is calling the MCSA.

Let us embark on this journey together—A Pilgrimage of Renewal.

Due Date	Area of Focus	Person Responsible
7 February	Mission Congress Facilitators in the Districts and Circuits (Names to be submitted to the Mission Unit Director)	Bishop and Circuit Superintendent
15 February 2025	Launch of the Pilgrimage of Renewal in Districts and Circuits	Bishop, Circuit Superintendent (assisted by Mission Congress Champions and Mission Congress Facilitators)
15 February 2025	Mission Congress Prayer Warriors both at District and Circuit	Bishop and Circuit Superintendent
17 February 2025	Training of Mission Congress Facilitators	Mission Unit Director
March/April 2025	Days of the People of God (Listen to the Circuits)	Mission Congress Champions and Mission Congress Facilitators
May	District Synods	Mission Congress Champions and Mission Congress Facilitators
July/August 2025	Days of the People God (Draw up Agenda)	Mission Congress Champions and Mission Congress Facilitators
September 2025	Mission Congress	Mission Congress Steering Committee, Mission Congress Connexional Facilitators
September 2025	Conference Resolves on the Mission Congress	Presiding Bishop and General Secretary

It is my prayer that this process will lead the MCSA into a place of renewal so that together, we can become an alternative community, salt and light to transform Africa and the world.

Should you have any queries kindly send an email to missionunit@mco.org.za.

Yours in Christ’s Service,



Rev Siviwe ‘Sva’ Waqu
Mission Unit Director

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