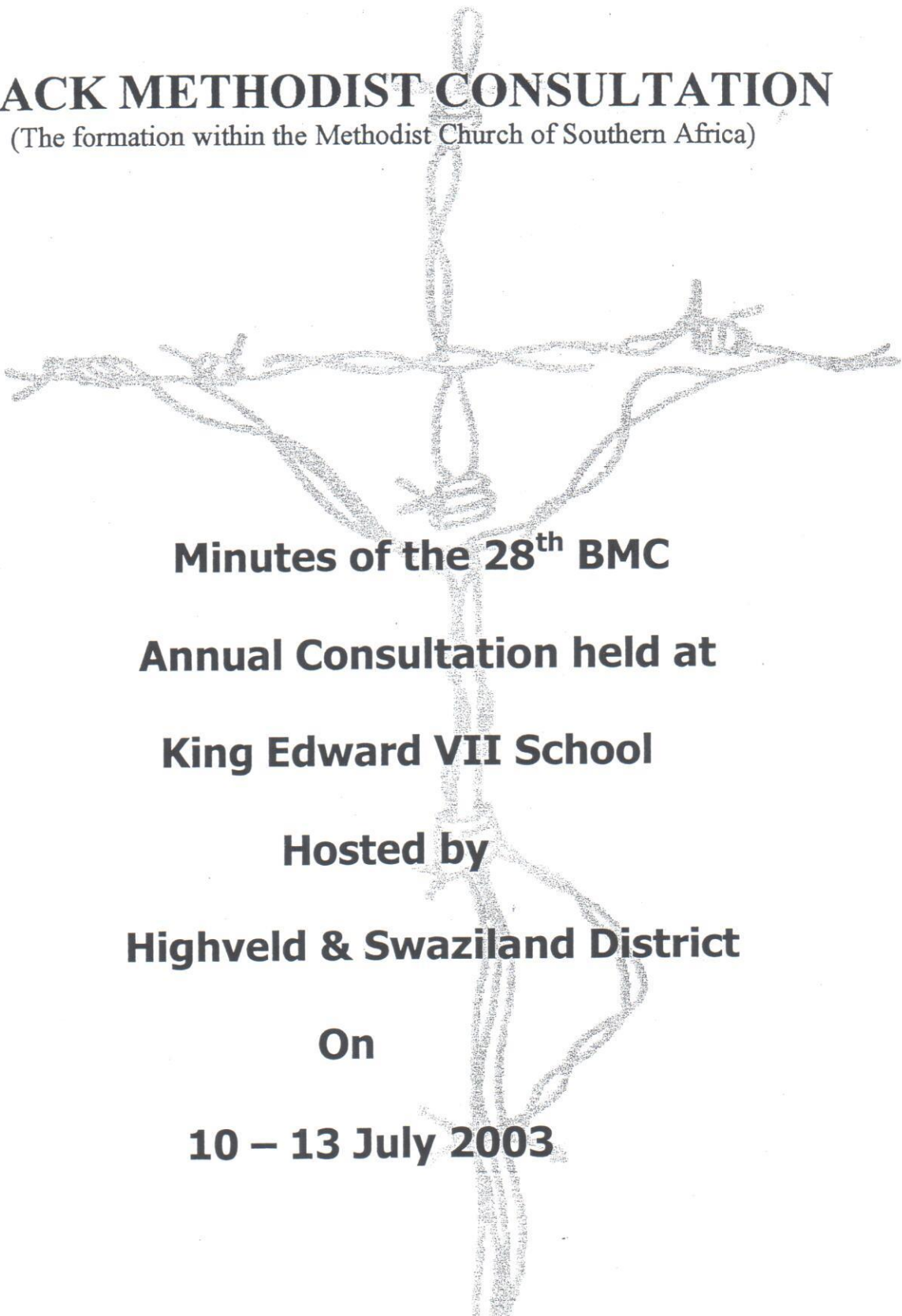


# **BLACK METHODIST CONSULTATION**

(The formation within the Methodist Church of Southern Africa)



**Minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> BMC**

**Annual Consultation held at**

**King Edward VII School**

**Hosted by**

**Highveld & Swaziland District**

**On**

**10 – 13 July 2003**

**Theme: "Re-beginnings"**

**MINUTES OF CONNEXIONAL BLACK METHODIST CONSULTATION  
HELD AT KING EDWARD VII SCHOOL  
HIGHVELD AND SWAZILAND DISTRICT FROM 10TH – 13TH JULY 2003**

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**1. OPENING DEVOTIONS**

The Rev J Zihle led the devotions. After hymn C15, the Rev M Bosman led with prayer. The Scripture readings were taken from 11 Samuel 6: 1-7 and Mark 1: 9-12. The text was based on 11 Samuel 6: 6 & 7. Linking the text with the BMC theme, Rev Zihle explained that re-beginnings meant obeying God's word, instructions and traditions. He further warned that re-beginnings did not mean going back and starting over again. But it meant approaching life in a new way; approaching life in the ways of God. It meant "taking the present and make it a place of dance, a place of life and a place of love."

**2. WELCOME**

Mrs Yoli Tashe, the Chairperson of the BMC in the Highveld and Swaziland District, welcomed the Consultation. In her welcoming note, she highlighted that we were meeting at a time of historical events in our country. She described the theme "re-beginnings", as a means of passing the baton from one generation to another. She concluded by challenging the BMC to use the platform we had, time was running out.

Mr Zandile Jakavula did the housekeeping rules. Amongst other things he advised the delegates that this was a residential area. He thus appealed to the delegates to be sensitive to the neighbourhood, e.g. lower our voices during the night. He also introduced convenors for the different residences to whom delegates would report issues pertaining to accommodation.

He thereafter moved the times in the program and amendments made by the Secretary.

**3. ROLL CALL**

The following Districts were represented :

- Cape of Good Hope
- Kimberly, Namibia and Bloemfontein
- Queenstown
- Grahamstown
- Clarkebury
- Natal Coastal
- Natal West
- Central
- Limpopo
- Highveld and Swaziland

### 5.3 Listening Committee

- Sibusiso Caleni
- Oupa Noge
- Rev MP Noqayi (Convenor)
- Muzi Magengenene
- Dan Tsepane
- Cheryl Emben
- Gideon Nyokana

### 5.4 Precentors

- Nolubabalo Ndaba
- Nikiwe May
- Rev Mninikhaya Makhumsha (Convenor)
- Tsofefelo Louw
- Sethunya Mothlodi
- Bongekile Nzoyiya

### 5.5 Time Keepers

- Linda Morokane
- Mxolisi Mnaba
- Puleng Mofokeng

### 5.6 Letter Writer

- Nokuthula Ntshingila

The Consultation agreed that a letter should be written to the Rev Molaje a member of the BMC and was very ill.

## 6. CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

The Chairperson, Rev Mandindi, delivered his powerful, thought-provoking and challenging address after which the Rev Noqayi was requested to make a response.

Rev Noqayi highlighted the following areas as the gist of the chairman's address:

- Describing change as a process
- Highlighting the problem we are faced with – that of division which was obvious when lobbying for elections.
- Also tabulating the creative ways whereby BMC can start to change if we need to re-begin.
  - ✓ Change our attitudes ;
  - ✓ Cry for prophetic way – we need to sharpen our skills;
  - ✓ Call us into being the people of faith and unity between the two camps – build a trust within each other and as members of MCSA;
  - ✓ Responsibility and accountability;
  - ✓ Create a BMC that is a home for fellowship, embracing, equipping and empowering.
  - ✓ Calls all Methodists to address issues of morality

## 9. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Secretary in the report highlighted the following:

- The February meeting which was well attended and represented by the different Districts with the exception of the Cape of Good Hope District which had no representation.
- Also the support of District events by the Executive, the representation of the Chairman in the honorary recognition for the Presiding Bishop. He apologized to those Districts that the National Executive was unable to reach due to insufficient funds.
- Congratulated through a letter of support the newly elected Bishop – Rev Ivan Abrahams on behalf of the BMC and thanked the Bishop Paul Verryn for letting us use his name.
- He urged all Districts to update their membership records.
- Requested the Consultation to approve the nomination of Mrs Thuli Ngwane as the Assistant Secretary. After some clarifying questions the Consultation approved both the position of Assistant Secretary as well as the nomination of Mrs Thuli Ngwane.
- The last issue was that of a roster for hosting BMC Consultation which had been presented and supported in the February meeting.

The Secretary moved the adoption of the report and Consultation agreed.

## 10. TASK COMMITTEES' REPORTS

### 10.1 Bursary Committee

Mr Muzi Magengenene – Convenor for this committee, reported that the committee did not receive any applications, however did receive calls from potential candidates. He proposed the Secretary to give copies of application forms to each District Secretary, this will also avoid ministers phoning the Connexional Executive to arrange the funding without completing the necessary application forms. He further mentioned that to date the committee has not received any progress reports and or assignments from any of the candidates who have received the grant.

He reminded the Consultation of the members of this committee whose term of office ends in 2004 :

- Mr Muzi Magengenene (Convenor)
- Mrs Neo Peega
- Mr Dan Thindisa
- Mrs Maggie Sebopa
- Mr Madimetja Lebelo

He also highlighted the ministers that the fund had assisted to date :

- Rev Z Mtshiza 2000
- Rev M Makhumsha 2001
- Rev A Bangushe 2001
- Rev Likhi 2002
- Rev Tusha 2002

Director. Interested individuals may contact Ms Madlala or Mr Zandile Jakavula both of whom are in the search committee.

- Induction of the Rev Mvume Dandala as the General Secretary of All Africa Conference of Churches on 10 August 2003 at the Vista University, at 14:00.
- Mission Unit vacant posts namely, the Director General and the Director Admin.
- Christians and same sex relationships. The discussion paper is being prepared for distribution to the circuits to form part of the Quarterly Meeting agenda.
- Conference endorsed the appointment of a full time Youth Co-ordinator by 2005.
- Mission Congress to be held in 2004 although the date has not been fixed. The Congress will focus on the clarification and implementation of the mission statement and imperatives.
- Parity of stipends and the declaration of other incomes. This has some implications for the welcome and farewell gifts.
- Mediation and Arbitration structures to facilitate the resolution of conflicts within our church in the most efficient and effective manner. The Conference appointed the following to be members of the

**Connexional Mediation Committee:-**

- 1) Rev Mehana;
- 2) Rev I Moeketsi;
- 3) Rev T Cunningham;
- 4) Rev J Scholtz;
- 5) Mrs Mkhwanazi; and
- 6) Mr van Eck.

**The following are members of the Connexional Arbitration Committee:-**

- 1) Mr Peter le Mottee, an attorney;
- 2) Ms Anna Mathibe, a magistrate;
- 3) Advocate Bloem; and
- 4) Advocate Matthee.

Referring to the recent Conference of the MCSA, Ms Madlala commended the boldness, openness and the positive spirit in which issues were tackled. The Conference was not scared to take bold decisions where necessary.

## **11. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The treasurer, Rev A Bangushe apologized that the statement was still a draft. The reason for the delay in finalizing the financial report was that the new people had taken over the office of the auditors that we were using. They were still grappling with our transactions and how we operated. Thereafter Rev Bangushe tabled the draft statement for the year ended 31 May 2003.

The Consultation expressed its concern over apparent poor accountability which did not augur well for an organization purporting to be a watchdog.

Limpopo

Rev Mzwandile Molo  
Ms Thandi Monama

### 12.2 Daphney Tashe Trophy

The trophy was awarded to the Highveld and Swaziland District in recognition of their trauma center project.

### 12.3 Amos Gadi Shield

The shield was awarded to the Natal Coastal District for the remarkable membership growth and participation.

## 13. ERNEST BAARTMAN FUND.

DISTRICT	2003	2002
Cape of Good Hope	1,116.42	1,143.00
Central	4,974.30	5,572.00
Clarkebury	10,515.30	3,382.00
Grahamstown	3,857.00	3,296.00
Highveld and Swaziland	13,180.20	16,808.00
Kimberley, Namibia and Bloemfontein	10,723.60	6,529.00
Limpopo	8,223.60	4,717.00
Natal Coastal	11,166.50	8,711.00
Natal West	2,382.80	3,048.00
Northern Free State and Lesotho	0,000.00	3,461.00
Queenstown	12,097.30	7,632.00
Other	535.17	982
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>65,281.00</b>

## 14. RECEPTION

The hosting District put up a highly entertaining reception. The pipe band presented a splendid and moving music.

## 15. DEVOTIONS

Preacher :	M Rapuleng
Hymn :	"Ha ke le the....."
Reading :	Luke 19 : 1-10
Theme :	Starting a new page
Text (vs 8) :	"And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, 'Behold, half of my goods I give to the poor'"
Preacher (s) :	Rev V M Mnaba P M Hlutyana
Hymn 87 (X) :	"Kristu Mkhululi wethu..."
Reading :	Matthew 16 : 13-16
Text (vs 13):	"Who do men say that the Son of man is"

dedication and honesty. He warned her that to achieve this amongst other things she would rely on the support of her family.

## **18. FAREWELL DINNER.**

Arguably, the farewell dinner in honour of Rev Mvume Dandala was the climax of the Consultation. It befitted Mvume's stature and caliber. It also reinforces BMC's reputation that when the BMC does something it does a good job! The dinner was held on Saturday night at Esselen Park. The Executive Committee wishes to thank the BMC members for their contributions. A special word of gratitude to the sponsors for their generous donations without which the function would not have been a success it was. The two comperes for the night, namely Ms Mandisa Kalako and Dr Iron Rensberg, must be congratulated for the efficient manner in which they directed the programme. Finally but not the least another word of appreciation to our Zandile Jakavula for his sterling work liaising between the sponsors and the Executive Committee.

## **19. RESOLUTIONS**

**19.1** In view of the emerging anti-transformation and corrupt tendencies on the part of Church administrators, it is recommended that the BMC resolves :

- To expand its mission to include ongoing detection of corrupt practices by Church officials.
- To keep a look for all instances of anti-transformation practices or actions.
- To impress upon all Church Leaders, the importance of letting all district and circuits to actively implement all the principles and objectives of the Journey to the new land.

And

- To recommend to the connexion the establishment of a body vested with sufficient Executive powers to persuade, encourage and ensure that all departure from agreed policies of the Church is counseled appropriately.

*Proposed : Ntombizanele Didiza-Maganga*

*Seconded : Nosiphiwo Mhlauli*

### **The consultation rejected the resolution**

**19.2** In the light of the discussions around the issue of consulting with the past Chairpersons to answer the question "Where did we go wrong"

I hereby recommend that the BMC sitting at King Edward VII Boys High School, Johannesburg on the 10.07.2003 – 13.07.2003 resolve that information capturing the

## BMC STATEMENT ON IT'S ROLE ON STRATEGIC POSITION

### **Preamble**

We, BMC members meeting in Johannesburg , 10 – 13 July 2003, affirm the following :

1. The BMC, is a Consultative forum for all Black Methodists within the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.
2. It exists for the transformation of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa into a truly African Church.
3. The key principle of non-racialism – true racialism that reflects the demographic culture and value of the majority, our complexion.

### **We therefore say :**

- ❖ That membership in this organization shall be remain Black – Including for the lack of better description : Coloureds and Indians.
- ❖ We believe that our transformation agenda goes beyond Leadership positions – we recognize that Leadership is strategic in the pursuance of that agenda.
- ❖ We will therefore elect / support those we believe can drive our transformation agenda
- ❖ We are also committed to ensuring that Black Leadership takes its place

### **In leading the Methodist Church of Southern Africa :**

- ❖ For strategic purpose it might be necessary to support non-black Leadership, as long as it commits itself to our transformation agenda.
  - I. We further expect members to debate issues openly and vigorously in all structures.
  - II. Once a discussion is taken that decision is binding to all.



### 3. SELECTION PROCESS

- Each District identifies and recommends names of four ministers
- The names are then forwarded to the Selection/Bursary Committee for screening and assessment to identify competency gaps
- The selected candidates are then submitted to the BMC Executive/ National BMC for approval

### 4. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The selection of potential candidates for leadership shall be guided by the following:

- Spiritual maturity
- Leadership potential
- Pliable to learning/ teachable
- Initiative and the right attitude
- Servant's heart
- Demonstrates integrity and congruency in word and deed

### 5. PROCESS FLOW

The programme will unfold in three broad phases.

5.1 PHASE 1: SELECTION AND ASSESSMENT OF CANDIDATES

5.2 PHASE 2: PROGRAMME DELIVERY / ACTION RESEARCH

5.3 PHASE 3: EVALUATION OF IMPACT/RESULTS

### 6. PROPOSED CURRICULUM

The proposed curriculum will fall into five broad, main categories:

- Self Leadership
- Servant-hood Leadership
- Church/organisational Leadership
- Conflict management and mediation
- Spiritual equipping, coaching and mentoring