

**MINUTES OF CONNEXIONAL BLACK METHODIST CONSULTATION  
HELD AT THE COMTECH HIGH SCHOOL  
NATAL COASTAL DISTRICT FROM 07<sup>TH</sup> – 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2005**

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**1. OPENING DEVOTIONS**

The Rev M A Mashinini led the devotions. After hymns “Joko ea hoa e bobebe, Mazithingqondo zethu – the prayers were done in the form of ACTS by singing songs in between as follows :

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| ▪ Adoration    | “Oh Come let us adore Him”<br>- Ms D Twala   |
| ▪ Confession   | “Ndingumoni phambi kwakho”<br>- Ms B Flatela |
| ▪ Thanksgiving | “Rea u boka Morena”<br>- Mr M Hlahatsi       |
| ▪ Intercession | “Bona izwe lakowethu”<br>- Rev S Mothlodi    |
| ▪ Petition     | “Ndingadlulwa Nkosi bawo”<br>- Rev Mapu      |

The scripture was taken from the book of Psalms 68:28-35. The Rev Mashinini ‘s sermon was based on verse 31 **“Envoys will come from Egypt; Cush will submit herself to God”**. He related the verse as a prophesy of an African continent and a prayer of Africans. He explained that Cush refers to a Black person, a descendant (grandchild) of Noah who is a son of Hem (Noah’s son - the name meaning “Dark Skin”). He instructed the BMC that we have a calling/obligation to help the Church, Southern Africa, African Continent by lifting our hands to God in order for Africa to be healed. He concluded by saying that lifting our hands is a sign of supplication and echoing with the Methodist psalmist that “Kungawo amandla avela eNkosini esoda sifike phezulu”

**2. WELCOME**

The Rev R Govender, the Vice Chair of the District , welcomed Consultation.

### **3. ROLL CALL**

**The following Districts were represented :**

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

#### **Apologies**

- Rev J Zihle (sent greetings wishing us a successful Consultation)
- Rev M Sibeko (sent greetings wishing us a successful Consultation)
- Rev M Mbhele
- Cape of Good Hope District

#### **Acknowledged**

- Rev M Mchunu (Supeintendent – Durban Circuit 712)
- Rev Dr L Jafta (Newly appointed BMC Chairperson Queenstown District)
- Rev M Diutlwileng (Youth Ministry – SACC)
- Rev S Sephapho (Newly elected Vice-Chairman Central District)
- Rev M H Dandala (Secretary – AACC)
- Rev P M Noqayi (Bishop – Queenstown District)

### **4. ADOPTION OF PROGRAMME**

A proposal was made to change the program such that Friday is dedicated to commissions (schools), that will look at the future of the BMC and it's impact within the MCSA and society. The Consultation agreed and the amended program was adopted for Consultation 2005.

## 5. APPOINTMENTS

### 5.1 Resolutions Committee

- |            |                |            |
|------------|----------------|------------|
| - Mnikhaya | Makumsha (Rev) | (Convenor) |
| - Nomsa    | Mqina          |            |
| - Sethunya | Mothlodi       |            |
| - Ayanda   | Mjali          |            |
| - Ethel    | Khoza          |            |

### 5.2 Listening Committee

- |              |                   |            |
|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| - Nwabisa    | Mabandla          | (Convenor) |
| - Fikiswa    | Mapoma            |            |
| - Mokgomotsi | Diutlwileng (Rev) |            |
| - Lena       | Gwangwa           |            |
| - John       | Mathlagane        |            |

### 5.3 Scrutineers

- |             |            |            |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| - Vuyo      | Lotsha     | (Convenor) |
| - Robert    | Mkhwanazi  |            |
| - Mluleki   | Maphempeli |            |
| - Sbongile  | Zulu       |            |
| - Nokuthula | Mndaweni   |            |

### 5.4 Precentors

- |            |             |            |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| - Thembi   | Khoza       |            |
| - Vinah    | Mkhungo     |            |
| - Nobabalo | Ndaba       |            |
| - Mnikhaya | Makhumsha   |            |
| - Azi      | Mrobongwana | (Convenor) |

### 5.5 Time Keeper

- |          |        |  |
|----------|--------|--|
| - Sphiwe | Radebe |  |
|----------|--------|--|

### 5.6 Letter Writer

- |          |          |  |
|----------|----------|--|
| - Yolisa | Tashe    |  |
| - Bonny  | Dayimane |  |

The Consultation agreed that letters should be written to the following people :

- |          |       |       |
|----------|-------|-------|
| - Rev Dr | K E M | Mgojo |
|----------|-------|-------|

## **6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- Under 5.2, page 3, delete “o” in Sethonya and replace with “u” to read as Sethunya and change “Mothlodi” to “Motlhodi”

After the above corrections – the Secretary – Mr Mdu Dlamini, tabled the minutes and moved them for adoption by the Consultation. The minutes were adopted by the Consultation.

## **7. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS ARISING**

### **7.1 Term of office**

With reference to the resolution made by Rev Sox Leleki with regards to term of office of Connexional Executive to change from two (2) to three (3) years, as per minutes of Consultation held in the Central District in 2004, under point 2 it is indicated that it was agreed to change to a three (3) year term.

### **7.2 Connexional Leadership**

The Secretary – Mr Mdu Dlamini related to the meeting events that have unfolded and developments regarding the Lay Presidency. This matter was referred to commissions.

### **7.3 Traveling costs – Bursary Committee**

The National Executive reported that it was difficult to come to a decision regarding the above matter – costs involved in traveling need not to be based on one task team. A proposal was made that the National Treasurer needs to present an annual budget which will assist with this matter. This was adopted in principle and was referred to commissions.

## 8. CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

The Chairperson, Rev Linda Mandindi, delivered his challenging, thought provoking address under the heading : **“LOOKING BACK - THINKING AHEAD”**

In his address, the Chairperson :

- Looked back
  - highlighted the foundations of the BMC
  - The status of the Church at the time (Synods/Conference)
- Missed Opportunities
  - Involvement in programs that foster God's Kingdom
  - Involvement in dialogues that seek to promote common understanding between Black and White
  - No engagements in programs aimed at reaching out to Young people
  - Involvement of local Church in community issues
- Thinking ahead
  - BMC – a valuable movement that has the capacity to identify talent and train it for the future
  - BMC's legacy – has touched many lives and those coming behind will not wander in a maze of dead ends

He concluded his talk by urging BMC to identify the key challenges, especially those that seem to trouble the MCSA in our era and join hands in designing strategies that will assist in disseminating information in our local churches.

## 9. TASK COMMITTEE'S REPORTS

### 9.1 Bursary Committee

In his report, the Chairperson, Muzi Magengenene gave a background of the bursary fund as a way of clarifying the manner in which it works :

- The fund was initially for Ministers to further their studies, however this was amended in Consultation at Central District to include student Ministers
- The bursary fund is 50% of EBF depending on applications received
- The bursary Committee makes the selection and recommend to the National Office
- The money is paid directly by the National Treasurer into the institution's bank account
- Payment is done only if there is a proof of registration

He further reported that the status is as follows

- Rev M Nyembe - has completed his Diploma at John Wesley College and has written a letter of gratitude. He is currently stationed at P E North Circuit
- Rev S Motlhodi - has completed his studies
- Rev M Makumsha - has not yet completed his studies and unable to continue due to lack of funds – the R7000 of the fund was not enough
- Rev A Bangushe - has registered with Unisa and will be writing exams in January 2006
- Rev S Leleki - requires R25 000, but can only be given R7000
- Rev C Mosiako - will be registering in January 2006
- Rev Z Mtshiza - no report of whether studies have been completed or not – this requires intervention of the National Office

He reminded Consultation that no bursary will be issued without application forms, all correspondence needs to via the bursary committee and that the bursary is a once off.

He then recommended the following :

- The National Treasurer to pay all monies to institutions in January of each year
- Requests the intervention of the National Office for completed studies and refund to BMC and not the MCO as proposed earlier

After deliberations by the Consultation it was requested that the Bursary Committee rework a proposal to be tabled before Consultation. The following people were nominated to work jointly with the committee :

- Vido            Nyobole (Rev)
- Lizo            Jafta (Rev, Dr)
- Babalwa      Flatela
- Tony            Moya

## **9.2 Music**

Zandile Jakavula tabled the report. Consultation reaffirmed the need for this work but due to its technical and complex nature as well as its resource requirements it was resolved that this project be dropped.

## **9.3 Ministerial Training**

Rev S Mokgothu tabled the report. It was resolved that the work of the committee should continue as it was apparent that the issue would not be tabled at conference for decision making except for one issue in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Report – re: Ministerial Training Fund Endowment Fund.

## **9.4 Succession Planning**

Joe Mavuso tabled the report on behalf of Rev M Leleki (Convenor). The committee recommended that the report be accepted as a working document to be discussed by districts for reporting and further deliberations in the February meeting.

## **10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The General Secretary tabled a report covering the National Executive's term of office

## **11. CONVERSATION ON OTHER ISSUES**

### **11.1 Mission Congress - 2004**

The Rev G Vika, gave feedback on Mission Congress

## **12. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Treasurer, Rev A Bangushe tabled the financial report for the year ended 31 May 2005

## **13. AWARDS**

13.1 No district received special recognition from the consultation except for the Natal Coastal District which received the EBF floating trophy.

### **13.2 SETH MOKITIMI**

There were two recipients for this award namely;

1. His Excellency the Mayor of the Ethekewini Municipality, Councillor Obed Mlaba.
2. Mr. Thembinkosi S. Ngcobo, a local businessman.

## **14. ERNEST BAARTMAN FUND**

<b>Name of District</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Cape of Good Hope</b>	<b>469.60</b>	<b>713.00</b>
<b>Central</b>	<b>7 010. 40</b>	<b>147.60</b>
<b>Clarkebury</b>	<b>8 451.00</b>	<b>9 234.00</b>
<b>Grahamstown</b>	<b>4 913.00</b>	<b>1 623.00</b>
<b>Highveld and Swaziland</b>	<b>11 914.00</b>	<b>20 730.00</b>
<b>Kimberley, Namibia and Bloemfontein</b>	<b>9 985.35</b>	<b>9 913.00</b>
<b>Limpopo</b>	<b>20 821.40</b>	<b>15 910.00</b>
<b>Natal Coastal</b>	<b>21 714.75</b>	<b>16 793.00</b>
<b>Natal West</b>	<b>3 351.45</b>	<b>2 2820.00</b>
<b>Northern Free State and Lesotho</b>	<b>00.00</b>	<b>00.00</b>
<b>Queenstown</b>	<b>10 593.00</b>	<b>6 435.00</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>3 150.00</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>99 515.35</b>	<b>87 468.60</b>



## 15. RECEPTION

A time for relaxation and entertainment was set aside and the host district gave the consultation to have fun as well as to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as well as significant contributions made by some African people to the lives of their fellow citizens.

## 16. BIBLE STUDY

Inspiring and well prepared Bible Studies were conducted by Rev. Dr. Biyela on Friday and Rev. W. Mabuza on Saturday.

## 17. SERVICES

### 17.1 Memorial Service

This service was led by Rev C Mosiako

Reading : Isaiah 38

Text (Isaiah 38 vs 12(b): "Like a weaver I have rolled up my life"

The following departed brothers and sisters were remembered :

District	Names	
Highveld and Swaziland	Thabiso Nofisa Rev CC Precious	Mapatana Mapekula Damoyi Diale
Natal Coastal	Gcinile Douglas Jabu Gloria Isabel	Ngcibi Hadebe Ntombela Masuku Sibiya
Clarkebury	Rev M	Ncusane
Limpopo	Stanley	Gamede
Central	Thembinkosi Thembekwayo	

### 17.2 Healing Service

This service was led by Rev M D Makumsha.

Reading : John 9 : 8 – 12

Text (vs 11) : He replied "the man called Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes"

## 19. RESOLUTIONS

**19.1** Noting with concern the clashing of dates between the Connexional BMC annual consultation and the Conventions of other Connexional Organisations, and the resultant negative perception of the BMC's motives by other organizations

The BMC therefore moves that such clash of dates be avoided and urge the BMC leadership to consult with other Connexional Leaders when dates are set

*Proposer:* Zandile Jakavula    *Seconder:* Rev V Nyobole : **Adopted**

**19.2** In the light of the trend pursued with passion by Government and big business in recognizing and affirming women, we note with regret the lack of Women participation in our BMC program. We further note with concern the domination of Ministers in the program and that lay members are denied an opportunity to take lead in the activities of the Consultation.

We therefore move that the BMC Connexional Executive display sensitivity on these issues and fall in line with progressive trends

*Proposer:* Lindeni Madlala    *Seconder:* Zandile Jakavula : **Adopted**

**19.3** Noting the need for the BMC to re-assess and evaluate itself, Consultation resolves to put a moratorium on campaigns and projects until the re-assessment exercise has been concluded

*Proposer:* Rev S Mokgothu    *Seconder:* Rev M Molo: **Adopted**

**19.4** In the light of the BMC Celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, the following question, when considering the fact that the context at its formation and now are miles apart, keeps on coming to mind.

“Do we have a vision and strategy that will take us to the next 30 years?”

We thus recommend that the BMC sitting at Comtech High School, Durban on the 07<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2005 resolve that :

1. It (BMC) engages itself in a “*Preferred future*” exercise;
2. Such an exercise start at District Level; and
3. All District inputs be integrated, with alignment in mind, at 2006 Connexional Consultation

*Proposer:* Bruce Tashe    *Seconder:* Rev Mbatu Bosman : **Adopted**

**19.5** In view of the fact that there is a perception that the BMC as an “*election*” steered organization couple with an argument that it has “*lost its original mandate and focus*” ; there is a need to re-examine its value-add and functionality. We would have argued that some issues do at times fall between the cracks because there are no incentives for some people to go out their way in ensuring that agreed upon deliverables are met.

It is recommended that the BMC sitting at Comtech High School, on the 07<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2005 resolves that:

1. An incentivised position of a Connexional Projects Co-ordinator be created
2. This person be accountable to Consultation while having a dotted line of reporting to the Connexional Executive

*Proposer:* Rev M Makumsha    *Seconder:* Rev Sox Leleki : ***Rejected***

**19.6** Having considered the confusion, at times, brought about by the two (2) year term for the Connexional Executive, which tends to result in :

1. Having to hold an election on the first year of the new Connexional Executive; and
2. Over-sight that can be misinterpreted.

We thus recommend that the BMC sitting at Comtech High School, Durban on the 07<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2005 resolves :

1. To change the term of office to a three (3) year period

*Proposer:* Della Twala                      *Seconder:* Yolisa Tashe : ***Already Resolved***

**19.7** The BMC is by nature mission focused. Some Districts desire to embark on projects that would promote the BMC at grassroots level but lack the financial muscle

Highveld District BMC therefore moves that there be an amount of money made available to districts to implement projects aimed at promoting the aim of the BMC and community participation

Districts are to access these funds through proposals with clear project objectives and flow

Lastly, funds for such projects are to be budgeted for by the BMC Connexional Executive.

*Proposer:* Mr John Xhaka                      *Seconder:* Lindiwe Ginindza : ***Rejected***

**19.8** The Consultation is requested to revisit the objectives of the Regional Consultations to check whether it is still achieving the desired outcome

- Lack of mutual growth and empowerment
- Unhealthy competition

*Proposer:* Jacky Ndlela      *Seconder:* Mbali Mbuli : **Rejected**

**19.9** Instead of Ministers being put at the foot of the station, they should be given other duties in the Church

*Proposer:* Sydney Cele      *Seconder:* Gideon Nyokana : **Rejected**

**19.10** In view of the fact that over the past two (2) years, there has been very little or no correspondence from the BMC National Office to individual members. This caused people to pose the question :

- Why do we pay the commitment fee if this is not to benefit us, as far as getting the necessary information as BMC members

We thus suggest / request the BMC, setting at Comtech, Durban on 07<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2005 to:

- Scrap the R40.00 commitment fee for 2005/6
- Any current correspondence expenses incurred a year from now be made good from the 2003/ 2004 commitment fee contributions

*Proposer:* Yolisa Tashe      *Seconder:* John Xhaka : **Rejected**

## **20. OTHER ISSUES**

Consultation observed a moment of silence and prayer on Friday the 08<sup>th</sup> July 2005 in commemoration of the bombings in London.

## **21. APPENDICES**

**21.1 Notes on the input by Rev. Dr. Dandala**

**21.2 Presentation by Mr. Zandile Jakavula**