



**BLACK METHODIST  
CONSULTATION  
(A formation within the MCSA)**

**35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONSULTATION**

**2010**

**MIMOSA RESORT, PARYS  
NORTHERN FREE STATE &  
LESOTHO DISTRICT**

**“WALKING STRAIGHT WITH A  
SAVING GOD” Lev. 26 v 12.**

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR COMMENTS BY THE DISTRICTS**

**DAY 1, 08 July 2010**

## **1. OPENING DEVOTION AND WELCOME**

**OPENING PRAYER LED** by Rev. Nkululeko. E. Kapiyane

**WELCOME:** Rev. Merika. A. Nkwana, BMC District Chairperson.

In his welcome, he said – “You’re all my fathers and mothers in faith, brothers and sisters - let me greet God this morning in the name of the Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen!

In his words of welcome he further said that, there are people who still ask the question that, is the BMC relevant and others saying the BMC is useless. Those are the remarks made by people. But I gave myself a chance to read the book of Ester chapter 1, when you start reading it; it says life is useless, because everything goes round and round. The streams flow to the ocean but it’s never full. Those are the things said about the BMC when we start taking a journey with God in the year 2010. We need to start looking back about those things that still make sense in life. Yes friends, many things in our lives do not make sense. But one thing that I know that make sense in life, is to walk with Jesus. When we face hardships in life, when we find ourselves not knowing what to do, all those things do not make sense. When we are dancing magnifying the living God, they think what we are doing is useless and it does not make sense to them. But friends this morning when I try and say to you all feel free this is home. I want to encourage you and to tell you in all the things that do not make sense in life there is only one thing that makes sense - that is to be with Christ. We are guaranteed that in the book of John chapter 6.

Friends, it was not a mistake that the BMC was formed - it was for a reason that this movement was established in our church. In every situation where there’s a need for a voice to be heard we have to stand and raise our voices - we have to speak for the voiceless and become ears to the deaf so that people can know that Christ is alive.

In conclusion, I’m proud to be an African. Only 2 reasons that make me proud to be an African, when Christ was born and when pharaoh wanted to kill the child, Africa gave refuge to Mary and Joseph and Christ. When He was struggling with the cross on the way to Golgotha, an African man came forward to help Christ carry the cross, therefore friends, that’s why I’m saying I’m proud to be an African. As we deliberate in this consultation we must bear in mind that it makes sense to follow Christ. May God bless us and give us courage - in Jesus Christ name Amen!’.

## **OPENING DEVOTION:**

Bishop Andrew Motswenyane - of the Northern Free State & Lesotho District led the devotions. The scripture reading was taken from the book of Genesis 28: 15 – 20 “The Jacob’s dream at Bethel’.

In his spirited sermon, he said the actions that are expected from a person who desires to walk straight are morality and integrity. And in order to have these it means not walking alone but walking with Jesus.

As the BMC, we should not allow circumstances to threaten us.

He too welcomed the consultation in the Northern Free State & Lesotho District by basing his welcome on the book of Jacob’s dream at Bethel.

## **A SPECIAL WORD OF WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS ATTENDING THE CONSULTATION: Ms. Mbali Mbuli.**

- She welcomed all members coming to the BMC for the first time and pleaded with them to make sense in all that is happening.
- She assured them that BMC is not something different from what they know happening in the Methodist Church because BMC is a movement within the (Methodist) Church.
- In the BMC members experience Praise and worship in an African way.
- In the BMC we pray because we are in the church.
- We plan and strategize for what we want to see happening.
- We come up with solutions to challenges.
- We empower our members through schools, and workshops to know more about the church.
- We are able to ask questions and seek for answers where we do not understand.

A special welcome to all who attend for the first time!

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CHURCH LEADERS**

Rev. Abrahams	Presiding Bishop
Rev. Nyobole	Secretary General
Mr. Dotwana	Lay President
Rev. Baartman	Supernumerary
Mrs. Ramantsi	President Connexional WM
Mrs. Madwe	President Elect Connexional WM
Mrs. Makhwenkwe	President Queenstown WM
Rev. Mothibi	Bishop, KNB
Rev. Losaba	Bishop, Grahamstown
Rev. Sekhenjane	Connexional Youth Co-ordinator
Rev. Motlhodi	Limpopo Youth Co-ordinator
Rev. Hansrod	Bishop, Cape of Good Hope
Rev. Dr. Mehana	Mediation Panel Convener
Ministers and their wives	

## **FRATERNAL GREETINGS**

Mrs. Ramantsi - General President of the Connexional Women's Manyano.

Rev. Moagi - Connexional Youth Co-ordinator.

## **2. CONSTITUTION OF THE CONSULTATION AND APOLOGIES.**

### **ROLL CALL**

The following Districts were represented:

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

### **3. APOLOGIES**

#### **3.1 NATAL COASTAL**

- Mdu Dlamini
- Nomsa Dlamini
- Siphon Phewa
- Steve Phewa
- Nelisiwe Nyathi
- Rose Majozi
- Tracy Ngxingweni
- Siphon Langa
- Mirriam Cele
- Barbar Cele
- Thoko Cele
- Sizwe Mvusi
- Patricia Radebe
- Nomasonto Magigaba
- Pearl Xaba
- Bongsi Msibi

#### **3.2 MOZAMBIQUE**

### **4. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**

#### **RESOLUTION COMMITTEE:**

- Rev. Mantini (convener)
- Mrs. Makhwenkwe
- Mr. Saki Bhabha
- Ms. Ayanda Mjali
- Mr. Sizwe

#### **LISTENING COMMITTEE.**

- Rev. Sethunya Motlhodi (convener)
- Ms. Marian
- Ms. Noloyiso Mahlakahlaka.
- Ms. Linda Marokane .
- Ms. Thembi Nkosi.

## **PRECENTORS**

- Rev. L. Likhi.
- Mr. Zola Khathini
- Mrs. Evergreen Rhulumeni
- Ms. Thembi Khoza.
- Ms. Nokuthula Mndaweni.

## **LETTER WRITER**

- Prof. French Mbombo
- Mr. Lubabalo Quluba

## **5. NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **5.1 BLACK HISTORY PROJECT**

The Black Methodist Consultation resolves to establish a Black History Project with the intention to remember, capture, affirm, and celebrate the contribution of black Methodists in the life of the ecumenical movements in general and the Methodist Church of Southern Africa in particular.

The objective of the project will be to record biographies of our heroes and heroines as well as black organizations and institutions with the intention of keeping their legacy for generation to come.

The BMC must commit itself to setting aside resources to adequately fund this project over a period of time.

Proposed: Sidwell Mokgothu and Sethunya Motlhodi

### **RESPONSE:**

Agreed – the timeframe for the Project will be that - the 2012 Consultation to be final stage of the project but the 2011 consultation must report progress on forming as task team of people with skills and passion for such a project.

### **5.2 ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION**

The Black Methodist Consultation notes that the challenges facing Southern Africa are mostly about Socio-Economic transformation and that this is an area of general weakness within the black section of the MCSA in particular.

The BMC further notes that the Ecumenical Movement has established The Ecumenical Service for Socio-Economic Transformation (ESSET) as an organisation to serve churches for social justice

The BMC therefore resolves to engage with ESSET with the particular intention to:

- Learning more about and participating in ESSET programmes
- Training in Economic Literacy
- Providing support to ESSET generally.

The BMC resolves to appoint a Task Team of three persons to champion economic transformation generally and through ESSET in particular.

Proposed: Sidwell Mokgothu and Mogomotsi Diutlwileng

RESPONSE:

Agreed – with an amendment that we should also engage Diakonia and SAFCEI as they do provide such programmes too.

### 5.3 REV ERNEST BAARTMAN'S 50TH SERVICE IN MINISTRY

The BMC at its 35th Annual Consultation resolves to acknowledge with gratitude and thanks giving to God the 50th Anniversary of fulltime service as Minister of the Gospel of the Rev Ernest Baartman. This consultation further acknowledges the immeasurable contribution by Rev Baartman as a pastor and leader of the MCSA having served as a President of Conference, Bishop of district and founder member and Chair of the BMC and still a member of the movement to date, resolve to write a letter of acknowledgment congratulating and wishing him well.

Proposed: Lubabalo Quluba and Sakie Baba

RESPONSE:

We recommend that not only a letter but also a certificate

### 5.4 DR MVUME DANDALA

In the light of the current political turmoil or instability in the corridors of Congress of the People (COPE), some indebted Methodists, with a heart, work beyond and see behind a noble son and a former leader of our Church in all levels and structures, Dr Mvume Dandala and become frustrated and influenced by the greatest legacy he left in the Church during his tenure in both structures of BMC and as Presiding Bishop.

Noting his recent resignation as Member of Parliament, there are members of our church who strongly believe he belongs to the Methodist Church.

We therefore in this 35th Annual Consultation sitting at Mimosa Resort, Parys, consider and further elect an Adhoc committee that will be mandated formally

and officially to go to Dr Dandala on our behalf and engage him to come back fully as a minister again in our church where he belongs. We want him back because we believe he can be the greatest asset once more in our church as politics are not his passion but interest

S Ngwedu and Mr Godlo

Response:

Rejected - on the following grounds:

- Ministry is a Calling therefore we do not wish to set a precedence as much as we love Dr. Dandala
- Theologically, it is a personal matter between that particular person and God.

HOWEVER IT WAS RECOMMEND: -

- That a letter offering moral support and our prayers be sent to him to assure him of our love and warmth as the family of BMC.

NB: Point of Information - Dr. Dandala is in conversation with senior leadership of the Church regarding his current status and future life within the MCSA.

#### 5.5 BURSARY FUND

Noting that the BMC promotes and encourages academic development and skills acquisition for the ministers of our church,

Further noting that the number of applicants has declined to a point that there are times where there are none.

Also noting that the amount allocated per recipient was adopted some time ago, And further noting the amount allocated per recipients;

The Queestown District BMC moves that:

- The amount allocated per recipient be increased to cover annual fees
- The bursary awarded be for the duration of the academic study, pending the submission of progress reports by the recipient.

Response:

Check minutes on page 6 paragraph 6.3 – last year's resolutions.

The difference is in the increment to cover the annual fees of the applicant and the duration of the academic study.

Page 22 of the 2009 minutes, state clearly that a mandate was given to the bursary Committee to refine the matter and report back to the 2010 consultation.

The principle of covering the annual fees be adopted and in the event whereby the 30% allocated is not used, that it be left to accumulate.



Were there bursary committee receives more applications than the accumulated money, the committee be allowed to use their discretion in allocation. If it's a bursary then it has to cover the duration of the academic studies but if it's a grant then it can be a once off.

## 5.6 BMC NEWSLETTER

Noting and appreciating the launching of a Connexional BMC newsletter,

Further noting the intent of the said newsletter as well as its name, acknowledge that there is currently a newsletter in circulation owned by a political party, Further acknowledging that the 2009 Annual Meeting held in Bloemfontein reflected on this matter:

The Queenstown District BMC moves that the name of the BMC newsletter be changed to protect the movement and consequently the church from being perceived to be politically aligned.

The Queestown District BMC further suggests the following names for consideration in the re-naming of the newsletter;

- Sediba, or
- The Calabash

Response:

We recommend that all districts send names within a month to the executive including the two names proposed by Queenstown as the Newsletter is already in circulation then the exco will take a decision.

## 5.7 BMC COMMITMENT FEES

Noting that the Annual Meeting of the BMC has always been the competent authority for the determination of commitment fees.

Acknowledging that the Annual Meeting had previously adopted a resolution to increase the Commitment fees by R5 per annum.

Further noting the potential unintended consequences of this decrease in the operational budget of the BMC,

The Queestown District BMC moves that;

- There be no future increase above the previously adopted amount to cover for any possible shortfall rising from this decrease,
- The Connexional Executive be reminded of its limitations and or powers in terms of implementing and or changing the policy decisions of the movement

Response  
Agreed .

## **6. MINUTES OF THE 2009 CONSULTATION- SECRETARY GENERAL**

Minutes were circulated in time to be read. Consultation corrected the minutes and all corrections were noted.

No matters arising were raised: Consultation proposed that since, consultation takes a long period to sit it is difficult to reflect and remember the issues. It was then proposed that the matters arising from the minutes be spread over the days of the consultation duration to allow time to raise matters.

Minutes were adopted as a true reflection of the last year's consultation.

## **7. CHAIRPERSONS ADDRESS**

The Connexional BMC Chairperson, Rev Sox Leleki addressed the consultation.

In his address, he reminded the movement that the core business of the BMC remains Transformation and Empowerment.

The Chairperson challenged the BMC:

- To be serious about decisions made at all levels
- To make decisions that are realistic and achievable
- To struggle with the poor, oppressed and displaced so that we can liberate all
- To identify potential in our people and raise leaders with passion to see black leaders taking leadership role, and
- To find a way to influence the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary

The full paper is attached.

## **8. SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT.**

The Secretary General tabled the executive report giving account for the past year.

- He opened his address with a statement of gratitude to special mention being the Soccer World Cup taking place in our country at this momentous time in our lives.
- He highlighted the dire need for Youth Development in our country and challenged the church to make its contribution in this regard.
- He lamented that the status of work of the movement is not accounted for.
- The secretary expressed his concern and frustration at the lack of implementation and reporting from the various districts on the work of the BMC thus making the task of determining progress reporting almost impossible.

Full report attached.

## **9. FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE TREASURER**

The treasurer gave a healthy state of financial statement. She explained that it will be noticed that the figures of 2009 **EBF** does not correspond with the figure in the minutes. This was resulted by the Limpopo District bank deposit that was not captured on the day of the EBF drive.

Full statement attached.

## **10. BISHOP'S OFFICE**

Rev. Nyobole

The secretary general alluded on three important aspects.

- Transformation
- Leadership
- Youth development.

### **TRANSFORMATION**

- There is no standing policy except for ideas that can come from all of us as to determine how the Methodist Church can be and look like.
- Africanisation of the church in everything that is happening
- Mission driven church to have impact in the community.
- Inclusive church in the decision making.
- Re engineering of our structures is the church. Structures are hindrance for transformation.
- Structural problems are facing the church.
- All bishops are males.

- Female Mozambique Bishop to be invited to conference to come and address to try and change minds of many.

### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.**

- Seth Mokitimi seminary is assisting in this regard by training ministers.
- The seminary is a project that has happened in the church.
- On the 4-5 September 2010 the seminary will be officially opened and everybody is invited.
- Bishops are continuously exposed in other continents to experience what a church in Africa means.
- African churches are way much better than us; they have a different understanding of what it means to be a church in Africa.
- Some of our ministers are leaving for Korea to network on national affairs.
- Two ministers to be sent to Britain to be exposed to the British ways of the Methodist church.
- Bishop Siwa is in Albany to share what truth and reconciliation mean to women.
- Rev Malinga is sent to Greece on the Global conference.
- Lay person is to accompany the Presiding Bishop to the Peace Corps Conference.
- BMC executive to identify people who can occupy positions in the committees of the church and also to assist in the revision of the L&D.

### **YOUTH INTERGRATION**

Doors are open and allow the youth to frequent in the Presiding Bishops's office so that they can learn and can be utilized and also get familiar with the functions and systems of the church.

There is a constant mitigation with laws and there is no competency in the legal issues.

### **How can we walk straight when-**

- There is so much corruption and conflict.
- Monies disappearing in the hands of people of integrity.
- When we are not true to our calling.
- All conferences are speaking about petty things and repetitive as they are for many years back.
- Agenda of the conference is drawn ,and decision makers is by minority group in our church which makes one wonder whether blacks

were there or are there. We need to engage on real issues that are affecting our church.

## **PRESIDING BISHOP**

On a personal note he thanked the BMC for the support and prayers the movement offered and conveyed in a very tangible way last year after the conference when in 24 hours he lost both his parents – the movement was represented through the chairperson and the secretary with words of comfort and of support, hence the message of gratitude. He also thanked the executive committee for the commitment they have demonstrated when two very fruitful meetings were held with the MCSA office, where the executive was mandated by the BMC to engage with the office of the Presiding Bishop.

He emphasized that this initiative should continue in (this) dialogue even if there is a new executive elected at this consultation. He highlighted that the MCSA have an arrangement with the Methodist church in the USA wherein, we are looking at centres of excellence - where we are going to take young black clergy from our connexion and partner some for months, some for longer with those centres of excellence in the United States.

The PB alluded to his role of vision casting and address the conference about the vision. The secretary of conference has already alluded to the “too much vision” that they thought this year perhaps we need to place a moratorium on visions and we need to look at how do we implement these visions because it’s almost like walking around and touch your shadow - there is nothing really tangible.

The 24th of May this year we celebrated Wesley day and it was also Pentecost and for Methodists, the 24th of May is a big day when we speak about our hearts being strangely warmed like that by John Wesley at Elders gate. The PB wondered, why don’t Methodists celebrate the 1st of April in the same way that we celebrate the 24th of May, is it perhaps because the 1st of April is April fool’s day?

On the 1st of April 1738 John Wesley was asked to go to Bristol and he was supposed to take over at a church where there was a person almost considered a mad person in the Church of England and his name was George Whitfield. And George Whitfield had a reputation of leaving the parish and go preach out in the field and Wesley said this was not the thing to do; he was even reluctant to go and take over from George Whitfield. But then on the 1st of April, April fool’s day he writes in his journal on this day I decided to be more vile, I decided to be more vile and he went out to preach in the fields and he saw that this day was a turning point in his life because as

he preached, he saw the tears - he describe it so nicely because there was a lot of miners they were all black with coal dust and he says the tears ran like white gutters down their faces because he simply decided to be more vile. And I'm wondering has the time not come for the Methodist church for this brave movement to be a bit viler - have we become too sanitized and too respectable and doing things too much in order? I'm sure as we decide to be boulder and become more vile things are going to change in this Methodist church.

Friends, he said, might I remind you that there has been a seismic shift in the theological landscape the centre of gravity, Christianity has moved to the African continent in the same way as the west made their contribution. "I'm sure if you go look at any ministers theological shelves we see so many books from western scholars" The time has come for us to make our own contribution. A few weeks ago the PB was at the world mission conference in Edinburgh and he says, people are waiting for us - we are the centre of gravity of Christianity. He urged the BMC that, it's only us that can make that contribution. He shared a quote from Steve Biko that says "while the west has made its contribution to the world in terms of war and of armoureds, Africa still has to make its contribution and the unique contribution Africa has to make is to give the world a human face". He believes that this is what we can give not only to the world but also to the church.

He said, "I'm quite taken back because this morning if I must show you I've got a thick volume of documents about people concerned about the possible rumour of xenophobia post the 2010 world cup. I'm really battling because you need to help me as your chief Sheppard. I want to question whether it is xenophobia. Because if it is xenophobia why have we embraced all the foreigners that have come to the world cup and I want to put this on the agenda because I want to hear the word from this BMC. I don't think its xenophobia, I think its negrophobia, I think it's negrofobia in the words of Steve Biko and of Frans Vernon". There is still a captivity of the black mind that we have not been able to acknowledge and celebrate and accept our own blackness.

He likened the above by saying apologizing to the secretary of conference by saying, "sorry Sir if I say this - the general secretary looks at my diary and tries to keep me at home here in South Africa because every single month, maybe not month at least twice a month I can be outside of this connexion - of people that want to hear the very same things that I say at our conferences and they are prepared to pay and fly me business class to be all over the world and yet in my own church the very things that I say are rubbished", is this not part of the captivity of the mind? "We have just come back from the all partners' conference where we have started a Pan African Methodist movement that will be having its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of a very long time in Durban as a precursor to the Methodist world conference that we are hosting next year".

And again this is something to be celebrated, it is the 1<sup>st</sup> time that the world Methodist community 6000 delegates will be coming to Durban and they have chosen the secretary of conference to be part of a three (3) person secretariat and the PB to chair this pan African meeting and again this is not celebrated by our church rather people outside our connexion celebrate the gifts that we bring.

He concluded by quoting Ben Okri? A Nigerian novelist who says, nations and people are no more than stories they tell themselves if they tell themselves stories that are lies they will suffer the consequence of those lies but if they tell themselves stories that are truth however painful they open their histories to future flowering. He pleaded that we would speak the truth e however painful so that we can open this movement and the church to future flowering. Somebody asked Michael Angelo how he sculptured the beautiful statue of David and Michael Angelo, the reply was that, David was in the marble all that he had to do was to chip away to find David – “my brothers and sisters may you find David as we engage in dialogue and in debate and this afternoon I pray with the prophets that the theme of this consultation will become a reality in our own lives, in our homes and in our church that the crooked places will be made straight that the rough places will be made smooth that the large hills will be made low and the valleys be lifted up”. We have a saving redeeming blessed God who is ready to bless and to lead us, Amen, he concluded.

## 11. EPILOGUE

Rev. L Songca

Luke 8:26-39 “The man who was possessed by demons came to Jesus to be healed.

## DAY 2

### 12. BIBLE STUDY

Rev Hansrod started by explaining the theme of the 35th Consultation. He reminded BMC of last year's theme which was "Stand up straight and walk, and referred to this year as the completion of last year's theme.

Chapter 25 on the book of Leviticus tells us that the land belongs to God. Chapter 26 is the conclusion of main body of God's Laws. He spoke about the farmer who lives in uncertainty of not knowing if he will have good harvest for the year.

God challenges BMC to walk straight with Him in all actions and He also prescribes the destination and the how part since we are told to walk straight. God has promised different people that He will walk with them i.e. Abraham, the Israelite. He promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

Rev Hansrod cautioned BMC that there is a pre requisite to walking with the Serving God. BMC members need to commit themselves to Him. The road to walk and destination will be determined by Him. There are no shortcuts in the process. The road is narrow and straight. We will reach the destination if we listen to him.

His Holiness is separated from anything else on earth. God's Holiness refers to His morality. No one is morally conscious than God therefore BMC need to be morally straight and avoid being involved and associated with immoral activities. Straight is a noun which is referring to doing the right things. BMC is called to be seen Acting Holy as a formation within the MCSA. BMC need to safeguard the vision of MCSA by leaving the holy and straight life. We might find that the BMC is failing to assist in Transformation because of not walking straight as we are not holy. If we have holy personal life with God we will have impact in our church and the world.

#### PROMISE AND ITS FULFILLMENT – LIFE AND DEATH AND RESURRECTION.

- God walk with us, this promise was made to Jacob, Noah, Moses and others.
- The promise was fulfilled in the incarnation.
- Jesus fulfilled it to his disciples.
- Not only it is a promise but also an invitation to an agreement with him.
- There is a covenant between God and us. If we are to walk straight we need to come to an agreement-which needs obedience.



- The road is chosen by God and he gives directions.
- God identifies himself as “holly and secrete, transcendent and incomparable. He is pure with no blemish or stain of wickedness. Not only holly but acts holly. When we are straight we are doing right, when crocket we are doing wrong.
- Walking straight being holly as the one who walks with us.
- If we follow the theme there will be no tolerance of sin, corruption, wickedness and all bad acts within the Methodist Church.

The transformation is slow maybe it is because there is crookedness within the structures of the church.

### **13. GUEST SPEAKER**

BISHOP GEOFFREY DAVIS addressed the consultation on the relationship between faith and environment – bringing environmental responsiveness onto the agenda of faith communities.

NB: the speaker made large colour presentations that proved to be a challenge to attach.

### **14. CONSULTATION ISSUES –SCHOOLS:**

**See appendices IV**

### **15. DEVOTIONS:REV. NCOMBO**

DEVOTIONS – REV NCOMBO: Reading: Amos 3:3

If two people are to walk together, they need to have agreed to do that. Also you need to know the person you will walk with. He indicated that it is only God who makes us straight. There is always a conflict within ourselves because your spirit can be walking straight but our flesh may pull us otherwise. For BMC to walk straight with a serving God – it calls us to have good relationship with God. BMC need to know the destination given by God. As long as BMC is not straight, arrogant, gossips walking straight will be impossible. For BMC to be straight, we need to focus. If you want to walk straight with GOD, focus your eyes to God. Your destination was known by God. All those who walk with Jesus have assurance that when we leave this world, we will see Him and will be like Him. We need to Keep Walking as Johnny Walker states.

## **16. ELECTIONS OF THE BMC CONNEXIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. FOR THE TERM 2012-2014.**

The 35<sup>th</sup> Consultation re-elected and retained the current Executive committee for the second term of 2012 – 2014. The elections were supervised by Rev. Nyobole.

**Chairperson** – Rev. Sox Leleki  
**Secretary General** – Mr. Joe Mavuso.  
**Deputy Secretary** - Mrs. Ethel Khoza.  
**Treasurer** – Ms. Lindi Ginindza.

## **17. MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Reverend Olga Dlamini led the memoriam of our fallen Brothers and Sisters. May they Rest in Peace!

## DAY 3

### 18. BIBLE STUDY

#### How to be Holy

Enter in agreement with God; this is the goal to determine the agreement. BMC need to understand who God is, conform to the ways of God's walk. We need to act differently. We were all called to repent. In the book of Micah, we are told to love our neighbour as we love ourselves and we also need to love God. The rewards of walking straight with God is that He provides for us in many ways

#### HOW TO WALK STRAIGHT

What the LORD requires:

- Enter into agreement with God.
- To be like God is to be holy.
- Agreement is determined by God.
- Be different and separate (act differently)
- Walk humbly.
- The only way to be holy is to repent and confess our sins.

### 19. REPORT BACK FROM SCHOOLS.

See appendices IV

### 20. REPORTS FROM TASK TEAMS

#### 20.1 BMC BURSARY REPORT

Bursary provides financial assistance only to ministers in theology related studies. It is made possible by the 30% of the Ernest Baartman Fund Annually.

The committee received in the current financial period, one (1) application from Rev. Claude Kimpinde and it is recommend that he be granted the maximum allowed amount.

Name	Degree	Field of study	University	Amount awarded	Total amount requested
Rev.Kimpinde	BA Honours	Practical Theology	University of Pretoria	R7500.	R 8500

Following the deliberations and submissions made during the 2009 July consultation as contained in the minutes page 6 and pages 22 & 23, the Bursary Committee was mandated to refine the policy to consider the continual financial support of the applicant where he /she would be registered for a period of more than a year, we would like to propose the following for consideration:

- The policy to be changed to accommodate the continuation of the current grant recipients , subject to the following provisions:
  - They (previous year’s applicants) have passed their studies and provided BMC through the bursary committee with results or progress reports.
  - To provide proof of registration for the year of study.
  - The grant amount remains R7, 500.00 until changed by the sitting of the BMC during the annual July Consultation.
  - The fund will be open to all ministers irrespective of whether they are members of the BMC or not ( Refer to Aims & Objectives of the Fund )
  - The first time applicants shall be given preference (those who meet the requirements)

The committee also recommend, subject to the approval of the consultation that the following applicants be considered for further assistance.

Name	Degree	Field of study	University	Amount awarded	Total amount requested
Rev. Bosman	Masters	Spiritual formation of the MCSA ministers.	UNISA	R7 500	R8 500 for 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of study
Rev. Motlodi	Masters	Mission Transformation	Stellenbosch	R7 500	R7 200 for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of study
Rev. Geja	Bachelor of Philosophy	Bible interpretation	Stellenbosch	R7 500	R13 500 for the rest of his studies

Convener: Bursary Committee: S.M Magengenene.

## 20.2 CHURCH CONFLICT

The task team reported that progress is very slow. Districts do not co-operate as expected. The study is not completed and can not be concluded. An appeal was made for an extension until next year, August 2011. An appeal was made once more to districts to submit the research questionnaires.

Convener: Percy Nhlapho.

## 21. ERNEST BAARTMAN FUND

Master of Ceremony - Rev. Mokgothu and Mr. Xhanti Mhlubulwana

1. Queenstown	= R45949-00
2. Grahamstown	= R40000-00
3. Natal Coastal	= R35201-60
4. Limpopo	= R19453-77
5. KNB	= R16975-00
6. Clarkebury	= R12486-55
7. Highveld And Swaziland	= R11980-92
8. Cape Of Good Hope	= R11489-45
9. Natal West	= R4950-65
10. Northern Free State & Lesotho	= R1668-00
11. Central	= R1668-00
12. Cleansing Of Table	= R209-00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>= R202215-67</b>

The Ernest Baartman shield was awarded to Queenstown District.  
The Seth Mokitimi award went to Natal West District.

## 22. GALA DINNER

The gala dinner was held in recognition of the Methodist Leaders in Government in the Free State province. The Lay President Mr. F.Dotwana gave an inspiring speech on behalf of the head of the church – the Presiding Bishop.

The BMC presented leaders in the provincial government, certificates celebrating and recognizing their Godly leadership in society.

The event was graced by the Premier of the Province, Mr. Ace Magashule, also a Methodist, who commended the church on its leadership role and development as evidenced by the caliber of leadership from the church in government.

## DAY 4 11 JULY 2010

### 23. DEVINE SERVICE AND HOLY COMMUNION

The Sunday divine service was led by Rev. Leleki and Rev. Mehane.  
The Holly communion was led by Rev. Nyobole.

## Appendix I

### LISTENING COMMITTEE STATEMENT OF THE 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING.

Listening committee presented their report and it was accepted by the consultation delegates by standing up.



### **BLACK METHODIST CONSULTATION**

**(A formation within the Methodist Church of Southern Africa)**

**35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING 2010**

**LISTENING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Led by the Spirit of God, the BMC with the Cloud of Witnesses congregated for its 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Consultation in Northern Free State and Lesotho District at Mimosa Resort in Parys under the theme: “**Walking up straight with a saving God**”. The BMC congregated at the time when South Africa has become the stage and Africa the Theatre.

The Northern Free State and Lesotho District officials were the first ones to take the first steps in walking up straight with the saving God; they led the official opening and welcomed us in the District. In setting the tone of the Consultation, Bishop Motswenyane reminded the Consultation that walking up straight with a saving God calls for introspection. The BMC was given a warm welcome by the District Chairperson Rev Merika Nkwana. Ms Mbali Mbuli welcomed members who were coming for the first time to the consultation. In welcoming them, she reminded all of us that the BMC is a movement which is different from other organizations in that the BMC is unapologetically biased towards black people.

The Connexional BMC Chairperson, Rev Sox Leleki then addressed the BMC. In his address, the chairperson reminded the BMC that the core functions of the BMC remain transformation and empowerment. In his address, the Chairperson challenged the BMC:

- To be serious about decisions made at all levels
- To make decisions that are realistic and achievable
- To struggle with the poor, oppressed and displaced so that we can liberate all
- To identify potential in our people and raise leaders with passion to see black leaders taking leadership role, and
- To find a way to influence the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary.

**Walking Straight with a Saving God**, the Secretary opened his address with a statement of gratitude. Of special mention being the Soccer World Cup taking place in our country at this momentous time in our lives. The Secretary

highlighted the dire need for Youth Development in our country and challenged the church to make its contribution in this regard. He lamented that the status of work of the movement is not impressive. The secretary expressed his concern and frustration at the lack of implementation and reporting from the various districts on the work of the BMC thus making the task of determining a progress report almost impossible. In its tradition and agenda of accountability the financial Statement was presented by the Treasurer, discussed, engaged and adopted by the Consultation.

**Walking Straight with a saving God**, the office of the Presiding Bishop came to share with the BMC how they are walking, where are they walking to and the challenges they experience in their attempts to walking straight with the saving God. In addressing the BMC, both Presiding Bishop Rev A. Abrahams and Executive Secretary Rev Vido Nyobole echoed the sentiments of our Connexional chairperson and our General Secretary of the challenge of an excellent vision without implementation. They shared with us how the idea of putting a moratorium on visioning has crossed their minds; because there is Vision, but that Vision is never translated into actions. They called the BMC to be deliberate in developing leadership that is courageous because “Effective Leadership is measured by doing the best things in the worst times”. This should happen through programmes of Transformation, Leadership Development, Youth Integration and robust Engagement. The BMC was reminded by these leaders of our Church that walking straight with the saving God calls on us to SPEAK THE TRUTH.

On the consideration of our faith in environmental matters, Bishop Davies challenged us as human beings on this earth to remember that God not only loved human beings, but this entire world, as the bible says. Human beings have a critical dependency on God’s creation, and must thus take a moral responsibility in taking care of God’s creation. Therefore, the Church must play a leading role in community projects and become the powerhouse of transformation through the establishment of “Eco-congregations”.

In keeping with the spirit of self development and the conscious intention to walking straight with the saving God, the BMC divided itself into schools of:

- Transformation in the Church
- Leadership Excellence and Succession Programme
- Education
- Implementation and Audit Strategy
- Current Affairs

The various schools came out with constructive recommendations for the movement to take the BMC forward. The Connexional Executive is to provide strategic direction and guidance in formulating implementation plans for the various districts. The districts are also to digest these recommendations from the



schools and come up with district-tailored approaches which are aligned to the Connexional framework.

The BMC responded to God's calling and committed itself by resolving to establish a Black History Project; with the intention to remember, capture, affirm and celebrate the contribution of black Methodists for the benefit of generations to come. Further to this, the movement decided to continue with the empowerment of the black leadership of the church by resolving to extend the financial support of our ministers for the duration of their studies.

**Walking straight with a saving God**, throughout the consultation God spoke through Bible studies, Devotions and Epilogues. God, used God's servants to remind the BMC that we need to walk straight with the saving God and walking up straight demands that:

- A relationship with the saving God is developed.
- There can be no walking straight with God unless we enter into a covenant with God.
- We must be holy so that we do things under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- We need to be holy in our being and in our doing as God not only is holy but acts holy.

The BMC was reminded over and over again by God's servants that walking straight with God requires a level of discipline, focus, holiness, and covenant. Over and above this, we need to remember to i) Do justice, ii) Love mercy and iii) Walk humbly.

**Walking straight with a Saving God**, the BMC looked back in the last two years of the current National Executive and conducted elections of the new committee for the new term of 2012-2014. God guided the consultation to re-elect Rev Sox Leleki: Chairperson, Mr Joe Mavuso: General Secretary, Mrs. Ethel Khoza Assistance Secretary, Ms Lindi Ginindza: Treasurer.

On succession planning, a search team was nominated to drive the process and the movement decided to put the name of Rev. V. Nyobole forward for the Executive Secretary of the MCSA. The districts have been tasked with communicating and lobbying for this name. The same team will drive the process for the Presiding Bishop position.

In the true spirit of walking with our God, the members of the movement managed to surpass our targeted EBF amount of R150, 000 by raising a total amount R202, 215 towards the development of the human capital of this church.

At the gala dinner, graciously hosted by the district, the movement recognized Methodists in leadership positions in the government. The Premier of the Province, Mr. Ace Magashule, commended the church on its leadership development as evidenced by the caliber of leadership from the church in the government.

Black Methodists, the movement has committed itself to take implementation as a matter of urgency and the districts are to action the plans as mandated by the Connexional Executive. The onus on the districts will be to ensure regular report backs with intensified monitoring from the CE.

God has called on this movement to “Cross over to the other side” through the message of the Devine service. We are to be aware of the dangers of the crossing and not become victims; however, we are to be faithful and fearless as we remember that WE are walking with our saving God.

### ***BMC – ILIFA LABAZALI BETHU - LEFA LABATSWADI BARONA***

Chairperson and the BMC, this is the Listening Committee’s Report and we propose its adoption by this consultation.

Thank you.

#### **Appendices II**

Chairperson’s Address

#### **Appendices III**

Secretary General’s Report

#### **Appendices IV**

Treasurers Statement

#### **Appendices V**

Report from Schools