

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT 2014 BMC CONSULTATION

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to account on the two terms presided over by the committee of Rev. Leleki on the eve of the new term of office to be led by Rev. Molo into the 40th anniversary of the existence of the BMC. The BMC purpose of existence did not begin with this committee and will not end here, - it is Aluta Continua.

This report will attempt to account on the leadership role and mandate bestowed on the committee since 2009 to 2014. Indeed the committee did account to the movement annually as we pilgrimaged at the past consultations. This report will highlight key success stories that together as a movement we achieved.

The BMC evolved and grew since its inception in 1975/6. We are thankful to the founding Fathers and Mothers of the movement and the committees that led this movement since we took over. This committee too sort to carry on – on the well cultivated path and hope we did not disappoint.

This report summarises the journey on the blessing of the BMC mandate. This presented an opportunity to learn about the church and serve the church. It is the tales of good times and along with some challenges. This committee too was elected to lead in the realization of the BMC objectives and goals.

VISION

Committed to serve the church and the wider society by upholding Christian Principles and Values in promoting Spiritual Growth, Justice, Unity and the Empowerment of God's people for the realisation of His Kingdom through timeous Interventions, Inter-active Participative Forums and Developmental Programmes.

2. OBJECTIVES

- To witness and serve effectively in local churches, Synods, Conferences, Methodist gatherings and the wider community.
- To provide more Black input, awareness and sensitivity in policy-making bodies of the church as far as they relate to the Black people.
- To encourage the members of the church and wider society to take an active role on issues of social justice and the total liberation of God's people.
- To be cultivate through education and training and appreciate the African History and heritage.
- To strengthen and encourage meaningful contact with other Christians who share peaceful programmes, principles and objectives of the Kingdom of God.
- To facilitate meaningful dialogue between Black and White communities in order to promote common understanding of one another leading to true unity.
- To initiate, develop and implement strategies for the growth and empowerment of the people.
- To provide the required skills and resources that will meet the diverse needs of the people.
- To assist people who are in in Leadership positions to practice Servant Leadership.
- To develop and implement special training programmes designed to equip the ministers and laity in dealing with specific needs in the community.

3. EXPANDING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MOVEMENT

Several activities were introduced and adopted by the BMC membership and these were; but not exhaustive:

4. MCSA LEADERSHIP RELATIONS

Annually the BMC executive committee consulted with the MCSA Executive to discuss and find tandem in the objectives of the BMC and the church leadership. To offer support and convey the BMC resolves.

The BMC continued to be instrumental in the identification (and discernment) of people to the positions of strategic leadership in the MCSA. We come a long way in visioning and advocating for the caliber of leadership we had over the years and currently blessed with.

This leadership is evident in the current incumbents, namely:

The Presiding Bishop

– Rev Ziphozihle Siwa

General Secretary - Rev Vuyani Nyobole
 General Secretary Elect – Rev Charmain Morgan
 Lay President - Mr. Fungile Dotwana, and;

District Bishops as advocated for by the BMC objectives of transformation, growth and long term Succession plan. The BMC should continue to discern, influence and identify leaders who will live up to the ideals and objectives of this movement.

At this point, let us congratulate Rev Charmain Morgan for being elevated to the position of Secretary of Conference (General Secretary) elect in the MCSA at the 2013 Conference. The BMC played a pivotal role in discerning and campaigning for her election. We welcome her and offer our support.

5. ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMES

Capacity Development Programme - Training of Trainers (ToT).

Objectives:

- To prepare a pool of trainers to carry out training in districts
- To build capacity of the BMC and broader church membership

The ToT workshop was held on the 13th – 16th June 2009 at EMMU Kilnerton Centre, Pretoria.

Three delegates were invited from each district to be trained.

The following districts attended - along with the number of delegates as stipulated

DISTRICIT	No of Delegates
Cape of Good Hope	3
Limpopo	3
Grahamstown	3
Clarkebury	3
Highveld & Swaziland	2
Kimberly, Namibia & Bloemfontein	3

DISTRICIT	No of Delegates
Natal Coastal	3
Natal West	3
Queenstown	3
Mozambique	2
TOTAL	29

Delegates were tasked with the responsibility to develop district training implementation plans and roll out the capacity building in their respective districts.

The training was based on the following strategic topical areas of paramount interventions. Along each topic, is the trainer(s) name:

Training and Facilitation skills	Joe Mavuso
Spiritual Leadership	Sidwell Mokgothu
Personal Mystery	Norman Raphahlele
Leadership skills	Mogomutsi Diutlwileng
Roles of Committees	Nambitha Mekana
How to conduct meetings	Sox Leleki
Financial Management	Lindi Mjeza and Mike Tsukudu

6. BMC WEBSITE

We sort to introduce the movement to the age of information management and technology by the development of the BMC website. The system is aimed at managing the knowledge generated through deliberations, resolutions adopted and archiving the wealth of information gathered overtime. The Website address is www.methodistbmc.yolasite.com and members can communicate with the office by writing to methodistbmc@gmail.com.

7. NELSON MANDELA 67 MINUTE OF GOODWILL PROJECT

The BMC embarked on this project to honour the former statesmen Dr. Nelson Mandela. The project was sustained since 2009/10. In his address to the consultation in 2010, the Chairperson made the call for 67 minutes of goodwill and charity on Mandela Day to remember and celebrate the 67 years the late former state President and fellow Methodist Dr. Nelson Mandela fought for democracy and social justice. He left a legacy that is sweeping across the globe. The project is becoming an international do-good movement and the only question is: Will the BMC continue to celebrate for years to come? We implore on the BMC to continue this practice.

8. INTRODUCTION OF THE BMC DAY

The movement identified the need to magnify and elevate the role of the BMC in the connexion by calling for Districts to celebrate and spread the vision, mission and objectives of the BMC in the September month. This is also the opportunity to recruit members and have membership spread across all the structures of the MCSA. This day is also meant to be celebrated by a call to plant a tree that will be known as the BMC tree. This will be a constant reminder of the existence of the BMC and what it stands for in that society.

9. RESOLUTIONS TRACKING PROJECT

A task team was developed to revisit the resolutions adopted at the consultation as far back as we could track the resolutions. The project is aimed at ensuring that the movement monitors the implementation of the resolutions. In so doing manage the knowledge generated over time and also be able to gauge success in the course the movement has chattered for itself. The project is also a call for the members to carefully introduce resolutions that are realistic and implementable, befitting the stature and structure of a movement. The project revealed that many resolutions were not implemented because of the lack of person power, lack of responsiveness when members are called to act at district level and for the fact that the movement is a voluntary association that cannot enforce punitive measures or enforce commitment. A template to keep on tracking resolutions was devised. It will be of great value to continue with the project.

10. BLACK HISTORY PROJECT (2010 resolutions)

The Black Methodist Consultation resolved 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 is to record biographies of our heroes and heroines as well as black organizations and institutions with the intention of keeping their legacy for generations to come.

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

The initiative of this kind was realized when we identified and celebrated the leadership of the late Rev. Zacharias Mahabane in 2012 and 2013 consultations. In 2012 we had a memorial lecture delivered by Prof. Itumeleng Mosala who donated memoirs of the celebrant. In 2013 we had the honour of hosting the former state President Thabo Mbeki who also delivered the memorial lecture on Mahabane the Priest and African National Congress (ANC) President. The family of Mahabane who also attended the memorial lecture appreciated the gesture by the BMC.

In 2014, we continue the initiative and have identified and honour the leadership of the late Mr. Robert Sobukwe, the preacher in the Methodist church and former President of the Pan African Congress (PAC) political movement in South Africa. The memorial lecture will be delivered by also the former President of PAC, Dr. Motsoko Pheko at this consultation.

The BMC should collate the memoirs and the lectures into a publication for distribution and learn from these leaders of our church and Continent in their contribution for freedom and democracy. Their role in the church and civil society brought hope under the rule of colonization and apartheid and reminded all about God's great purpose and love for Africans.

The movement should continue this practice at all consultations to come.

11. ANNUAL JULY CONSULTATIONS

The committee jointly with districts delivered six (6) Consultations with a measure of success as the following attest to the fact:

Banner of Themes for Prayer in the Consultations:

YEAR	THEME
2009	Stand Up Straight and Walk (Luke 13:12)
2010	Walking Straight with a Saving God (Lev. 26 v 12)

2011	
2012	Transforming Economic Life Through Faith (Lev 19: 9 – 10)
2013	Together with Christ in a Life-changing Economy (John 21:2)
2014	Belonging to one another (1Cor 1:10 – 17)

12. Educated and Intellectual Topics presented by Guest Speakers:

YEAR	DISTRICT	TOPIC	GUEST SPEAKER
2009	KNB	The Role of Black Theology in the Democratic South Africa.	Mr. Mzukisi Madlavu Dpt of Arts & Culture
2010	NFL	The relationship between Faith and Environment – bringing environmental responsiveness into the agenda of Faith Communities.	Bishop Geoffrey Davis. Anglican Church.
2011	QUEENSTOWN	The Relevance of Black Consciousness in advancing African Education.	Prof. Barney Pityana Rector of College of Transfiguration.
2012	CLARKBURY	Memorial Lecture: Rev. Z. Mahabane	Prof. Itumeleng Mosala
2013	LIMPOPO	Memorial Lecture: Rev. Z. Mahabane	Mr. Thabo Mbeki Former State President of SA and ANC.
2014	H&SD	Elections as a tool to advance Democracy – Active Citizenship in holding elected leaders to Account.	Dr. Brigalia Bam Former IEC Chairperson

13. ATTENDANCE STATISTICS ON RECORD

YEAR	DISTRICT	REG	COMMITTED	FEB	EBF R0.00
2009	KNB	347	370	89	135 017.00
2010	NFL	350	425	97	202 217.00

YEAR	DISTRICT	REG	COMMITTED	FEB	EBF R0.00
2011	QUEENSTOWN	252	360	67	223 940. 00
2012	CLARKEBURY	343	393	98	171 169.00
2013	LIMPOPO	350			128 329.00
2014	H&SD				

14. BURSARY FOR FURTHER EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT FOR MINISTERS

BMC promotes and encourages academic development and skills acquisition for the ministers of our church:

YEAR	RECEPIENT	DEGREE	FIELD OF STUDY	UNIVERSITY	AMOUNT
2009	Rev. Kimpinde	BA Honours	Practical Theology	University of Pretoria	R7500.
2010	Rev. Bosman	Masters	Spiritual formation of the MCSA ministers.	UNISA	R7 500
	Rev. Motlodi	Masters	Mission Transformation	Stellenbosch	R7 500
	Rev. Geja	Bachelor of Philosophy	Bible interpretation	Stellenbosch	R7 500
	Rev. Madwe			Fort Hare	
2011	Rev. Mofokeng	BA Hons	New Testament	University of Pretoria	
	Rev. Madwe				R10 000

YEAR	RECEPIENT	DEGREE	FIELD OF STUDY	UNIVERSITY	AMOUNT
	Rev. Mogomutsi Diutlileng				R5 200
	Rev. Kimpinde				R8 800
2012					
	Rev. Mthembu				R27 400
	Rev. Seitisho				R17 250
	Rev. Tsawu				R9 000
2013	Rev. Mokgothu				R11 350

15. BMC NEWSLETTER

The Introduction of the newsletter did not receive favourable response from Districts, firstly; to agree on the proposed name – “UMRABULO”. A sample was circulated for comments and that was the last. It is recommended that the project be revitalized, funds permitting and the commitment from members to generate news and find volunteers to work on the production of the newsletter.

16. DONATION TO THE SMME

The BMC contributed a sum of R200 000 towards the building of the seminary in Pietermaritzburg. In recognition of the contribution, a section of the building (Dean of Studies office) was named after the BMC. This will be a constant reminder to all students, staff/management and visitors of the pivotal role the movement played in the teachings and development of Ministers in the MCSA.

17. CONSULTATIONS ROSTER

YEAR	DISTRICT
2013	Limpopo
2014	Highveld & Swaziland
2015	Central
2016	Natal Coastal
2017	Grahamstown
2018	Cape of Good Hope
2019	Natal West
2020	Kimberley, Namibia & Bloemfontein
2021	Northern Free State & Lesotho
2022	Queenstown
2023	Clarkebury

18. CONCLUTION

The committee would like to thank the BMC for affording us the opportunity to lead this august movement. It was an honour not to be regretted. The challenges and successes we encountered are part of leadership roles. It was not easy but worth it.

If we turned this movement into great mess – the BMC must take the great mess and turn it into greatness.

The BIG thanks are directed to the Lord who carried us thus far.