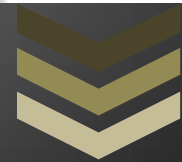




# THE MINUTES



**40<sup>th</sup> BMC CONVOCATION 9<sup>th</sup> -  
12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015**

**CHAIRPERSON: REV MZWANDILE MOLO**

**GENERAL SECRETARY: MR XHANTI. T. MHLUBULWANA**

**RECORDING SECRETARY: MS NOKUZOLA MBANGULA**

**TREASURER: MS MANDY MOTAUNG**

**UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG**

**BUNTING ROAD CAMPUS**

**CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**[A FORMATION WITHIN MCSA]**

**ILIFA LABAZALI BETHU**

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Please note that ANNEXURES above +\_60% were circulated in hard copy at the Consultation including SCHOOLS. Therefore to reduce printing, save trees and save costs. *All annexures will be loaded on website referenced as above and also made available on request.*

## DAY 1 – THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015

### 1. 40<sup>TH</sup> CONSULTATION OPENING DIVINE SERVICE [*with Sacrament - Holy Communion*]

The Bishop of the Central District, Rev Peter Witbooi led the official opening of the Consultation with a thought provoking and spiritually challenging special liturgy that was developed to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> gathering led by Rev Siviwe Waqu.

During this time, Bishop Witbooi honoured in prayer the life and ministry of Rev. Dr Ernest Nkathazo Baartman, the founding Chairperson of the BMC and remembered the grandmother to Rev. Mzwandile Molo, *current* Connexional Chairperson of the BMC who both had departed to join the Church Triumphant.

In setting the tone of the Consultation “***Let Thy Kingdom Come: Africa’s Urgent Call***”, the Bishop, preached on the theme text of the Consultation that is based on the Gospel according to **St Luke 11:1–13**.

#### **Key Highlights of the message - opening the 40<sup>th</sup> BMC Convocation:-**

- God reigns so as to possess all humanity similar to those in heaven;
- The theme and text suggests God needs to reign in Africa, and to possess Africa;
- This is God’s Kingdom – calling for a revolution “to build, restore, renew – to change the way life is perceived, refocusing the mind; a call to reclaim true African Values – ‘kneel next to the broken’;
- There must be a theological debate on Natural Resources and Gods Creation; critical questions that are of justice should be –
  - Why should Blacks be majority without Economic Power?
  - How can there be equality while the standing is unequal, more pronounced economically – ‘*the haves and the have nots both in the Church and Society?*’
  - How should ministry and mission in the MCSA be resourced, in the context of a structure that is maintenance driven? Who seats at the foot of stations?
- Bishop concluded that as the Consultation Prays “Let Thy Kingdom Come; Africa’s Urgent Call is New Models of Ethical Values, founded and anchored in Gods Kingdom”. **AMEN.**

The message was then followed with Holy Communion with all present joining in the table prepared for all.

### 2. WELCOME TO CENTRAL DISTRICT

Rev Sva Waqu on behalf of Central District BMC Executive and Members welcomed all present as the hosts and made an overview of logistics, expressed good wishes for the proceedings, encouraging members to engage the hosts as and when required.

### 3. ROLL CALL; APOLOGIES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### 3.1. ROLL CALL & ATTENDANCES

DISTRICT	2015 TOTAL REG	LATE REG/ON-SITE JUL 15	PRE-REG JUL 15	COMMITMENTS 2015	*ADMIN RECONS 2015	Nr Reg 2014	Nr Reg 2013
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE	19	1	18	19	less by R500.00 - Nil Adjustments	14	8
GRAHAMSTOWN	33	2	31	26		44	40
QUEENSTOWN	34	2	39	34	less by R5,180 ADJUSTED #	27	29
KIMBERLY, NAMIBIA & BLOEMFONTEIN	35	0	36	36	less by R1,240 ADJUSTED #	30	37
NORTHERN FREE STATE AND LESOTHO	10	10	0	34		14	7
NATAL COASTAL	80	41	47	80	less 8 members: +_R5,920 ADJUSTED #	76	72
NATAL WEST	46	7	30	48		19	10
CENTRAL	28	4	24	23		14	15
HIGHVELD AND SWAZILAND	44	11	33	46		48	33
LIMPOPO	65	3	62	65		48	40
CLARKEBURY	17	0	17	36		9	3
ConneX YWM	4	0	4	4		0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>451</b>		<b>343</b>	<b>294</b>

#### \*ADMINISTRATIVE STATISTICAL RECONCILIATIONS:

Methodology Used – descriptive comparative analysis, **Actual Cash Deposited per Connexional Bank Statement compared to own District RSVP Name Lists and names at Registration Desk with cash received ...** (Note - some deposit slips presented at registration were paid to own district accounts without evidence of remittance to BMC Connexional Account)

#### Range of work done includes

- Comparing RSVP Names Lists from Districts and names at Registration Desk per district, compared to Connexional BMC Bank Deposits Or Hard Cash received at registration desk ... Therefore in this instance “**less by** – means names received are more than money paid, i.e. money paid is less than names received”
  - In trouble shooting Districts “Secretary & Treasurer” were expected to Compare own RSVP List submitted to Connexion with own Districts Deposits to BMC Connexional Account per deposit slips or cheques issued ;
- Assessment of **on-site/late registrations** cash received/bank deposited beyond closing date until midday to late afternoon Wednesday 8 July 2015 until closure of registration;
- **Records of Head Count of physical warm bodies** accepted-in at consultation per primary source documents like – Accommodation Allocations; Conference Bags Issued; Wrist Bands; etc.
- **On-Spot Head Count** at meals and during conferencing.

**Noting** - Day 1 Thursday 9 July 2015 swelling of +\_600 people could be attributed purely to conference visitors and locals ... the volumes of people in attendance greatly impacted Day 1 Logistics and Proceedings as the numbers were three fold the expected on Day 1 per Multi-Year Trends Analysis;

## **3.2. APOLOGIES**

- |                           |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3.2.1. Rev VG Nyobole     | 3.2.2. Rev JL Likhi       | 3.2.3. Rev S Nyembezi       |
| 3.2.4. Rev M Makumsha     | 3.2.5. Rev TH Fandaleki   | 3.2.6. Mrs. Sonia Tlhakanye |
| 3.2.7. Bishop V Tshangela | 3.2.8. Rev Dr Soks Leleki | 3.2.9. Bishop M Motswenyane |
| 3.2.10. Ms. M Sebotseng   | 3.2.11. Rev & Mrs. Peega  | 3.2.12. Ms. M Matila        |
| 3.2.13. Ms. Khutoane      | 3.2.14. Mrs. Mosebo       | 3.2.15. Rev IT Moeketsi     |
| 3.2.16. Ms. N Bongoza     | 3.2.17. Bishop Matsolo    | 3.2.18. Mrs. S Mello        |

## **3.3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS – LED BY CHAIRPERSON**

### **3.3.1. GUESTS ON PROGRAMME**

- DCJ\_RSA - Judge Dikgang E. Moseneke;
- Nelson Mandela Memory Center - Mrs. Graca Machel
- SACC – General Secretary\_Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana
- Executive Mayor Johannesburg – Cllr P Tau

### **3.3.2. MCSA – LEADERSHIP**

- Presiding Bishop MCSA - Rev Ziphozihle Siwa
- General Secretary MCSA Conference - Rev Charmaine Morgan
- Lay President MCSA – Mr. James Nkosi
- Central District Bishop – Rev P Witbooi
- EMMU Director - Rev Norman Raphahlela MCSA
- Human Resources Director – Rev Dr Charles Vukile Mehana
- Natal West District Bishop-elect – Rev William Dlamini
- Connexional Youth Coordinator – Rev Luxolo Mantini
- EMMU Lay Ministries Coordinator – Rev Mbuyiselo Stemela
- Ex-President LPA, First Lay President MCSA – Mr. Zandile Jakavula
- First Women Lay President MCSA – Ms. Lindeni Madlala

### **3.3.3. MCSA ORGANISATIONS AND LEADERSHIP**

- Connexional Women’s Manyano Delegation X4
- Connexional Young Women’s Manyano Delegation X3

- Connexional Young Men’s Guild Leadership – Present
- Youth Unit Connexional Leadership - Present
- District Lay Leader(s) – Present
- Circuit Superintendents; Circuit Stewards and Other MCSA Leaders –Present

#### 4. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

<b>RESOLUTIONS:</b>	<b>LISTENING:</b>		<b>CHAPLAINCY:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rev Mogomotsi D.M Diutlwileng (<b>Convener</b>)</li> <li>• Mr. Gerald Gamede</li> <li>• Mrs. Zama Mantini</li> <li>• Rev MJ Seekoei</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rev Nomsa Nomqolo (<b>Convener</b>)</li> <li>• Mr. M Krexe</li> <li>• Ms. Nozibele Mbangula</li> <li>• Mr. Saziso Mkhwanazi</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rev Luvuyo Sifo</li> <li>• Mrs. MD Sebopa</li> <li>• Mrs. Gretta Makhwenkwe</li> </ul>
<b>SCRUTINEERS:</b>	<b>PRECENTORS</b>		<b>TIME KEEPER:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Nondumiso Dlamini</li> <li>• Ms. Nothemba Ngwadla</li> <li>• Mr. Siphon Langa</li> <li>• Mr. Simphiwe Kota</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Zola Moloi</li> <li>• Mr. S Msizi</li> <li>• Mr. Majosi</li> <li>• Ms. Nolubabalo Ndaba</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Evergreen Rulemeni</li> <li>• Ms. Lolly Maletle</li> <li>• Ms. Madipuo Malangani</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Mpumie Tengela</li> </ul>
<b>LETTER WRITERS:</b>	<b>GUESTS HANDLING/PROTOCOL</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. M Caba</li> <li>• Mr. B Xulu</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Lulama Luti (<b>Convener</b>)</li> <li>• Mr. Joe Mavuso</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Nobuntu Madwe</li> <li>• Mrs. Zime E Nyembezi</li> </ul>	

#### 5. FIRST TIME BMC ATTENDEE’S RECEIVED – “WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BMC MEMBER?”

<b>Mr. Z Jakavula</b>	<b>Rev Sidwel R. Mokgothu</b>
<p>BMC Members are Christ followers, who love God and love the Church of God, understanding the mission that God has put before the Church; key attributes of BMC Members can be summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generosity in Sharing “Gifts, Talents, Resources”</li> <li>• Giving – Time and Resources for Gods work</li> </ul>	<p>BMC members are seekers, like people who go out and hunt. Attending BMC gatherings <i>to hunt</i>. Key attributes for members are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enquiring mind and spirit not satisfied with superficial information yet deeper insights are attainable</li> <li>• Excitement to find treasures that cannot be seen, touched or stolen as in Knowledge</li> </ul>

Mr. Z Jakavula	Rev Sidwel R. Mokgothu
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage and exemplify Good Governance and Accountability</li> <li>• Teachable Spirit that seeks enlightenment and Empowerment</li> <li>• Discipline in word and deeds (further illustrated in commitment and dedication).</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">and Power of Spirituality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop New Thinking</li> <li>• A cadre of the BMC drinks from collective wisdom, truly authentic – yet not claiming to be self-made</li> <li>• Ideas are tested in BMC, so as to be Organic, to be a new creation ...</li> </ul>

## 6. NOTICES OF MOTION

### 6.1. Research Team

The Connexional BMC seating at the University of Johannesburg from the 09<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015 notes with sadness the comments made by the Bishop Peter Witbooi in his opening address that:

1. Only Black Ministers are on the foot of the station
2. Many circuits in the black churches are closing stations

#### **We therefore resolve to**

1. Set aside a team to do research and investigate the courses of this pattern
2. Come with remedial actions
3. Develop systems that promote accountability and effective financial management systems

**Proposed:** Rev. Sethunya Motlhodi

**Seconded:** Mr. Zandile M. Jakavula

**Response: DEFERED LATER OPPORTUNITY**

### 6.2. Empowerment of woman

Having discussed the failure of the MCSA and the BMC in acknowledging the gift of women and the failure to demonstrate our commitment to women leadership, the BMC resolved to take a deliberate transformative action to promote gender equality by embarking on the following steps

1. Appoints a search committee that will find two or three women who would be presented as nominees for the position of the BMC Connexional Chairperson
2. When the next time of electing the Chairperson comes, the BMC exercises their right of electing one of them as the Chairperson



3. When this deliberate action is taken no male candidate shall be allowed to enter the election. (Substantive motion postpone “no male candidate” to elections after NEXT 2018)
4. The similar approach if accepted must be taken to the floors of Synods and conference to force the church to stop the lip service on gender equality and take deliberate action to bring about the desired changes for the key church positions

**Proposed:** Zandile M. Jakavula

**Seconded:** Thobeka Nkala Walaza

**Response: AGREED**

### 6.3. In quest and search for Black Unity

Noting and appreciating that the Methodist Church of Southern Africa is a diverse church in all respects.

Further noting that the black section of the church is the majority of this diverse church and therefore an important catalyst for unity and transformation

Acknowledging the generally loudly, silent and sometimes very evident ethnic tensions within the black family of the church and its consequent impact in the transformation of the church.

The Connexional Black Methodist Consultation meeting at the University of Johannesburg on 9-12 July 2015, during the year of its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary resolves that:

- i. The Black Methodist Consultation makes Black Unity for the broader transformation of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa one of its central programs going forward by,
  - a. Creating a platform for open debate in its ranks about this question, looking at the underlying triggers and fears, managing and embracing the diversity. These platforms are to take the form of lectures, schools and plenary discussions on the subject matter.
  - b. At Annual Consultation, Saturdays to be set aside for celebrating this diversity through amongst other things members being encouraged to wear attire of different ethnic group than their own.
  - c. The Hosting District being encouraged to prepare meals of the various ethnic groups for the Saturday lunch.
  - d. The Connexional Executive through the elected lead singers must ensure the singing of hymns and choruses of all languages (Tswana, Sotho Zulu, Xhosa, Venda etc.) and that the use of the BMC Hymn Books is encouraged.

- ii. A five (5) person's Black Unity Desk be established to coordinate the work on this subject together with the Connexional Executive. The 5 persons be representative of the various ethnic groups.

**Proposed:** Mteteli Caba

**Seconded:** Simphiwe Mthembu

**Response: DEFERED LATER OPPORTUNITY**

#### **6.4. Leadership of the MCSA in the Central District**

Noting that leadership in the church as it is elsewhere is a contested terrain.

Further noting that to date the Central District evidently has difficulty in electing an African Black Person to the office of District Bishop, despite many having been put forward before.

Acknowledging the improbability that over the years, none of them were honestly capable to occupy that office.

The Black Methodist Consultation meeting at the University of Johannesburg on 9-12 July 2015 resolves that,

- a. A closer study on the causal effects for the rejections of the African Blacks and ways to remedy them
- b. A three (3) person's team be appointed to carry on this task and report to the 2016 Annual Consultation

**Proposed:** Mteteli Caba

**Seconded:** Simphiwe Mthembu

**Response: DEFERED LATER OPPORTUNITY**

#### **6.5. BMC Bursary Fund**

- Noting that the BMC contributes to the theological and academic development of the clergy through various means like support to Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary (SMMS) and the bursary fund.
- Acknowledging that the current bursary policy limits the funding to members of the BMC
- Appreciating that this development and support given to our clergy is meant to benefit the MCSA mission strategy and implementation and not the BMC
- Further noting that the BMC's life and witness is about the church

It is resolved that the Bursary Fund policy be amended to the effect that it be open to all black clergy, for field of study that the movement believes is critical necessity in the life and witness of the church

**Proposed:** Mteteli Caba

**Seconded:** Luxolo Rasimeni

**Response: DEFERED LATER OPPORTUNITY**

## **7. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS 39<sup>th</sup> BMC MINUTES HELD 10-13 JULY 2014 HIGHVELD AND SWAZILAND**

Minutes having been circulated widely electronically by the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014 as well as hard copies distributed for members without email access on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at the Lekgotla; the 40<sup>th</sup> Convocation accepted the minutes as read. Following few typing errors that were corrected, i.e.

- Page 2 - Insert of in “place of peace” under Welcoming
- Page 2 – Clarkebury registered numbers in 2013 to be corrected *currently it is “0” – noted*
- Page 3 – Rev Nhlapo is YMG General President Elect and *not General Present*
- Page 18 – Mrs. Nobuntu Madwe and *not Mandwe*

The minutes were accepted as a true reflection (*adopted*). It was further noted that 2015 February Meeting that was held from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> (FEB) at Natal Coastal had executed action points or matters arising.

## **8. CHAIRPERSONS ADDRESS**

**Rev M Molo** was vibrant, dynamic and stirring in the delivery of his address to a fully packed study Centre at the University of Johannesburg Bunting Road Campus 40<sup>th</sup> BMC Convocation analysing the theme **“LET THY KINGDOM COME: AFRICA’S URGENT CALL”** and charging into action all present. The full Chairpersons Address available as **ANNEXURE A**. Highlights of the address:-

### **8.1. THE NEED TO RESTRUCTURE THE BMC FOR PURPOSE,**

- ***Re-envision a structurally relevant BMC*** ... “We no more can afford to have a BMC that is geared towards only two meetings in a year as a definition of its life”. “We cannot afford a BMC which has members who come to consultation simply to spend most of their time outside the hall when we are in session and pursue their private agendas at the cost of the image and integrity of our movement”.
- ***Commit into finding smaller and consistently engaging pockets*** of our movement that lead our thinking, strategising, implementation and evaluation.

- **Strengthen Leadership at Districts;** as some Districts only exist to organise themselves for coming to the JULY Consultation thus impoverish our progress and contribution.
  - *To instil discipline, accountability and coordination*
  - *To focus on well-run districts that are inspired to act consistently in pursuit of the dreams and values of the BMC in the life of the MCSA.*

## 8.2. **UNDERSTANDING THE NEED FOR BLACK RADICAL SPIRITUALITY FOR OUR TIME**

### 8.3. **TAKING STEPS IN SHAPING OUR FUTURE:**

- **Facilitate a gathering of black women of our connexion** so as to allow them to share with each other what it is to be a woman in these times, unmask the patriarchal nature of our institutions and the culture that continues to treat women as second class citizens in their own home;
- **Call for a chair in SMMS that is going to be dedicated to the research, study and interpretation of Black thought and African history.** To consider naming that academic and spiritual chair the Khoza Mgojo chair. The journey towards establishing this chair could be through organising, in the next two to three years, a black-thought and history month at the seminary.
- **Annual leadership program and symposium.** This should endeavour to gather Black Methodists in order to engage on an annual basis the understanding of leadership for our time, find new and working models of leadership, expose and train people on emerging trends of leadership and seek to inculcate a culture of spiritual leadership that is founded on love and service.
- **Find ways that are authentic, safe yet open and frank so as to be able to engage those in our ranks who occupy roles of responsibility in the broader church.** In an age where it is possible to find black leaders without black consciousness and connection to a movement it becomes imperative for the BMC to continue the process of contestation and to also conscientise these leaders. We have to work against the notion of self-made leaders, black leaders especially, who are accountable to no one except to themselves and perhaps their campaign managers.
- **Encourage the MCSA and its leaders to develop a courageous and consistent prophetic stance that speaks truth to power** whatever the consequences. It is with this stance that the MCSA must engage all sectors of society and be in the forefront of a social movement that harnesses the energies of our people in the fight against rampant corruption, arrogance of power and the lack of accountability from those in power.

## 9. ORGANISATIONAL SECRETARIAT REPORT

The General Secretary presented the BMC Organisational Report for the period July 2014 until June 2015. The full report is available as **ANNEXURE B**. Pertinent were the following:-

- That the theme **“LET THY KINGDOM COME: AFRICA’S URGENT CALL”** should remind the BMC that we must allow God to be the ruler of our lives, we pray “Thy Kingdom Come”; the prefix – ‘Let’ suggests that we give permission, opportunity for ‘Gods Kingdom to come’. Moreover that we in Africa need to make this call *urgently*;
- That Gods people are evidently **‘YEARNING FOR MORE’** in Church and in Leadership ... mediocrity comes with high risks given expectations inherent in yearning;
- That the organisational report highlighted – **Data Quality Improvements and Interventions** during the reporting period; **Membership statistics**; Our **relations with other structures**; the **Lekgotla Deliverables/Non-Negotiables**; **Districts as Delivery Units**; **BMC Institutional Capacity**; **Reflection on 2014 BMC Resolution, Progress** and BMC Logo identity.
- **GS Recommended:**
  - That while efforts to improve effectiveness of communication at Connexional Level, similar or better strategies should be implemented at District Level to reach all members **bridging the Digital Divide**
  - That the following platforms should be noted, be visited and used: **Website** - [www.methodistbmc.yolasite.com](http://www.methodistbmc.yolasite.com); **Social Media** – follow BMC on **Twitter Handle: @ConnexionalBMC**; also Search and Like BMC **Facebook Page: Connexional BMC**.
  - That the **BMC Institutional Capacity to be increased needs incubators for research and development, development of new talent, finding new voices and critical skills** .... Re-engineer intellectual capital within the BMC Collective
  - That **in Re-engineering intellectual capital the BMC may need to use talents and skills of the non-active/non-BMC Black Methodists unavoidable so...** however districts seem to take exception to this [*“Where is the base of membership?”*] ... as if undermining BMC local structures while the intention and reality could be pointed contrary
  - That the notion that BMC meets Connexionally once a year and makes resolutions to be implemented by districts (as delivery units) is challenged by realities in the districts as many districts lack capacity in terms of active membership, resourcing projects, and limited footprint of the BMC within a district
  - That District Reports as presented in February 2015 indicated the need to increase representation and or strategic recruitment of decision makers within the MCSA; need to

investigate the declining number of ministers and their involvement in the BMC at Local Church Level ...

- That districts report as from 2016 Feb Meeting focuses on calendar year 2015 with attached district financial statements as opposed to reporting Feb 15 – Jan 16, (aligns with MCSA, also provides district more time and space to prepare the reports)
- That there is a need to standardise BMC identity as expressed in logo (examples made)

## 10. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 1 JUNE 2014 UNTIL 31 MAY 2015

Presented by the Treasurer, available as **ANNEXURE C.**; the consultation re-affirmed the commitment that budget be tabled and approved by the February meeting. The budget for year 1 July 2015 – 31 May 2016 was therefore tabled during consultation for noting

## 11. BMC HOSTING LOGISTICS REPORT

Full presentation tabled by the Task Team led by **Mr. Mteteli K Caba**. The following were key recommendations:

CONFERENCE COSTS	FACILITIES AND OTHER LOGISTICS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The consultation agreed on a budget to be developed jointly by the Connexional Executive and the hosting district</li> <li>• On the issue of structuring of registration fees i.e. All inclusive, conferencing and meals and or daily rates the consultation agreed not to make a hasty decision without applying its mind to the implications</li> <li>• The consultation further agreed to not exceeding the budget as per the first point</li> <li>• People to register through districts and not as individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The consultation agreed to questionnaires /forms (evaluation) to be distributed with the conference package for completion by all members to rate the conference so that we can make improvements in the next consultation</li> <li>• To reconsider the time/season on which the consultation seats – in July as it is winter and make it difficult for the host to adequately prepare and for the people attending the consultation</li> </ul>

## 12. BURSARY COMMITTEE

Led by the convener **Mr. Sibusiso Nxasana**;

- There were two applicants and one was unsuccessful because he is not a member of the BMC – the policy states that “only members of the BMC are eligible for the bursary”
- A recommendation was made that Applicants should sign an AOD (Acknowledgement of Debt) form prior being granted the bursary being granted so that should the person not finish his studies, he /she is able to pay back via the MCO the monies granted

**Ms. Ayanda Mjali** thanked both the Hosting Logistics Task Team and Bursary Committees for the work they did on behalf of the movement.

### 13. IN MEMORIA

**Rev Sethulego Mosiako** led the memorial service, reading 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11: 20-33. Paul writes to the Corinthian church urging them that if there’s anything to boast about is weakness. Paul was one of the powerful persons of the bible and there was a time when people were scared of him however now he acknowledges that in his moment of weakness it is when God is at work in his life, it is when God comes closer and lift him up. He urged God to come down and bring order and joy in our nation and church. He related a story of a train that used to pass through town where he was born which no longer does and though the train no longer passes through the town the marks of the tracks still remain as a reminder ... so did our dearly departed soldiers ‘marks of the tracks remain’.

Isaiah 43:1 “But now, this is what the Lord says – he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; ***I have summoned you by name you are mine...***” Names:-

<p><b>Cape of Good Hope</b> <b>District 001:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rev. Ernest Nkathazo Baartman</li> <li>• Ms. Ncumisa Mfazo</li> </ul>	<p><b>Queenstown</b> <b>District 003:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Nodumo Bongoza</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kimberley, Namibia &amp; Bloem District 005:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. David Kgware</li> <li>• Ms. Dolly Sikhakhane</li> </ul>	<p><b>Northern Free State &amp; Lesotho District 006:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Rebecca Africa</li> </ul>
<p><b>Natal Coastal</b> <b>District 007:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Nonhlanhla “Jubs” Vilakazi</li> <li>• Ms. Gloria Sibiya</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clarkebury</b> <b>District 013:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Noluthando Nqwazi</li> <li>• Rev Vakele Dandala</li> </ul>		

## DAY 2 – FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015

### 14. BIBLE STUDIES

Rev Sijadu SK Nkomonde led inspirational Bible Studies on both the mornings of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July 2015. Notes of the Bible Studies available as **ANNEXURE D**.

10 JULY	11 JULY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading <b>Luke 11:1-6</b></li><li>• “Lord, teach us to pray...”; “give us a summary of your teaching”</li><li>• Lord’s Prayer has two movements in opposite directions.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ One is upward, toward heaven: the father, his holiness, his kingdom,</li><li>○ The other earthward: bread, forgiveness, temptation.</li></ul></li><li>• Observe from this prayer that faith has two eyes, one that looks up to God and contemplates his light; another that is turned toward earth and discerns the tragedy of darkness</li><li>• <b>“Coming of the kingdom” as a source of promise and hope ... resulting in healing.</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading <b>Matthew 25: 31-45</b></li><li>• <b>The giving of the bread as divine providence.</b></li><li>• “Give us this day our daily bread”, God who is concerned about the basic needs of the poor.</li><li>• Our God is not a selfish God.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ He is not only concerned with how we worship Him, he is not only concerned the holy rites that we perform toward him,</li><li>○ But is concerned with how we do these things plus social concerns.</li></ul></li><li>• It is an African urgent call, our daily bread. Statistics by World organisations show that most people in Africa live below the breadline.</li><li>• Three things result to inheritance of the kingdom: total communion with God; love which is manifested in concrete actions and God is unavoidably expressed through love one’s neighbour.</li></ul>

### 15. ENGAGING MCSA LEADERSHIP

Delegation was led by the **PB – Rev Z Siwa and GS-MCSA Rev C Morgan**; also present were the Lay President and Units Directors – Human Resources and EMMU.



This was a moment of conversation, to take stock of where we are and move collectively together. The Presiding Bishop on behalf of the Methodist people congratulated the BMC on its 40years of existence. The session is an engagement on the strategic direction of the church. He spoke on the vision of the church of a Christ healed Africa for the healing of nations as one of a common good.

We stand at fast changing times and the world is in great need of witnesses – he encouraged us to read the Kairos document which is now on its 30th year as it will assist us to respond to the issues facing the nation. He alluded that there is also a Swaziland Kairos which also details what we should be doing in times like these.

He further alluded to the story of the 21 year old that attended a bible study at an AME for an hour but shot the people and the pastor and in response to why he did it said that he is afraid that black people are taking over the world and therefore he felt inspired to do something. It is this story and many including the growing fear that threatens to engulf us.

We need to begin conversations pointing towards a positive direction and go back as a church to be the church that God intended it to be – one with no class distinctions and engage in serious discipleship.

## **16. KEY NOTE SPEAKER**

**Mrs. Graca Machel** from the Nelson Mandela Memory Centre addressed the 40<sup>th</sup> BMC Convocation on ***“Africa’s Dream: Her People the gift for her future”***.

Addressing the Methodist Family Mrs. Machel thanked the Church for the prayers during the difficult times of the sickness of the former president, statesmen and her husband, the first democratically elected president of the RSA President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. The Church took an active part during those dark days of grief; as the Church was present even leading the week of prayer as well as services up to his funeral.

Mrs Machel described her background and roots as being from the Methodist family; her father’s contribution by sending them as girls to schools at a time when doing so was not fashionable...“It takes a decision of parents to educate their children boys and girls as equals”

“Africa’s Dream: Her People the gift for her future” – Africa is free politically meaning She has an opportunity to take control of own destiny. Any progress made by Africa stands on the shoulders of those who fought for the freedom of Africa (forebears).

Africa has so much pain despite political freedom. Human beings can be so violent to each other, South Sudan the young democracy ... stories of violence are horrible with women and children suffering. The struggle for power shown through domination and abuse of women as in the Eastern DRC. The girls of Nigeria *whose sin was yearning for education*, abducted by Boko Haram Militants, subjected to abuse, some indoctrinated to

commit atrocities like killing and murdering others; girls forced to give birth for the children of Boko Haram Militants.

In the 15 Years of Millennium Development Goals' (MDG's) the continent of Africa about year 2000 had 62million kids registered in primary schools today over 129million kids are in Primary Schools; thus the power of making a decision, a resolve that ensures things can change. **Africa's people can resolve to change own reality.**

Presence of women in leadership positions; women ministers, women parliamentarians, judges, prime ministers, and at least two women presidents; this changes the landscape and face of the continent. Girl children can now dream, see and believe it's possible to be a president as a girl.

Methodist family about to celebrate 40years of women ordination as ministers; worth celebrating as most Church took decades to follow and realise girls are children of God equally so as the boys are; Women can be Bishops. Church is the people, families; organized women, organized youth are in Church and guide the children on how to pray, thus instilling values. Church cannot exist without communities, like fish can't leave outside water. Real people are in communities where the Church has daily influence. Biggest presence of organized structures in communities is the Church with knowledge of every family.

The Church carries the hopes and aspirations of families, women, young children and the elderly ... the Church needs to dream "how would we like them to live and live better";

Levels of extreme poverty and inequality as in RSA, **what is the role of the Church in connecting government institutions to real people that need services be it in grants or poverty alleviation interventions ...**

High rate of gender violence are in communities where Churches exist; why do men and or partners resort to violence in solving problems. Children of 2-3 yrs. are violated; as the Church we can identify those who are responsible for children and women trafficking in the communities where the Church exists.

The Church led in the dark days of apartheid even when the political parties were not allowed. How do Churches now gain a voice and **courage to engage those in power** (government). She **challenged the church to have the same courage and boldness to speak out against corruption, maladministration, abuse of power as it was against apartheid.**

The Church, the BMC must fight for a better Africa, better Communities and good Governance; we have to build collectively a better future to live without fear. Obedience 81 of the MCSA ...; how about **the leadership of the Church can lead again the nations for healthy communities, healthy attitudes, stand against violence and corruption call it; be a moral guider – remind those in position of responsibility "to serve,**

**to serve and to serve”** (Call it *Obedience 2030/2063*); there are far too many broken families in the communities. Church is family ... we can and we have the ability to touch lives. Church is all over Africa. So if the Church can take stand on brokenness of families then we would have a better Africa.

To value a Girl Child begins at home, as fathers, brothers and cousins say ‘never – this will not happen to my daughter’. A girl child is complete; **fighting for social change, social transformation. The future of the children of Africa is built today step by step in the resolve to change** and take charge of own destiny ensuring equal rights, opportunities, protection offered to boy children same is afforded to girls so that “Africa’s Dream: Her People becomes a real gift for her future”.

### 17. THE LEKGOTLA STATEMENT

The Lekgotla that was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at St Matthews Methodist Church, Kwa-Thema, Springs Circuit was presented and adopted by the consultation. The statement available as **ANNEXURE E.**

Pertinent are the following:

- Black people must develop the culture of excellence, accountability in both theory and practice;
- The BMC is the *laboratory* for the development of the culture of excellence and accountability and the MCSA is the *theatre*;
- Speaking in one voice that it should be normal and safe to expect and demand excellence from black leaders and members without apology.

The Lekgotla committed that in order to serve, contribute and influence the MCSA some and or all of the following BMC committees must be established to serve as think tanks, incubators for new ideas and proposals that would see the BMC being proactive in its approach: EMMU; DEWCOM; FINANCES; PROPERTY; STRUCTURES; REVISION etc.

### 18. SCHOOLS ALIGNED TO THE LEKGOTLA STATEMENTS

SUBJECT	FACILITATOR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doctrine, Ethics and Worship</li> <li>• Revisions in the MCSA</li> <li>• Structures of the MCSA</li> <li>• Trust and Property in the MCSA</li> <li>• Ministerial Formation/EMMU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rev Luvuyo Sifo</li> <li>• Rev Dr Vukile C Mehana</li> <li>• Mr. Ivan Samdaan</li> <li>• Mr. Ricky Ngwenya</li> <li>• Rev Norman Raphahlela</li> </ul>

**19. DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

MANDATE	PROCESS	RECCOMENDATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To receive nominations X1 per district, nominated and agreed in a District General Meeting – PB 2016 Elections;</li> <li>• Process the names prayerfully</li> <li>• Final Report and recommendation to consultation 2015</li> </ul>	<p>The committee consulted with all three nominees below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rev Normal Raphahlela</b> withdrew his name from the process</li> <li>• <b>Rev Zipho Siwa</b></li> <li>• <b>Rev Sidwell Mokgothu</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rev Ziphozihle Siwa</b></li> </ul> <p>The committee recognises that he has done well during his term office, completes his term in 2017.</p> <p>If re-elected will start a new 5 year term from 2018 – 2020 (serving only 3 years and superannuate); <b>Result in elections in 2019.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rev Sidwell Mokgothu</b></li> </ul> <p>The nomination from 5 districts affirms trust in his leadership. Has demonstrated his competency and ability as leader. He has served the church in various connexion structures and outside the connexion. He brings to the church a wealth of knowledge and experience from his previous role.</p> <p><b>Therefore recommended to be the BMC candidate for the office of the PB be Rev Sidwell Mokgothu 2016 elections.</b></p>

Full Report available as **ANNEXURE G.** In-depth lengthy discussions ensued following the recommendation mainly revolving on the interpretation of current incumbent serving 3 of the 5 year term then superannuate; *some perceived as unnecessary instability another election in 2019* (not good for the Church Witness) while others saw the 3 years as *giving an opportunity for a transmission and kind of a handing over.* Very grey was the possible legal interpretation of the 5year term per Book of Order ... question being *“Is the incumbent eligible for election if he would only serve 3 of the scheduled 5 years”.* There was also a view that the *incumbent has been afforded a chance to be a shepherd for many years from being a District Bishop in the early 2000’s, now 15 years later whether eligible or not it is time to handover the baton and allow another leader to emerge in the spirit of continuity (not condemnation).* *A view that both GS-MCSA and PB would then be new was objected* as the incumbent GS-MCSA would have served a full 3 years by 2017.

The BMC 40<sup>th</sup> Convocation resolved to allow the Discernment Committee and entire membership to continue having a conversation on the above divergent views with an understanding that continued conversations would mature and converge thus leading to consensus.

## 20. EBF 2015 – LED BY MR Z JAKAVULA

EBF 2015							
DISTRICT	DEPOSITS	CHEQUE		CASH RECEIVED	TOTAL EBF 2015	POSITION 2015	EBF 2014
		R		R			R
Umkhuzamele	-			1,610.00	1,610.00	-	1,567.90
Central	-	50,000.00		1,460.00	51,460.00	1	5,526.60
NFL	-			7,834.00	7,834.00	9	6,000.00
Natal West	-	1,000.00		4,778.50	5,778.50	10	2,622.00
Cape of Good Hope	1,350.00	2,911.00		535.00	4,796.00	11	2,739.00
Highveld and Swaziland	450.00	18,600.00		3,690.00	22,740.00	5	21,940.00
Clarkebury	20,250.00	-		4,755.00	25,005.00	4	14,823.80
KNB	-	2,500.00		10,350.00	12,850.00	8	20,600.00
Limpopo	-	15,000.00		15,129.00	30,129.00	2	10,018.20
Natal Coastal	-	10,000.00		4,755.00	14,755.00	7	12,872.00
Grahamstown	22,700.00	-		4,909.50	27,609.50	3	18,014.30
Queenstown	-	17,000.00		2,726.00	19,726.00	6	12,152.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>44,750.00</b>	<b>117,011.00</b>		<b>62,532.00</b>	<b>224,293.00</b>		<b>128,875.80</b>

## 21. EPILOQUE

Rev Moagi Sekhejane led the closing devotions.

**EXTRA CLASSES & Critical Conversations followed focusing on the following:-**

### **A. EXTRA CLASSES [Open to ALL, no member limits]:**

1. Being a Stewardship Movement – **Rev Vusi Vilakati**
2. Liturgy Design in Context – **Rev Sva Waqu & Rev Mbuyiselo Stemela**
3. Circuit Stewardship – Administrative Centre of the Black Church - **Mr. Sibewu Ndlumbini**
4. Understanding Ministries within the MCSA and essential requirements to date – EMMU – **Rev Morapedi Diutlwileng**

### **B. CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS [20 – 25 members MAX recommended: prepare Key Game Changers for PLENARY DAY 3]:**

- 5. Cultivating Culture of Good Governance and Accountability – **Rev Sidwell R Mokgothu**
- 6. Gender Equality - **Dr Nomonde Mqhayi**
- 7. Developing Theories about being black and blackness in the 21st century – **Rev Simphiwe Mthembu & Ms. Zodwa Fanele**

**C. EXECUTIVE GROUPS – Started in Feb 2015 Continue Parallel to the above; 8,9 and 10 Collapsed into One (1) – for time management**

- 8. All District Chairpersons and Deputies Meet CONNEXIONAL CHAIR – ‘The BMC Dream – turning it to reality’;
- 9. All District Secretariat meet CONNEXIONAL SECRETARIAT – ‘Districts as delivery units – Secretariat as the engine’; and
- 10. All District Treasurers meet CONNEXIONAL TREASURY – ‘Resourcing the dream; explore BMC resourcing models and current reality’.

**Note:** *There was no report back intended from Extra Classes, except Critical Conversations that prepared to guide Plenary on Day 3 “Key Game Changers” – integrated in the IMPLEMENTATION PLAN*

Available as **ANNEXURE H** – are the notes and report backs received on the above

**DAY 3 – SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015**

**22. BIBLE STUDY 2** [See Item 14 on Day 2: both 10th and 11th July 2015. Notes of the Bible Studies are here attached as **ANNEXURE DJ**]

**23. BMC 40<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATORY PUBLIC LECTURES TASK TEAM REPORT AND UPDATE**

<b>TASK TEAM</b>	<b>LECTURES SCHEDULE 2015</b>	<b>OBSERVATIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rev. Sethunya Motlhodi <b>(Convener)</b></li> <li>• Ms. Zodwa Fanele</li> <li>• Ms. Lulama Luti</li> <li>• Mr. Tjemolane</li> <li>• Rev. Simphiwe Mthembu</li> <li>• Mrs. Noloyiso</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rev S. Mokgothu</b> on the <u>15<sup>th</sup> August 2015</u> in Pretoria – to be presented <b>by Rev Norman Raphahlela</b></li> <li>• <b>Rev I. Moeketsi’s</b> on <u>12<sup>th</sup> September 2015</u>,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cape Town (Good Hope) and Natal Coastal have done an excellent work –</li> <li>• The next Districts to prepare are <b>Limpopo, NF&amp;L, KN&amp;B and Queenstown.</b></li> </ul>

TASK TEAM	LECTURES SCHEDULE 2015	OBSERVATIONS
Mhlubulwana <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Nwabisa Mabandla</li> </ul>	(resolved by the BMC to be a Steve Biko Day) – lecture will be presented on this day <b>by Rev. Prof. I. Meko</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Rev. O.S Mbangula - 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015</b> KN&amp;B District (Zastron) <b>Rev. Prof. Itumeleng Mosala</b></li> <li><b>Rev. V.G Nyobole – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2015</b> Queenstown <b>District by Rev Dr CV Mehana</b></li> </ul>	

#### 24. PUBLIC LECTURE – ON REV DR STANLEY MS MOGOBA

Deputy Chief Justice, Republic of South Africa - Hon. Judge Dikgang E. Moseneke presented the lecture. Available as **ANNEXURE I**.

#### 25. RESOLUTIONS

**Rev Mogomotsi D.M Diutlwileng & Team** [Team per Item 4 Day 1, appointment of committees] presented only one (1) Notice of Motion out of five (5) due to Time Constraints. **DETAIL ITEM 6 – DAY 1 “Notices of Motion”**

**26. Rev Mantima Thekiso** led the closing devotions marking end of core business 40<sup>th</sup> Convocation.

#### 27. 40<sup>th</sup> GALA DINNER, CELEBRATIONS, AWARDS AND RECEPTION

- Central District, the hosts pulled all stops to ensure the gala dinner arrangements were superb; from decorations to entertainment line-up ranging from **Dumza Maswana, Phinda Matlala, Nomfundo Xaluva to Simphiwe Dana**.
- Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana** delivered the Key Note address at the Gala.

#### AWARDS

The following categories were awarded

**Seth Mokitimi Award -**

[Methodist and Non-Methodists for outstanding service and loyalty to society in general and the black church in particular]. Awarded

- ***Dr Gcwalisile Cynthia Kabanyane – Cape of Good Hope***
- ***Dr Abie S. Nkomo - Limpopo***
- ***Mr. Vuyisile Welcome Ntlokwana - Grahamstown***

#### **Daphne Tashe Memorial Award –**

[To districts that has shown commitment, dedication and drive towards the eradication of the social ills prevalent in our daily life]. Awarded

- **Natal Coastal District** – highest number registered at the Consultation

#### **Amos Gadi Memorial Award –**

[To Districts with more recruitment, committed and sustained membership]. Awarded

- ***Cape of Good Hope District*** that increased number of committed member's year on year.

#### **Earnest Baartman Fund Champions Award –**

[To District that has outperforming previous standards and all other districts in the EBF efforts]

- ***Central District*** [per EBF figures and performance ITEM 20 Day 2]

**40<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATORY SPECIAL AWARDS** – All leaders who had been tasked to lead the BMC from 1975 until 2014 were recognized with special awards in gratitude for their service, sacrifices and dedication. Their names were called [**Available as ANNEXURE K**]

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## **DAY 4 – SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015**

### **28. DIVINE CLOSING SERVICE**

Liturgy led by **Rev Siviwe Waqu** and message delivered by the Connexional Chairperson **Rev M Molo** took place at Johannesburg down town, Central Methodist Mission. The Consultation closed on a high note with vibrant worship in the Divine Service. The commander of the legion, in his send – off message, started by responding with positive responses to negative voices he hears about the BMC. Furthermore, he cautioned us that if we are to own the church, we need to resource it. As he continued to unpack the theme “Let thy Kingdom come – Africa’s urgent call”, He posed a question – “what gives



a kingdom character”. He further cautioned us and said “unless we know the King we will never know the character of the kingdom”

He pleaded with us not to do charity, but to worship God by sharing our blankets, to this he emphasized that there is a big difference, hence the plea. As he sends us out to our respective communities, he told us that God’s Kingdom is the gift that we have to share with the world. He challenged us to raise our voices and by doing so God’s kingdom will come.

The resolution on the work of God in the form of listening statement was presented as moved by the committee, adopted by the consultation, here attached as **ANNEXURE J**.

# THE END

**Please note that ANNEXURES +\_60% were circulated in hard copy** at the Consultation including SCHOOLS. Therefore to reduce printing, save trees and save costs. ***All annexures will be loaded on website referenced as per table of contents and also made available on request.***



# **BMC** **Black Methodist Consultation**

[*A formation within the Methodist Church of Southern Africa*]

**ANNEXURE – E TO THE MINUTES JULY 2015**

## **THE LEKGOTLA STATEMENT 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2014 ST MATTHEWS METHODIST; SPRINGS CIRCUIT HIGHVELD AND SWAZILAND**

The Black Methodist Consultation engaged in the process of honest soul searching, reflection, self-evaluation and re-invention in the form of a two (2) day Lekgotla under the theme “Look closely, listen attentively, and set your mind upon all that I show you” based on the text Ezekiel 40:5 at St Matthews Methodist, Springs Circuit, Highveld and Swaziland District.

Members embraced the July 2014 resolution of the call to the Lekgotla as all the districts were represented.

The Lekgotla agreed that if the BMC is to succeed in its quest for justice and transformation, then the following are the fundamentals:-

- Black people must develop the culture of excellence, accountability in both theory and practice;
- The BMC is the *laboratory* for the development of the culture of excellence and accountability and the MCSA is the *theatre*;
- Speaking in one voice that it should be normal and safe to expect and demand excellence from black leaders and members without apology.

The BMC at the Lekgotla agreed that in order to be salt and the light to the MCSA, all BMC members and BMC agenda must embrace the following values and focus:-

### **VALUES:**

- Honest Self-criticism
- Critical Thinking/Thought Leadership

- Grooming Spirituality
- Empowering Leadership
- Theoretically grounded and activist membership

#### **FOCUS:**

- Continuous improvement and accurate targeting must be internalized;
- The timing and contents of Consultation in July versus February Meeting in relation to the MCSA district synods and annual MCSA conference has to be reviewed;
- The mobilization of effective membership;
- BMC must reclaim its relevance in our leaders. It must no more be patronised and or sidelined by the leaders of the MCSA;
- The issue of Black Unity has to be revisited;
- Targeting must look at the MCSA structures and processes.

The Lekgotla committed that in order to serve, contribute and influence the MCSA some and or all the following BMC committees must be established to serve as think tanks, incubators for new ideas and proposals that would see the BMC being proactive in its approach, as well as lead thinking, research and development:

- EMMU
- DEWCOM
- FINANCES
- PROPERTY
- STRUCTURES
- REVISION

The Lekgotla further engaged on the need to contribute to the transformation of Black Organisations and Circuits; this can be achieved through working partnerships; e.g. with LPA, WM, YWM, YMG and WG.

The Church in general and the BMC in particular must learn the art of moving beyond resolutions and policy formulation to Programme Development and Sustainable Campaigns with:

- Clear Implementation Plans geared towards achieving results;
- Defined *inputs, processes/activities*, that are linked to *outputs, outcomes and impacts*;
- Monitoring and Accountability through reporting;
- Women empowerment and Gender mainstreaming is one campaign;

- Good Governance and Accountability must be another campaign.

The BMC at the Lekgotla further agreed to take moral high ground and champion the Women Statement and Plan of Action.

BMC to revive Black Theology – theoretical understanding on the meaning of black theology. Commission papers on black theology (Music, Preaching, and Praying). BMC is to provide information on the ideologies, fundamental philosophy and the reason of the existence of the BMC in order to develop effective cadres that will relay a consistent message and play an effective role as BMC members and Methodists.

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**ANNEXURE J – THE MINUTES JULY 2015**  
**RESOLUTION ON THE WORK OF GOD**

**09 – 12 JULY 2015**

**CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**LISTENING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Connexional Consultation of the Black Methodist Consultation gathered in the Central District from the 09<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015 under the theme “*Let Thy Kingdom Come -Africa’s Urgent Call*”. We meet at a time when our country is recovering from xenophobic attacks which have left many communities broken. The warm weather liberated us to praise God and worship in many tongues helped us enter into the presence of our Lord who dwells among the praises of His people.

The Bishop of the Central District led the official opening of the Consultation. During this time, the Bishop honoured in prayer the life and ministry of Rev. Ernest Nkathazo Baartman and remembered the grandmother to Rev. Mzwandile Molo who both has passed on.

In setting the tone of the Consultation, the Bishop, preached on the theme of the Consultation which is based on the Gospel according to Luke 11:1–13. In articulating the theme he told Consultation that it is a request and plea to God to reign and possess us like He possesses those in heaven. He further said that it’s a call of desire because God loves His creation for it is the love and passion of God to reign in His creation. He further said that this theme is a call for Africa for which this Connexion is a part of and our prayer for God to reclaim Africa.

Finally he challenged us that if we are to build, restore and renew as the theme calls us to; we need to have a positive change of mind. He further emphasised that there is a need to refocus our mind as it understands of life when we pray for God’s kingdom to come. We met God at the altar through the celebration of the Holy Communion which was led by the Bishop and ministers.

We were welcomed warmly to Johannesburg and the Central District by the Bishop and Vice Chairperson of the Central BMC Rev Waqu

In addressing the Consultation, the Chairperson unpacked the theme of the Consultation. He told us that this was the time for the BMC to celebrate and reflect. He further challenged us to read the signs of our time and to listen to our context of the MCSA as this will enable us to restructure the BMC for purpose. Finally he outlined the steps that the BMC will need to take in shaping the future.

At sunset, the BMC paused to remember the fallen soldiers, through the memorial service. Having read from 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11: 30-33, the Preacher, Rev Mosiako told us that this was a time to remember those who we prayed with, those who had influence in our lives and we came to know God through them. The theme of his sermon was that God is with us in our weaknesses.

Rev Sjadu Nkomonde conducted an inspiring bible study he reminded us that when we pray the Lord's Prayer we asked God ***“to give us our daily bread”*** he challenged us to note that the bread that is given by God belongs to all of us. He said we cannot afford to eat the bread alone when there are people who go to bed without food. In his conclusion as a challenge in response to the theme, Rev Nkomonde told us that we need to cultivate a culture of sharing and know that 'my bread is your bread'.

Throughout the Consultation, the Spirit of the need for the Church to connect with communities, continue to pray for God's kingdom to come and the realisation that this is Africa's urgent call was emphasized as speakers deliberated on different topics and committees tabled their reports, all portraying the willingness of Methodist people who seek to work for the kingdom of God for the healing and transformation of the MCSA, South Africa and Africa.

We were blessed to have Mrs Graca Machel in our midst. she began by the word of appreciation to the people called Methodists for the prayers and care that were given to our late president Mandela during his time of illness and when he passed on as she addressed us she reminded the consultation that it was the duty of the church to care for the poor, sick, homeless etc. she further challenged the nation should be intentional in investing in the girl child as girls are still vulnerable in our societies.

We also had another holy moment when the Deputy Chief Justice. Honourable judge Dikgang Moseneke presented a memorial lecture on one of our stalwarts Rev Doctor Stanley Mogoba. He challenged the consultation never to forget where we come from as a nation. He said it was people like Rev Mogoba who had been catalyst of transformation in our societies.

In her quest to be educational the BMC took time to empower members through different schools which challenged our minds to pause and reflect. The BMC in her thirst for Continual Improvement took time to table resolutions. Due to time constraints only one out of the five resolutions was completed.

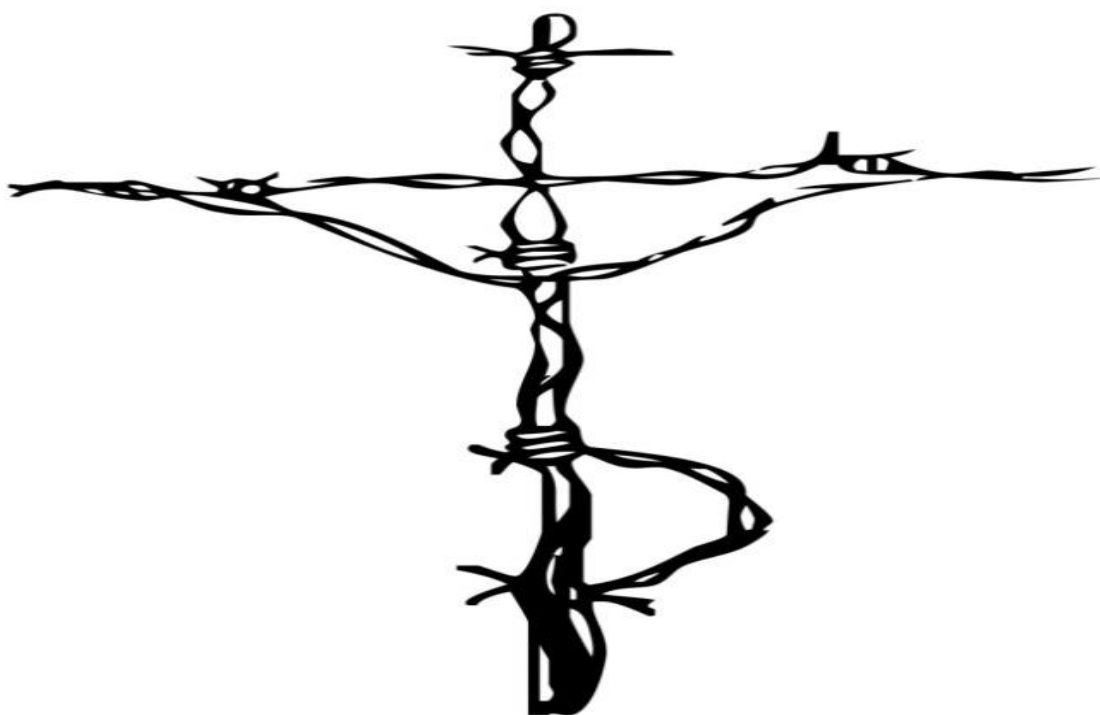
As the BMC celebrates 40 years of existence, Consultation observed, celebrated and recognized the contribution made by people who founded and led the BMC for the past 4 decades and had a Lecture on one of the former Chairpersons.

The Consultation closed on a high note with vibrant worship in the Divine Service. The commander of the legion, in his send – off message, started by responding with positive responses to negative voices he hears about the BMC. Furthermore, he cautioned us that if we are to own the church, we need to resource it. As he continued to unpack the theme “Let thy Kingdom come – Africa's urgent call”, He posed a question – “what gives a kingdom character”. He further cautioned us and said “unless we know the King we will never know the character of the kingdom”

He pleaded with us not to do charity, but to worship God by sharing our blankets, to this he emphasized that there is a big difference, hence the plea. As he sends us out to our respective communities, he told us that God's Kingdom is the gift that we have to share with the world. He challenged us to raise our voices and by doing so God's kingdom will come.

We leave Consultation inspired, motivated, committed to become repairers and restorers so that the dream of God's Kingdom as a solution to Africa's social ills is realise.

To the glory of God, Chairperson and the Executive, Ministers and the Consultation at large we now move this report for adoption.



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**BLACK METHODIST CONSULTATION 40<sup>TH</sup> CONVOCATION 9-12 JULY 2015**