

2017

*BMC is a formation
within the
Methodist Church
of Southern Africa.
Since 1975*

*THE MCSA - LEFA
LABATSWADI
BARONA! - ILIFA
LABAZALI!*



BMC

Black Methodist Consultation

2017, 6th–9th JULY
BMC 42nd ANNUAL CONVOCATION

THE MINUTES

GRAHAMSTOWN DISTRICT

**[“LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR:
REIMAGINING A SOCIETY
OF LOVE AND JUSTICE”;
...AND WHO IS MY
NEIGHBOUR?”]**

St Luke 10: 25-37, Emphasis_ St Luke 10:29

WHAT IS THE BMC

The BMC exists for the Transformation of the MCSA into a truly African Church (in character, doctrine, ethos, identity and practice) by challenging and equipping Black Methodists to contribute meaningfully, actively and intelligently in the MCSA given the context of Africans.

KEY FOCUS AREAS OF THE BMC

- 1) Strategically influence transformation agenda of the MCSA;
 - 2) Organisational renewal for effectiveness;
 - 3) Cutting edge capacity building & empowerment programmes *{targeted interventions e.g. cultivating culture of accountability and good governance; Leadership; etc.}*;
 - 4) Gender equity; and
 - 5) Develop theoretical handles about being black and blackness in the 21st century.
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BMC
Black Methodist Consultation

RESOLUTION ON THE WORK OF GOD 06-09 JULY 2017

The listening committee report of the 42nd Black Methodist Consultation

The 42nd Black Methodist Consultation has convened on the 6th - 9th July 2017 at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Nelson Mandela Bay, Grahamstown District, under the theme: “Love thy neighbour: reimagining a society of love and justice”;...and who is my neighbour?” found in Luke 10: 25-37. We meet in a province of great history and contribution to the evolution of our people, the province that gave birth to many sons and daughters who sacrificed for the cause of the people.

The Bishop-elect of the Grahamstown District, Rev Freemantle, led the official opening of the consultation. In his welcoming message he reminded us that we should Love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind and soul. And our neighbour as ourselves. He stated that the BMC has chosen a theme that propels and calls for it and the church at large to remain a society of peace and justice.

Society has fallen prey to going against the commandment given to us by Jesus of “Loving Thy neighbour. We have diluted neighbourhood to only those around us, those we know and are familiar with. What matters for us as the BMC as we congregate is how we bring life to this command?

From there we immediately received the BMC Connexional Chairperson’s address. The chairperson, Rev Molo, reminded us that we are gathered by the grace of God, tapping into our rich Methodist hymnal heritage. In his message to the members, he reminded the consultation that we gather as people in the Connexion for rediscovery and renewal. We have a responsibility to give hope to our neighbours not by words but by acts of love.

As the BMC we cannot connect with our true humanity without connecting with the naked, the wounded and those who are left to die. We need to gather with a deeper conviction and ask if we have faith that transcends the difficulties of the moment and engage our context with honesty.

He indicated that;

- The church exists for the world and should always ask; “What must I do? “. We should be pre-occupied with how we exist for the world and be a model of what the world can be. In our quest to transform the world; as we exist for the world, we ought to be living in connection with God. When we choose to walk away from moments of standing up for justice, we betray that which we are called to be.

- He made the following proposals:
 - Optimal utilisation of the church’s land as an income generating mechanisms.
 - MCSA needs to live in a permanent state of self-evaluation
 - The need for revival of Christian Education and making it relevant to the context.
 - The church needs to see beyond itself and develop a theology of life, citizenship and public service.

Organisational Report

The General Secretary gave us a reflective report on the state of the movement alluding to the commitment of the BMC in developing relationships with the MCO, in the same breath, the BMC should develop relations with other church organisations however, to be cautious that these

relations are not “Envelope Relationships” but be based on sharing content and skills through capacity building.

The call was to imagine again, anew and recreate what it means to be a Christian that is honest, righteous, incorruptible, morale and principled. As a movement, we were urged to be serious about implementation and be disciplined members.

2018 will be focused on basic skills towards transformation and change. #HowTo?

In the spirit of fellowship and to advancing the work of the movement, there is a need to:

- Revisit clusters to realise deliverables
- Take seriously the development of second layer leadership.

Memorial Service

On Thursday evening the consultation took time to remember those who have left us; those who served with and before us and have departed since we last met. In a moving sermon based on 2nd Samuel 18: 19-22, the Rev. C. Komani, compelled us to continue running with God’s message and not stopping. The question of reflection that she posed was, “When it gets tough will we still stand and be decisive?” We need to be like the Cushite who was dependable and kept going. We must keep on running because we have God’s message. Those who were with us, depend on us to continue running and talk about issues of justice. The BMC is to run with the message of the injustices faced by women in the church, of children, the poor and the marginalised. When we get weary and want to give up, we should remember those who left us and run.

Bible Study

The BMC was moved by Rev Prof Allan Boesak’s deep Biblical interpretations as he delivered the Bible Studies over the past 2 days.

The first bible study based on Acts 1:6, Chapter 2: 12 and verse 36 narrating the story of Jesus and his disciples. We were reminded that asking the wrong questions, gets us wrong answers and we reach wrong conclusions. Thus leading to disaster. We always move from a point of “Who is my neighbour? As if it is all about us. Whereas it is supposed to be about the one who is suffering and in pain. It is not about charity but acts of solidarity and courage. The right questions to ask are:

- What are the circumstances that constitute the systemic injustices that drive people?
- What do you do when you get into spaces of injustices as it happens?
- Do we have the courage & love to intervene and take the risks?

In the second Bible Study Rev Prof Boesak interpreted the text from Genesis 26: 1-6 as well as vs 26-32, moving us to meditate on direct questions, listening and understanding the questions. He encouraged Methodists to have strong faith by being obedient. The emphasis was on Isaac the promised son who ended up without a role. He assured us that whatever God has given us is sufficient for the work. It is not a “one size fits all.” We were reminded that others are called to move and others are called to stay, as God commands Isaac not to go to Egypt but to stay where he is. Rev Boesak appealed with consultation that we stay in our calling.

Affirming the prophetic mission of the church, he made emphasis to the fact that God is at this moment, speaking to the church in SA, because we had a promise but gave it away. Empires come and go but God is ever-present.

Finances

Our Treasurer Buhle Sigabi presented the audited financial statements which reflect the organisation’s financial position and state. New Auditors were appointed for this. The investment portfolio of the movement has increased to be just over R100 000. A budget for the year 2017-2018 was presented and approved. The BMC’s Ernest Baartman Fund, a fundraising drive of the movement, continued as all Districts supported it as it continues to support the BMC in its administration and the academic training of our ministers. Consultation managed to raise an amount of R R193 876.00.

A draft financial policy guide was tabled and districts were encouraged to get a copy of the draft to familiarise themselves with.

In terms of the Bursary Committee report, consultation received no new applications for 2017.

The **40th Public Lectures publication journey** is underway and the movement has been in engagement with contributors and editors, as the movement waits in anticipation for the publication.

Moving swiftly we received an update on the project to establish an academic research centre on **African Thought and Black studies**. Information gathered through the activities of the centre will be archived at SMMS however the BMC should also resource the library on African

thought and African studies, thinking beyond theology. The establishment of this centre is seen as a creative vehicle to promote African thought and African studies.

The task team on the **Quest and search for black unity** presented a report. Consultation mandated them to continue with the work and come up with a programme.

In being affected by what happens around it, the BMC tasked a team to look at issues related to black **ministers on the foot of station**. The team gave an insightful report through its findings and was requested to continue with the project to do further research.

(Task teams and committees elected to enhance the work of BMC at the connexion reported and their reports were received with enthusiasm)

The BMC in its culture to continue empowering its members, **elective schools** were attended which proved to be quite beneficial. In the same breath, the BMC encouraged that a meeting be facilitated for all Black women to have a conversation on gender related issues.

The public lecture honouring the life of Rev JC “uGudlunxweme” Mvusi was presented by the ever vibrant, Mkhuseleli “Khusta” Jack. He highlighted that Rev Mvusi was the epitome of excellence and not an admirer of mediocre. He was a champion of socio-economic change, who did not tolerate the oppression of his people. Challenging the BMC, he stated that now more than ever, the church is called to stand up for the world and the country. We as the BMC ought to fight for justice.

Awards Ceremony

In a reception prepared by our hosts to relax and unwind from the business of the weekend and recognise and acknowledge the contributions of some of our individual members and districts, the guest speaker;

The BMC acknowledged the work and contribution of Ms Boitumelo Marumo of the KNB District and Ms Tembisa Zihlangu of Clarkebury District by awarding them the Seth Mokitimi Award.

Devine Service

As we packed and got ready to live the beautiful, warm and windy city of Port Elizabeth we congregated at JC Mvusi Methodist church. Rev Boesak in a message anchored on Matthew 5 and 7, the BMC was spiritual uplifted in his exposition of the text.

He challenged our conscience and faith asking us:

- Where are our wounds?
- Was there nothing to fight for?

God is moved by injustices and stands with the marginalised and is wounded when there is injustice and people's dignity is trampled upon. Because humanity is made in the likeness of God.

DAY 1 – THURSDAY 06th JULY 2017

1. OPENING CEREMONIES AND CONSTITUTION OF THE CONSULTATION

Divine Service (with - Sacrament of Holy Communion)

The opening service was led by the Bishop - elect, Rev. JB. Freemantle, after the opening prayer by Rev DS. Somngesi, St Luke 10: 23 – 29 was read. The key message premised on “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself*”.

The Bishop – elect in his message challenged all present on the command to love as a charter of life and human values Christians should carry ‘to love’. That there is no greater command than to love. That the key message of the text calls for the restoration of the soul, energy and resolve to love God and humanity; that failure to love equates to failure to be fully human.

The Bishop – elect further made reflections on the Church's failure to love God comparing it to the challenges of a society that needs to remain a society of love and justice, thus unconditional love for God and the neighbour. The measure of love for God is the love of the neighbour.

Challenged the BMC to be actively involved in the advocacy of justice; to stand up and be counted for Jesus and Justice by being involved in the society modelling a community that loves.

2. WELCOMING INTO GRAHAMSTOWN DISTRICT

Warm welcome message to the Grahamstown District – presented by the District Lay Leader, Ms. Nonzolo Konya, who was followed by Rev. VA. Mngxuma as the hosting District BMC

Chairperson for Grahamstown. Both relating the context of the district “ ... BMC meeting at a time wherein there were many challenges within the District, like the huge disaster in the Plattenberg Bay and Knysna areas where veld fires destroyed many people homes and souls, ...”.

Social ills such as poverty, drug abuse and crime continuing and prevalent in the area, also related recently that in Port Elizabeth where BMC was meeting, some school kids decide to distress from the exams by partying and were later involved in a taxi accident where four children were killed. She urged the BMC to pray for the affected and bereaved families.

3. ROLL CALL; APOLOGIES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS – CONNEXIONAL EXECUTIVES

3.1. DISTRICTS PRESENT – ROLL CALL

DISTRICTS	# REG 2017	# COMMITMENTS 2017	# REGISTERED 2016	# COMMITMENTS 2016	# REG 2015
Cape of Good Hope	11	11	8	10	19
Grahamstown	46	45	42	41	33
Queenstown	25	25	23	23	34
Kimberley Namibia & Bloemfontein	31	30	24	27	35
Northern Free State & Lesotho	16	19	10	21	10
Natal Coastal	58	112	70	110	80
Natal West	23	23	29	29	46
Central	21	21	18	20	28
Highveld & Swaziland	11	17	14	18	44
Limpopo	47	45	41	41	65

Clarkebury	14	14	11	17	17	36
YWM ConneX	0	0	0	0	4	4
TOTALS	302	362	290	357	415	445

Preliminary first count figures used based on the information from the registration desk on-site at the consultation at Grahamstown, yet to be subjected to verifications through bank reconciliations

3.2. APOLOGIES TABLED AND RECORDED

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev Z Siwa, MCSA Presiding Bishop, Prior Commitment; • Rev C Morgan, MCSA Gen Secretary, Prior Commitment, • Mr JM Nkosi, Lay President – Unveiling Tombstones family • Rev. Dr. Kenaleone F Ketshabile, Mission Unit Director – Prior Commitments • Rev Andile. M. Mbete – Bishop Grahamstown District, Funeral Umtata • Ms. Nombasa Hlathi – HISWA BMC Treasury, Family Commitments • Rev SZ Mosiako – family funerals • Rev Sva Waqu – family commitments; • Rev. Dr Bongani Finca – <i>Out of the country work assignment (Commonwealth London Conference)</i> • Rev. Sipho Nyembezi Natal CD Chairperson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Zime Nyembezi - NCD • Ms. Zandile Ngubo - NCD • Ms. Thokozani Phoswa - NCD • Ms. Thoko Cele - NCD • Ms. Nomonde Sibisi - NCD • Nokuthula Mndaweni - NCD • Ms. Busi Hlalukana - NCD • Mr. Sandile Mkhize - NCD • Ms. Nomaledi Duma - NCD • Ms. Nomusa Dlamini - NCD • Ms. Thembi Mtebeni - NCD • Rev OT Dlamini - NCD • Mr. Tembani Piyose – HISWA and Entire BMC HISWA Executive 	<p>DELAYED ARRIVALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev Nomsa Nomqolo • Mr Mdu Dlamini • Mr M Sowazi <p>EARLY DEPARTURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Joe Mavuso • Ms. Zuzile Zungu • Ms. Zodwa Fanele
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	Apology;	
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3.3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF LEADERS AND GUESTS PRESENT

- Bishop Elect Grahamstown District, **Rev J. Freemantle**
- Lay Leader Grahamstown District, **Ms. N. Konya**
- Bible Studies - **Rev Prof A. Boesak**
- Black History Project honouring Rev J.C Mvusi – **Mr Mkhuseleli Jack**
- *BMC Forebears (forerunners) – former Connexional BMC Executives (Officials) – Chairpersons, Secretariats & Treasurers (leading schools, task teams, committees and BMC Think Tanks)*

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The following changes were made to the agenda

Day 1 – 6th July 2017

- The times for lunch were moved from 14h00 – 14h45
- In the absence of the appointed Convenor for The Resolutions Committee Rev S.Z Mosiako , we will re-nominate when we appoint committees
- For the Memorial Service Rev P. Mbombela will be replaced by Rev C. Komani

Day 2 – 07th July 2017

- Rev Dr Allan Boesak will be landing on the afternoon of the 6th July 2017
- Keynote Speaker timeslot *given the noted apology* allocated as follows: 45 minutes to Black Thought and African History and Philosophy Research Centre Project and the other 45 minutes to schools after lunch

Day 3 – 08th July 2017 and Day 4 – 09th July 2017

- No changes to the program

With all the above changes received, noted and agreed by the 42nd Annual Convocation, full agenda for the 4 days conferencing, 06th - 09th July 2017 was officially adopted by consensus without any objections. The meeting was urged to keep to the allocated times

5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

<p><u>Resolutions Committee</u></p> <p>Ms. Ayanda Mjali – Convenor Rev Motsewatile Morokane Ms. Nobonke Solomons Mr. Mandla Gwambe</p>	<p><u>Listening Committee</u></p> <p>Ms. Zodwa Fanele - Convenor Rev S. Madwe Ms. Mamzola Moremi Mr. Xolani Tutu</p>	<p><u>Scrutineers</u></p> <p>Ms. Sidumisile Silangwe Ms. Nosiphiwo Mhlauli Ms. Thuli Nkomonde</p>
<p><u>Precentors</u></p> <p>Mr. Xolani Jim Ms. Nozibele Mbangula Ms. Luli Maleke Ms. Nomajama Bhenya Mr. Xolile Msizi Ms. Nokwethemba Mseleku</p>	<p><u>Chaplaincy</u></p> <p>Rev Ngwane Mr. Mokete Mahabane Ms. Nonkululeko Masa Rev Kobue</p>	<p><u>Protocol</u></p> <p>Ms. Boniwe Moleshe Ms. Maureen Nkonyana Ms. Ria Mabandla</p>
<p><u>Letter Writers</u></p> <p>Ms. Nokuzola Mbangula Ms. Papama Mfihlo Ms. Sidumisile Silangwe</p>	<p><u>Time Keeper</u></p> <p>Mr. Unathi Madlingozi</p>	

6. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the 41st BMC Annual Convocation were accepted as read, disseminated on email and in hard copies for members without email access in February 2017. The minutes were confirmed by consensus as a true reflection of the 41st Annual Convocation held on the 14th – 17th July 2016 at the University of KZN – Edgewood Campus Pinetown in the Natal Coastal District

7. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

7.1. Establishment of a BMC's Legal Review Commission

Accepting that the core business of the Black Methodist Consultation, in broad terms is that of being a catalyst and an enabler for the Methodist Church of Southern Africa to be more effective in her life and witness through, amongst other things, providing a broad

platform for engagement, empowerment of Black Methodists, and for the movement to be a strategic centre influencing the life and content the institutional church.

Acknowledging that the life and content of the institutional church is directed through her polity.

Accepting that regulations in their very nature are not static and that the various structures of the church from time to time propose amendments and or new additions.

Noting that there are or can be regulations and or amendments whose genesis cannot be traced.

And also noting that sometimes amendments or additions are either reactionary, or implication not properly thought through.

- a. The Black Methodist Consultation resolves to establish a Legal Review Commission whose main role will be to;
 - I. Review existing legislation and policies and recommend to the movement for further processing,
 - II. Proactively develop new legislation and or policies for the movement to influence the broader church,
 - III. Recommend to the movement appropriate responses to proposed new regulations or policies as well as amendments.

- b. The Black Methodist Consultation further resolves that such a Legal Review Commission be comprised of 5 persons of which 3 are lay and 2 clergy, of the 5, majority must have an experience in the interpretation and application of the MCSA's polity through serving and or participation in relevant structures like the Arbitration Panel, District or Connexional Disciplinary Committee. At least one of the lay people be a legal practitioner and at least one of the clergy be a dogmatics scholar.

- c. The Black Methodist Consultation also resolves that the term of office per member for serving in the Legal Review Commission be 3years which may be renewed once.

PROPOSED BY: Mteteli Caba

SECONDED BY: Mandla Gwambe

RESPONSE: AGREED

PROCESSED [to merge with current BMC Revisions, nominated > Mr. MK. Caba; Mr. M. Gwambe; Mr. M. Sowazi; Rev. Zola Zide and powers to coopt X1 Minister, preferred dogmatic scholar]

7.2. Unearthing and developing Leaders of Tomorrow for Church and Society.

Noting the rapidly depleting levels of critical thinking, robust debate and quality leadership in the life of the church and the society in general. Acknowledging the role of the church as the leader and feeder of society. And further acknowledging the role of the Black Methodist Consultation in enabling the church to effectively play her role.

The Black Methodist Consultation resolves to mobilise other structures particularly within the church, like the MYU, MU, Manyanos, etc, to establish a leadership academy to cater for the training and developing of young people, particularly targeting ages between 15 and 25 in order to groom, nurture, and develop them into a new cohort of qualitative, better and effective leadership of the church and society for a much better future.

PROPOSED BY: Mteteli Caba

SECONDED BY: Lindeni Madlala

RESPONSE: WITHDRAWN – IN RESPECT OF THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

7.3. Review of the BMC's Bursary Fund.

Affirming the Black Methodist Consultation's long standing commitment to the academic development of the Black Clergy of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.

Acknowledging that the movement has not always been able to measure if she and or the Church receive clear returns on investment in this regard. And noting that more often than not, the beneficiaries of this funding either do not account to the movement or soon leave after benefiting from her investments.

The Black Methodist Consultation resolves to review and restructure the Bursary Fund such that it does either or all of the following;

- Exclusively finance Masters or PhD Studies on research topics either developed by the BMC or with the prospective recipient, and such topics be part of the agenda topics in the conferences of either the movement or the church or both with a view to ensure that such studying directly enriches the movement and or the church during and post;

- Establish a BMC Scholarship Fund that promotes excellence at and with the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary;
- Contribute towards, and in the establishment of a consolidated MCSA Bursary Fund.

MOVED BY: Mteteli Caba

SECONDED BY: Lindeni Madlala

RESPONSE: REJECTED – OWING TO STANDING BURSARY POLICY PRESCRIPTS; POLICY REVISIONS TO BE DIRECTED TO THE BURSARY COMMITTEE

7.4. Violence on Women

Affirming that issues of gender are raised every time the BMC meets for its annual convocation
 Acknowledging that issues of gender are just a talk show; And noting that there is nothing tangible that is happening with regards to gender issues. The Black Methodist Consultation resolves to: *“Make BMC presence in a shelter”*

PROPOSED BY: Lulu Luti

SECONDED BY: Mandla Gwambe

RESPONSE: AGREED

PROCESSED – Grahamstown District given the task of visiting a shelter to make BMC presence felt. Holy Communion, ‘Poor Fund’ Collected on the 06th July 2017 to be used towards meeting the needs at the shelter. The district required to provide feedback report to the Connexional Executive and the Gender Equity Task Team.

8. LETTERS TO BE WRITTEN

- **Condolences Letter**
 - Rev L. Sigaba’s Family
- **Congratulatory Letters**
 - **Bishops Nominated by Synods i.e. Rev(s)**
 - J. Freemantle,
 - L. Mandindi,
 - M. Setshedi and
 - S. Mokgothu

“After Conference once appointed”

- **Youth Leadership**
 - Rev S. Mthembu – Coordinator Elect MYU
 - Rev J. Zihle for being appointed a Chairman of the London District
- **Women's Manyano**
 - Mrs G. Makhwenkwe – GP Elect WM
- **LPA Leadership**
 - Mr M. Hlatshwayo – GP Elect LPA
 - Rev T.P Sikotoyi – Outgoing GP LPA

9. CHAIRPERSONS ADDRESS – REV MW. MOLO *[Hard copies distributed per district]*

- SACC 2ND Term Presidency congratulations to PB – MCSA, Z. Siwa;
- Newly nominated MCSA District Bishops and re-elected Bishops for reappointment also congratulated;
- Assured of God's presence by the determination and commitment of BMC members against all odds;
- 100 years since the birth of O.R. Tambo, his servant leadership for freedom; Steve Bantu Biko as torch bearers of hope;
- 2001 MCSA Conference and visit to the house of struggle stalwart Mr. Govan Mbeki and his views on freedom (proclaiming freedom is good) and what it enables in a country and families;
- Port Elizabeth as the area of former MCSA President JC. Mvusi, his influence and leadership commended at trying times;
- Reflections made on the leadership and challenges of Swaziland, Lesotho, Mozambique, Botswana; Namibia and the need to reimagine and pray for renewal amidst their struggles
- Increasing unsafety and violence against Women, Children, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex and Allies [LGBTQQIA] increasing violence; often leading to death; Albinism and attacks for 'Muthi' using their body parts
- Increasing inequity where some of the listed JSE company CEO's earn up to 500 times more than their employees, in some instances earning R69,000 per day;
- BMC needs the deep faith that transcends the difficult of the moment, walking with God who creates a way in the Red Sea; enabling those who believe to confront realities with faith;

- Theme is a call to reimagine, commitment to renewal with God who loves justice, essence of God as love and God of justice;
- The teacher as the extender of the uncomfortable truth, by asking the question “who is your neighbor?”;
- Standing in the gap;
- Victimhood has no nationality;
- The priest as representative of the ‘Temple’; obsessed with rules, coldness and self-protection;
- The challenge to rediscover humanity by confronting the wounded
- **Call and charge to the BMC:**
 - Need for the theology of Public Service; Citizenship; Baptism etc;
 - Permanent state of self-examination (BMC and the MCSA);
 - Economy of the Church and the beneficiaries (inclusive of the Manyano’s and or Black Organisations);
 - Need to better understand ‘the book of order’ for improved leadership;
 - Importance of Christian Education and Christian formation;
 - Re-imagine Mission within the MCSA; e.g. Convocations of Health Professionals for mission.

10. ORGANISATIONAL REPORT – GENERAL SECRETARY, TX MHLUBULWANA [Hard copies distributed per district]

The General Secretary gave us a reflective report on the state of the movement alluding to the commitment of the BMC in developing relationships with the MCO, in the same breath, the BMC should develop relations with other church organisations however, to be cautious that these relations are not “Envelope Relationships” but be based on sharing content and skills through capacity building.

The call to the BMC in 2017 was to “to imagine again or anew; especially ... *to form a new conception of the BMC and the MCSA*, new conception of a society of love and justice; to re-create - what it meant to be ...

- a Christian Leader;
- an ethical leader with integrity,
- fairness,
- equitableness,
- impartiality,

- lack of bias,
- objectivity, disinterestedness,
- lack of prejudice,
- open-mindedness,
- non-partisanship; honour,
- uprightness,
- decency,
- honesty,
- righteousness, morality, principle, right-mindedness, trustworthiness, incorruptibility

To form new images and sensations that are not perceived through the five physical senses; remarked the General Secretary.

Quoting in the text that informs the theme, he said, “and who is my neighbour?”

The person asking the question took no notice of God, and love to him, as coming into the account of his justification, only of his neighbour; thinking when this question was answered, he should be very able to make it out, that he was not wanting neither in doing justice between himself and his neighbour, nor in showing kindness and beneficence to him; *for by his neighbour he meant only an Israelite; one of the same nation and religion with him.*

So the Jews commonly interpret the word neighbour, either of one that is related to them in nature, that is, near akin to them in blood ; or that professes the same religion as they do, and whom they call a neighbour in the law; and so they explain the passage now cited, "and thou shall love thy neighbour as thyself"; "that is, who is thy neighbour in the law" : for they will not allow a Gentile, no, not even a proselyte of the gate to be a neighbour: for thus they say ,

General Secretary present BMC Organisational Report for the period July 2016 until June 2017. ***The missing link, Circular 011-17/10/2016***, captured in a three (3) page executive summary, the melting of the diagnosis and observations over the past three (3) years and further provided guidance and begun to shed the light on the turnaround strategy by declaring, ***that the connexional executive had dedicated 2016/17 year to the missing link, that’s was mean to strengthen the discipline of execution; by enlarge focusing at districts functionality.*** This is the context upon which travelling expenses incurred by the connexional executive for the year that was under review were to be seen, details on those figures were contained in the financial statements year end 31 May 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ORGANISATIONAL REPORT

- **That** the BMC Organisational Report for the period July 2016 until June 2017, **be noted;**
- **That** the change in the conveners Think Tanks affecting – BMC Ministerial Formation (EMMU) – now - Rev M. Seekoei and BMC – Revisions now - Rev Sva Waqu, **be noted;**
- **That BMC THINK TANKS** Conveners you were given powers to coopt full committees to a maximum 4/5people (as far as possible, please reflect gender balance as far as possible, priesthood of all believers, not only clergy or laity but balance as well as diversity culturally and or ethnically); **be noted**
- **That** BMC must refocus intently on, CAPACITY BUILDING AND EMPOWERMENT, in order to close skills capacity within the BMC itself > The campaign should perhaps be called “BMC # HOW TO”!; as a delivery vehicle for the KRA, ‘Capacity Building and Empowerment’ it’s a hash-tag generation after all; **be supported**
- **That** the Reservations – noting that 2017 has Triennial Conventions e.g. WM; LPA and currently CYC; further noting finances used in the hosting of church events without any beneficence for mission and or disadvantaged of the community; same families expected to register at amounts as high as R4,500 same 2017 year perhaps a consideration should be given to host Leadership Summit in Years where there are not more than one triennial convention connexionally at worst and at best nil triennial convention. Economically same families are subjected to these registrations needs to be considered fairly and justly; **be reconsidered;**
- **That** successful archiving project of available BMC Historic materials, **be noted;**
- **That** the revival of District Clusters, **be approved**

11. REFLECTIONS & CONVERSATIONS - CHAIRPERSON’S ADDRESS AND ORGANISATIONAL REPORT

CHAIREPRSON’S ADDRESS	ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations to be directed to the committee that looks at DEWCOM in the BMC to process the work – AGREED • Recommendations on Structures to be directed to the committee that looks at 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Think Tank Conveners to balance Gender Equity, Priesthood of all Believers and cultural diversity in co-opting their teams. The Conveners to send the names to the Secretariat to evaluate if the balance has been met

<p>Structure in the BMC to process the work – AGREED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of platform – MCSA Indaba to identify social ills/injustices and how the church can respond to these • Optimal utilization of Church Land as an income generating mechanism– Different Property Committees to engage on the matter to do long term initiatives including incoming generating ones • The MCSA needs to be in permanent state of self-evaluation - To be taken up in conversation with broader Church Leadership AGREED • Education – the crisis in education and how the Church can positively respond to this – a District that can pilot this kind of work • Christian Education – The Education Desk to look at relevance of Church curriculum for today’s context – identify people that can partner with the Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revive Clusters – KRA’s allocation with Districts with Conveners rotating in the clusters • Focus on Capacity Building – The BMC to partner with other organizations and ensure they develop 2nd layer leadership through intentional set-up of shadowing, allocation of resources and empowerment. An Annual Leadership Conference with other organizations is planned for 2018 • The Secretariat to design tools with District Secretariat that will facilitate knowledge of things
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The meeting agreed to elect a team to reflect so as to contribute to the churches reflection of “being a one and undivided church”, in relation to the dynamics in the church, to be presented at the February 2018 BMC Extended Connexional General Executives. Nominated were: - Rev. Nkwana Merika - “Convener”; Ms. Ntombi Mconywa; Mr. Xolani Tutu; Rev. Nomsa Nomqolo.

12. MEMORIAL SERVICE

The service was led by Rev C. Komani of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. It was opened by singing hymn 258 Xhosa and Rev T, Mantoma led with prayer. The scripture reading was taken from 2nd Samuel 18:1-3

Key Message

In memory of those who have stand with us and before us. There are three things that are prominent of the characters in the scripture

- Devoted.
- Dutiful
- Dependable

The Kushite ran with the message from the Commander of the army to the king. Though there were those who ran ahead of him, he continued to run and never stopped because he was **devoted**. When any person is devoted nothing can discourage him/her even when people up-run you. The Kushite had a duty to undertake the course and he kept running because he was **dutiful** and **dependable** as it was his message the king wanted to hear.

The 42nd BMC Annual Convocation was challenged to keep on running and not stop because we have a message and those who run ahead of us to deliver the message will be told to step aside. The ones we are celebrating today were our forerunners and they depend on us to run with the message even if we get tired we must remember them and continue running even if the going gets tough.

The following heroes and heroines were remembered:

Natal Coastal	Natal West	KN&B	Limpopo	Central
Victor Ngcobo Rev L. Sigaba	Busisiwe Mbili	Noluthando Kgomo	Thandiwe Nkosi Erias Ginindza	Rev S. Pelesane

13. BIBLE STUDY - REV PROF A. BOESAK

The Rev Prof A. Boesak led inspirational Bible Studies on both the mornings of the 07th and 08th July 2017.

Introduction

1.1 The Question Jesus posed

- The question that arises of the story that Jesus tells is not “who is *my* neighbor but who is *the* neighbor”
- The difference is that “my neighbor” emphasis is on what can I do or how can I respond. Yet the question is not about us but about the other, the one fallen upon by robbers, the one bitten up in the middle of the street and the one bleeding
- The question is about how do we respond to the one who is in pain and the one who is suffering

1.2 The question is not about charity

- More often than not the story is told so that we can touch somebody’s heart by doing some good deed
- The story is told to see what is it that we can gain
- The question is not about charity but about solidarity, courage and a love strong enough to intervene in difficult situations

1.3 The question challenges us to reflect on the following

- The injustices in our society
- Who benefits from such injustices
- **Challenge** - What do you do when you come and the act of robbing is still happening?
- Do you show the willingness to receive the wounds that the man received?

Bible Study – 07 th July 2017	Bible Study – 08 th July 2017
<p>SUB-Theme: <i>“Be the Church that asks the right, life-giving and challenging questions”</i></p> <p>Reading: Acts 1:6 & Acts 2:12; 37</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The context of the scriptures – it was not a good time for Christians to speak the truth. There was a lot of confusion as to who to serve – Caesar or Jesus • The question asked – Acts 1:6 “Lord is this the time when you free Israel and restore the kingdom”, was a wrong question yet the right one if the answer is not what is wanted but needed • They asked the question thinking about the revival of Israel’s kingdom • Jesus’ response, “The Father set those dates and are not for you to know. But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power • As per Isaiah 11:6 – “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...”. This word is powerful • The power of this word will be challenged for there will be no free reign for evil forces, the mighty will fall, the broken hearted will be healed and lives will be transformed. The world will be a different place • This is a word of Liberation not just for Israel but for all God’s children for our God is not an exclusive God who is for a person’s desire but God of all who suffer in pain, in need, broken, 	<p>SUB-Theme: <i>“Be the Church that listens to the direct questions”</i></p> <p>Reading: Genesis 26:1-6; 26-32</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abraham’s life was characterised by movement and Isaac – the long awaited son’s life was stuck and not going anywhere • Isaac was an ordinary son of an extra-ordinary man and had to the best he could in life however what God has given Isaac was sufficient for the task he was called to do • Abraham’s and Isaac calling were the same , the difference is that Abraham was called to leave his father’s house, his land and his people and Isaac was called to stay • Don’t go to Egypt – this is an instruction given to Isaac – Egypt might be a land of wealth and plenty but later it will become a land of slavery • Isaac was told to stay here (land of Gerar), to face the challenges, setbacks and disappointments because “here” is where the promise that God gave Abraham must be fulfilled • As if God is talking to the church, we had a promise of freedom but we have lost it and gave it away – the Church needs to take this promise back • We were challenged to stay in our calling, ministry even if we feel like aliens in our country and strangers in our own church

<p>wounded, rejected bleeding and those who are looked down upon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This message tells us that God crosses borders – He is everywhere for all those that are in need of mercy and grace and all those who call on Him • This question was raised because they (Jews) wanted God for themselves • This was a wrong question which came to a wrong conclusion • The Church/society has to ask the right question and understand what Jesus is saying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't go to Egypt, stay here – Isaac stayed despite hardships , challenges, trials and tribulations • A question was posed to the 42nd BMC Convocation – Are you staying or are you going? We need to listen to this direct question • We were challenged to stay because if we stay – the hungry will be fed, the sick will be healed, the dignity will be restored, the country will be saved and the world will be turned around
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14. RE-TABLING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was re-tabled for Day 2 as follows:

- Minutes of the previous Meeting
- Financial Report
- 40th Journey towards Publication
- Report of the Bursary Team
- Black History SMMS – 45 minutes before lunch will not happen but the briefing will be done after lunch and thereafter
- Schools
- EBF

15. FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET

Presented by **Ms Buhle A. Sigabi** audited Annual Financial Statements for the period 1 June 2016 to 31 May 2017 year end. Presented financial statements were part of the conference package; every member received a hard copy. Statement adopted by the 42nd Annual Convocation.

The Treasurer presented the budget for the year 2017 – 2018. The budget was adopted by the meeting

16. FINANCIAL POLICY

As per the recommendations of the 41st BMC Convocation held in Natal Coastal District to revise the Financial Management Policy - A draft financial guide was also tabled by the Treasurer – this policy will assist the movement in ensuring that financial matters are dealt with diligently.

Districts were encouraged to get a copy of the draft.

17. 40TH JOURNEY TOWARDS PUBLICATION

This project is underway. The movement has been in engagement with contributors and editors for the publication. Peer review mechanism suggested by the editors.

18. KEYNOTE SPEAKER - DR. BONGANI FINCA (SEE APOLOGIES)

Black Methodist Consultation

Reimagining a Society of Love & Justice

- The Revd Dr Bongani B Finca -

(Speaking Notes – Not sequenced and unedited)

Thank the Conference for the privilege of standing here - honoured and intimidated at the same time. Quick to say Yes - think later whether one is equal to the task / assignment.

1. Acknowledge the sterling contribution of the BMC :
 - Producing for the Ecumenical Movement over so many decades leaders of substance
 - Providing a platform for a comprehensive and meticulous analysis and diagnosis of the State of the Nation as it unfolded at various times and in various stages. Discerning the signs of the times and the seasons.
 - Sharpening the consciousness of the Church to the calling and mission of Jesus Christ - to be that space where prejudices are confronted and sin is rebuked.
2. Exploration of the Context within which I intend to perform this “task of **“reimagining”**”.

- Globally : the celebration/reflection on 500 years of the Protestant Reformation of 1517. The 5 “solas” : Sola Fide, Sola Christus, Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia, Sola Dei Gloria - culminating in a question of whether the Church has continued to be reformed in the past 500 years. The stagnation of the reformation agenda.
 - Nationally : finding an answer to the question of where our country is today - locating ourselves in a land that is between two lands - at a time that is in-between times.
 - Church - the commodification of the Christian message of redemption - proliferation of the so-called Christian Church in every street corner - dubious message that results in spraying of God’s people with doom, eating snakes, herald of prosperity gospel etc.
3. Reimagining the Missional calling of the Church of Jesus Christ - the God that is calling his entire creation back to himself - to be reconciled in him. Mission as the activity of God to which the Church is invited to participate. God who is ahead of the Church, leading the Church, calling or inviting the Church to be where he is.

A story of the boy that lost the coin outside the room - but searching for it inside the room - because it is cold, dark, and miserable out there.

4. The redemption of the entire cosmos - far broader than building bigger churches and writing up more proselytes membership cards. Juxtapose the making of disciples of all nations - and the building of the Kingdom of God. A place where love and justice embrace.
5. Reimagining God - God is love and when we live in love we live in him. “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your HEART.” Potent transformative power of love - in a world that lives only for power and accumulation.

Why is our country in a state in which it is in - dog eat dog mentality - conflict and strife in every facet of it.

6. Why are organizations such as BMC perceived and so-called “trouble makers” ? Struggle against oppression has been the focal agenda. When black people agitate against oppression, injustice and absence of genuine love.
- Reimagining the practical meaning of love - costly love, costly reconciliation, costly discipleship.

- Salvation it is free, but discipleship costs everything.

“The Church looks best when it bleeds”.

7. Racism in the Church and in society is an unfinished agenda. What is racism and who are racists ? For as long as white supremacy is with us. The black leadership that is dedicated to uplift, to reach out, to reach back to uplift their own who continue to languish in oppression.

Reimagining that BMC that was shaped by the eschatological hope – that we cannot pitch our tents here because we have not yet arrived - the vision of a world that is shaped by the Kingdom values. How will South Africa look like when it is right.

8. The dream on integrated circuits - a journey from Jericho : a city of confusion to Jerusalem : a city of peace. Those who pass by on the other side.
9. Pause to celebrate what is happening in the episode of the SACC resurrection - remember the time when the Church stirred up trouble. Simplicity of the message “love your neighbour as you love yourself.” Dry bones coming together in the valley. Methodists, of all people have taught us important lessons in the Covenant Service - “in others we can please God and please ourselves ... but in others we cannot please God unless we deny ourselves.”
10. Reimagining the ministry of pouring oil on the wounds of this nation. But mindful of the warning of the Prophet Jeremiah of treating the wounds of God’s people cheaply - crying Peace where there is no peace.
11. The leadership qualities required for a time such as this ?
- Servant Leaders
 - Integrity in Leadership
 - Leaders that are able to leave office gladly because they have groomed another layer of leadership equally competent to lead.
 - A leader that is himself or herself led
12. Close with going back to the contribution that we saw BMC making during the crises of the past. Invite an honest appraisal of the crises of the present and reimagining BMC at a time such as this.

19. BURSARY COMMITTEE REPORT

In the year 2016, 3 people were approved for the Bursary as follows:

- a. Rev L. Mantini - 2 Year course
- b. Rev M. Nkwane - Completed and successfully in 2016
- c. Rev L. Quluba - 2 Year Course

At the end of 2016

- a. Rev S. Gaarekwe - As per financial statement for studying in the TMLI (Thabo Mbeki Learning Institute)

The meeting was informed that no new applications were received for the year 2017

Reports

- Results are awaited from the Ministers with 2 Year Courses – Districts to assist the Ministers both with registration and reports
- Forms for the bursary are obtainable from the General Secretary – all required documents to be attached to the form
- Letters are expected from the District Secretary confirming the Registration

Issues Raised

- The Bursary is used for the benefit of the church
- Internal controls must be followed accordingly
- The Bursary Task Team to be maintained as is
- The meeting was reminded that the Bursary's core values are ***Excellence and Intellectual***

Process

- The Guidelines to Bursary are:
 - o Eligibility and

- Documentation
- Beneficiaries need to be supporting the work of the BMC
- Funding of NQF Accredited Programs is open to any line of study as long as the person is a Minister in the MCSA
- The meeting was also reminded on: Policy on Non-Complying Recipients
- If it is a 2 Year Course, results for 1st year to be submitted before funding the 2nd year
- Re-application is recommended for 2nd year only if 1st year results have been successfully received
- Accountability – we need to justify wasteful and fruitless expenditure

20. SYNODS DISCERNMENT

CONFERENCE 1958, ONE & UNDIVIDED METHODIST CHURCH

The MCSA will be celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the 1958 Conference Statement – One and Undivided Church. **The movement mandated Rev M. Nkwane to convene a team to lead the reflections**

21. BLACK THOUGHT, AFRICAN HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY RESEARCH CENTRE PROJECT

This project is underway. Information gathered through the activities of the centre will be archived at SMMS however the BMC should also resource the library on African thought and African studies, thinking beyond theology. The establishment of this centre is seen as a creative vehicle to promote African thought and African studies. The committee needs to re-strategize and further engage SMMS Leadership. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreement to be drafted to guide the relationship between the movement and SMMS

22. SCHOOLS

The BMC, in its quest to be an educational movement that always seeks to empower the people

SUBJECTS-MODULES	FACILITATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctrine, Ethics & Worship • Structures of the MCSA • Trust & Property in the MCSA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev N. Nomqolo & Co • Rev M. Bosman & Co • Mr Ricky Ngwenya

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerial Formation/EMMU • Public Life and Leadership: the development of culture of integrity and ethical leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev M. Seekoei & Co • Mr Joe Mavuso
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23. ERNEST BAARTMAN FUND (EBF)

MS NOMBASA MALUSI & MR VALENTINE SENKHANE

DISTRICTS	2017 (R)	2016 (R)	2015 (R)
Umkhuzemzelo	R 645.00	1,977.00	1,567.00
Executive	R 1 040.00	-	-
Highveld and Swaziland	3,060.00	7,571.00	22,740.00
Grahamstown	3,180.00	24,777.30	27,609.50
Cape of Good Hope	3,930.00	8,210.00	4,796.00
Queenstown	7,126.00	14,130.00	19,726.00
Natal West	8,273.00	6,445.00	5,778.50
Northern Free State & Lesotho	11,000.00	8,556.00	7,834.00
Natal Coastal	14,461.00	12,703.40	14,755.00
Clarkebury	15,260.00	20,975.00	25,005.00
Kimberly, Namibia & Bloemfontein	21,750.00	12,020.50	12,850.00
Limpopo	42,990.00	18,796.00	30,129.00
Central	61,170.00	53,200.00	51,460.00
TOTAL	193.876.00	189.361.20	224. 293.00

- **EBF for 2016 = 189,361.20 – 16% lower than 2015**

- **EBF for 2017 – 2.32% higher than 2016**

24. EXTRA CLASSES & CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS

Skills building workshop were conducted on various topics affecting the MCSA and the BMC.

The topics ranged from

Area	Topic	Facilitator
BMC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMC strategy, tactics and relevance targeting first timers in the BMC as an orientation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev M. Molo
MCSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCSA Financial Management • Circuit Stewardship • Understanding Ministries within the MCSA and EMMU essential requirements to date • Classes/Small/Cell Groups • Igniting Mission & Breaking Barriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Lindeni Madlala • Dr Chris Dali & Mr M. Sithole • Rev M. Seekoei & Co • Rev M. Caba • Rev S. Motlhodi & Ms Thuli Nkomonde
WORSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liturgy Design in Context & The Preaching Basics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev Dr Sox Leleki
GENERAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict Management • The craft to resolutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Mdu Dlamini • Mr Mteteli Caba

DAY 3, 08TH JULY 2017

25. **BIBLE STUDY SESSION 2** [see summary day 2 – ITEM 1]

26. **RESOLUTIONS** [see minutes ITEM 7 under the notices of motion]

27. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUITY

Names received for a pool of BMC – Connexional Chairperson and collective leadership, 2019 elections per 2015 resolutions were shared. The committee mandated to receive more names and provide clarity in 2018.

The consultation was encouraged that a meeting be facilitated for all Black women to have a conversation on gender related issues in 2018 either in May/June Or 11th July 2018 (day before the consultation)

28. BLACK HISTORY PROJECT – PUBLIC LECTURE IN HONOUR OF REV J.C MVUSI – MR MKHUSELI JACK

The ever-vibrant Mr Mkhusele Jack presented the lecture honouring the life of Rev J.C Mvusi. He highlighted that “uGudlunxweme”, as he was affectionately known was the epitome of excellence and not an admirer of mediocre. He was a champion of socio-economic change, who did not tolerate the oppression of his people. He challenged the BMC that now more than ever; the church is called to stand up for the world and the country. We as the BMC ought to fight for justice. *{FULL PAPER TO BE SHARED ELECTRONICALLY}*

29. RESEARCH PROGRESS – FOOT OF STATION

The team tasked to look at issues related to black ministers on the foot of station. Gave an insightful report through its findings and was requested to continue with the project to do further research.

30. QUEST FOR BLACK UNITY

The task team presented thoughts on Black Unity, without considering the 2016 July adopted recommendations towards a programme of action. The Consultation mandated the team to continue with the work and come up with a programme for implementation.

31. BMC IN CONVERSATION ON ITS WORK - In Summary for Continuity

SUBJECT – MANDATE	DRIVERS/IMPLEMENTERS /TECHNICAL WORKING TEAMS	STATUS/PROGRESS
<p>RESEARCH TEAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only Black Ministers are on the foot of the station • Many circuits in the black churches are closing stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Chris Dali (Convener) • Rev Mntungwa Caba • Ms Noqobo Bongoza 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Proposal done, • Concept Paper was presented at the FEB 2016 Meeting • Progress tabled Jul 2017 • Further research to be conducted
<p>QUEST & SEARCH FOR BLACK UNITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evident ethnic tensions within the black family of the church and its consequent impact in the transformation of the church • BMC makes Black Unity for the broader transformation of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa one of central programs going forward by: • Creating a platform for open debate in its ranks about this question, looking at the underlying triggers and fears, managing and embracing the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev Sydney Sotu (Convener) • Mr Takalani Ramabulana • Ms Thuli Nkomonde • Rev Ayanda Nyobole • Ms Lolly Malele <p>Note: Black Unity Desk becomes Black Unity Task Team</p> <p>Extended Mandate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbying SMMS for the establishment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference, Concept was presented by the Team at the FEB 2016 Meeting • Facilitated open dialogue on Black Unity – Tribalism, was held on the 09th July 2016 at Calvary Methodist Church • Progress tabled Jul 2017 • To come up with implementation programs

<p>diversity. These platforms to take the form of lectures, schools and planetary discussions on the subject</p>	<p>of Academic Research Chair and naming thereof – dedicated to the research, study and interpretation of Black thought and African History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbying SMMS to offer Black theology as a Subject even if its optional 	
<p>SUBJECT – MANDATE</p>	<p>DRIVERS/IMPLEMENTERS /TECHNICAL WORKING TEAMS</p>	<p>STATUS/PROGRESS</p>
<p>EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The failure of the MCSA and the BMC in acknowledging the gift of women and the failure to demonstrate our commitment to women leadership’ • A deliberate transformative action to promote gender equality by embarking on the following steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appoint a search committee that will find two or three women who would be presented as nominees for the position of BMC Connexional Chairperson for election in 2019 July for the term of office starting 2020/7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Lulama Luti (Convener) • Mr Mteteli K Caba • Ms Noloyiso Mhlubulwana • Ms Kholiswa Makalima • Mr Bathembu Lugulwana <p>Given Powers to co-opt....</p> <p><u>Extended Mandate</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To serve as Gender Task Team (Not Desk) as moved by the Gender Equity School On 10 July 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference as well as full descriptive action plans with mandate for both Districts and Connexion was presented and accepted July 2016 • The committee mandated to continue standing as a task team to drive deliverables per action plan • <i>Progress Report Jul 2017</i> • <i>A meeting be facilitated for all Black women to have a conversation on gender related issues</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AN ESTABLISHMENT OF 		

<p>I. An Academic Chair and or II. Academic Research Centre /Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated to the research, study and interpretation of Black Thought and African History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev Sidwell R Mokgothu (Convenor) <p>Note: Mandated to co-opt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete Proposals presented in Jul 2016, that's action plans to be delivered by the Task Team • <i>Progress Report Jul 2017</i> • <i>The committee to re-strategize and further engage SMMS Leadership.</i> • <i>A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreement to be drafted to guide the relationship between the movement and SMMS</i>
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32. EPILOGUE

Ms T. Dlawu - was meant to lead the devotions, cancelled 'for reception opening prayer'

33. RECEPTION AND AWARDS

33.1 SETH MOKITIMI AWARD

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

- a. Ms Boitumelo Marumo – KN&B District
- b. Ms Tembisa Zihlangu - Clarkebury District

33.2 DAPHNE TASHE MEMORIAL

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

— ***NIL NOMINATIONS***

33.3 AMOS GADI SHIELD

To Districts with more recruitment, committed and sustained membership

— Natal Coastal District

33.4 ERNEST BAARTMAN FUND CHAMPIONS AWARDS

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

— Central District

**34. DIVINE SERVICE – JC MVUSI METHODIST CHURCH
REV PROF A. BOESAK**

“Love thy neighbour: reimagining a society of love and justice”...and who is my neighbour?“ Luke 10: 25-37

The message of the service was based on Matthew 5 and 7

He alluded that we need to be affected by the pain and suffering of fellow human beings. As we deal with the pain and suffering of others God will deal with us and show us mercy. He challenged us with regards to the theme of the 2017 convocation to be like the wise man who not only hears the word but puts it into practice

He further challenged our conscience and faith asking us :

- Where are our wounds?
- Was there nothing (worth) to fight for?

God is moved by injustices and stands with the marginalised and is wounded when there is injustice and people's dignity is trampled upon. Because humanity is made in the likeness of God.
