The Mission Statement

Mission
“God calls the Methodist people to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ for healing & transformation”

Vision
“A Christ-healed Africa for the healing of nations”

Our 5 Imperatives of Mission

Spirituality
Development & Economic Empowerment
Evangelism 
Christian Education
Justice, Service & Reconciliation

Our Continuing Goals Of Transformation Are:

- a deepening spirituality
- a resolve to be guided by God’s mission
- a rediscovery of the priesthood of all believers
- a commitment “to be one so that the world may believe”
- a re-emphasis of servant leadership & discernment as our model for ministry
- a redefinition & authentication of the vocation of the clergy in the Church
- a recommittment to environmental justice
THE CHARTER OF THE MISSION CONGRESS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA IN JOHANNESBURG ON 30 AUGUST 2005

Where there is no vision the people perish.
Where there is no passion the vision dies.

God has given us the vision of
“A Christ healed Africa for the healing of nations.”

As members of the Methodist Family our challenge is to share more deeply God’s passion for healing and transformation. We believe the Holy Spirit is guiding us to continue the pilgrimage which has led us through Obedience 81 and the Journey to the New Land to the present day. We recognise the importance of the local church and rejoice in the many Circuits and Societies where life-giving mission is taking place.

In trust and obedience we commit ourselves anew to the four imperatives for mission in our time:

A deepened Spirituality as individuals and a Christian Community.
Justice and Service in Church and Society.

Evangelism and Church growth which build up the people of God.
Empowerment and Development which give dignity and new purpose to those who have been deprived.

We resolve to take intentional and sustained action to implement these imperatives in such areas as:

The Healing Ministry.
Deepening our understanding of African and other spiritualities.
Co-ordinated programmes for Christian Education, information and communication.
Building meaningful relationships that transcend racism, sexism and all other forms of discrimination.
A vigorous response to the crisis of HIV and AIDS.
Informing our prophetic ministry by research into socio-economic issues.
Identifying land for sustainable livelihood.
Sacrificial giving.
Becoming a church in solidarity with the poor.
Providing training in evangelism.
Training ministers for the African context.
Implementing anti-bias training.
Becoming a more Youth and Child centred Church.

We invite the people of God throughout Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland to join us as we put ourselves at God’s disposal to carry forward God’s mission in this sub-continent.

Let us each renew our personal commitment to Jesus Christ and seek to grow in grace and in love for God, one another and the world.

Let us ensure that our mission of healing and transformation is holistic, embracing all the imperatives for mission.

Let us participate in God’s mission in ways that are appropriate to our local contexts and in partnership with the wider church and community.

Let us celebrate our diversity and the gifts God has given to each of us; support each other, challenge each other and pray for each other.

Finally, we encourage every Circuit to set aside the last Sunday in May each year to celebrate what God is doing among us and to commit ourselves once again to our high calling in Christ.

God bless this Africa which is our home.
Give us grace to follow Jesus the healer,
Jesus the peacemaker,
Jesus the Saviour of the world,
Jesus the Lord of all life.
Restore us and make your face shine on us That we may be saved.
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THE PRESIDING BISHOP’S ADDRESS
TO CONFERENCE 2016

Theme: TOGETHER a transforming discipleship movement
Sub-theme: Igniting Mission - breaking barriers

Greetings
The leadership of the Church and the members of the 127th Conference of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, distinguished guests, my dear mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers in the faith, I greet you warmly in the name of our Triune God - Amen. I extend a word of welcome to all of us who have set this time aside for holy conferencing. We look forward to robust debates, inspiring imagination of the future and a conference soaked in prayer.

Acknowledgements and Introduction:
We meet in the City of Tshwane, the seat of the South African Government. Many of us will remember the songs of old during the dark days of Apartheid: “Siyaya ePitoli” - a yearning for an inclusive, free and peaceful society with justice and dignity for all. The hope was that the excluded majority would, in future, be included in decision-making, thereby shaping a better future for all. Twenty-two years ago, that vision became a reality. “Sifikile ePitoli.”

This year, we meet in Tshwane - the destination of over 20 000 women from all racial and ethnic groups who marched here in 1956, 60 years ago now, demanding the fall of oppressive and discriminatory barricades - chanting: “wathint’ abafazi, wathint’ imbokodo.” Enough was enough! Twenty two years ago, these barriers of legislated separation crumbled. These achievements give us the hope that all barriers will fall in the end. John, on the island of Patmos, was given a glimpse of that final harvest - “a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language before throne.” (Revelation 7:9). John looked and the barriers had fallen.

For now, however, the church of God is called upon to join God in the dismantling and overcoming of barriers, because there are many that still stand. They too will fall, in the final analysis. In all the member countries of the Connexion and the world at large, the people of God must be reconciled to God, to one another and to the God-given resources of our beautiful lands. God is calling us to deliberate on ‘igniting mission and breaking all barriers!’

Botswana, which is part of this hosting District, is celebrating its Golden Jubilee. It was 50 years ago when Botswana ceased to be a British Protectorate on 30 September 1966, the same month and year in which Hendrik Verwoed died. You will recall that
the seat of the Botswana government had just moved from Mahikeng in South Africa to Gaborone in 1965. That is the same year that the Botswana Christian Council was founded. Winds of change were blowing across the African continent at the time. I had the privilege of joining the Botswana Council of Churches in their Golden Jubilee celebrations and listened to moving stories of their journey. I was asked to request Conference to join the people of Botswana in prayer for their land. They face challenges which include high HIV/AIDS prevalence, desertification, inequality and poverty especially in the rural areas, including the looming spectre of some emerging political tensions. As they celebrate their Golden Jubilee, we pray that Botswana continues to grow in justice, peace and dignity for all her people. We wish them well in their celebrations. I ask this Conference to send the Botswana Government and Botswana Council of Churches a message of congratulation assuring them of our prayers.

The drought affecting most of southern Africa has had a devastating impact on many forms of livelihood in the region and far reaching effects on food security, economic growth and unemployment levels. We continue to call on all of us to preserve the sanctity of all creation even as we pray that the forthcoming rainy season will be a good one.

In the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, we celebrate 40 years of the decision made by this Conference to ordain women to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments in the same way as the ordination of men. Let me be quick to say that it is a celebration that marks the awakened consciousness of the church that we are all equal in the eyes of God. Space should be opened for all to exercise their call irrespective of gender. Some have asked that we call this year a ‘year of lamentation’ because of the injustices and prejudices suffered by women over the years. Whilst I acknowledge the need for such lamentation and repentance, we must not miss the opportunity to express our joy in what God has done. The doors were opened, some barriers fell. We must therefore use this opportunity to call for ongoing reflection and action that will remove any remaining barriers.

The barriers of Hebrew slavery fell down on the Passover night and Hebrew slaves left Egypt for the Promised Land. However, on the way they encountered numerous challenges, and even doubted the leadership of Moses, but they never missed any opportunity to remember the night in which God performed the liberation miracle and passed over the houses of the slaves as He shook and broke down the shackles of oppression. We paused this year to remember what God did for us forty years ago. I extend Conference’s appreciation and thanks to all who have heeded the call to celebrate and gone beyond what we asked for in remembering this precious moment in the life of the church to celebrate with our women colleagues. We are not celebrating our successes but what God has done. To God belongs all the Glory!

This is the year that marks 200 years since the arrival of Barnabas Shaw in the Cape and the beginning of Methodist witness in this country which later spread to the
member countries of the Connexion. Therefore this Conference marks the beginning of the celebration of this milestone. Let us acknowledge our past, reflect on the present and imagine the future. The General Secretary’s report will unpack some of the thoughts of the Heritage Committee as we declare the time from now until Conference 2017, the ‘Year of Heritage’. Let us further remember that 2017 also marks 500 years of Reformation. The Ecumenical Affairs Unit will guide us on how we join the Lutheran Communion and the ecumenical movement in marking that occasion and its impact on the life of the church and society.

We meet during the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel, which is being observed from 18-24 September 2016. It is a week of advocacy and action in support of a just peace for all in Israel and Palestine. In 2017, it will be 50 years since the Israeli occupation of Palestine in 1967. The conflict in the Holy Land has been long and continues to this day. The Kairos Palestine movement calls on the world church to intensify its prayers for a just peace. In their invitation they write: “It’s time for Palestinians and Israelis to share a just peace and for the healing of wounded souls.” One has to visit the Palestinian Christians in order to fully grasp the depth of the tragedy. In 2013 we made the call that whoever visits the Holy Land should make an effort to add a day or two to visit the other side. The Kairos Palestine movement has for some years now been extending the invitation to “come and see.” Barriers continue to rise separating people from one another and from life-serving spaces. There are walls, checkpoints, fences, army barricades and violence from both sides that continue to tear people apart. All this has to come to an end. Only just peace can dismantle those barriers.

Gratitude and call for prayers:
I am grateful to the Methodist people who have offered me the space to serve in the highest office and in Wesley’s chair for a further term of office. I do not take that for granted, because I know my weaknesses. The space granted to me by this church to exercise my calling is a special gift that I cannot claim to deserve. To have been asked to serve as Superintendent, Bishop and now Presiding Bishop is indeed the work of God’s grace. I am conscious of the seriousness of that call to serve. It is indeed holy ground that calls me to be on my knees often. I know that the Methodist people have never stopped praying for me, my family and the church. I accept the call with deep humility, trusting in the equipping of God as I acknowledge that I am a work-in-progress and therefore will need lots of prayers, coaching and to be held accountable as I take on the yoke of leadership for my last stretch in active ministry. To borrow Nelson Mandela’s words, with modification, I offer the remaining years of my active service into your hands. I love and have a high regard for this church. This church has through God’s grace made me who and what I am today.

The sub-theme of this Conference: “Igniting mission – breaking barriers.”
Speaking at the morning Worship Service at the World Methodist Conference in
Houston, Texas, on 1 September 2016, Rudy Rasmus told the story of the Good Samaritan and asked the question, “What happens when love crosses the street?” I want to suggest that that mission is love crossing the street. So together with Rasmus, I beg to ask the question: “How do you imagine love crossing the street in your context and locality?” I concluded the 2015 Conference Address by making a call for mission to be informed and shaped by compassionate and unifying justice. We need to reflect deeply and strive to become a society that embraces difference and demonstrates a better reality. Whilst the context is ever changing, there are realities that have remained the same. Perceptions of racial superiority and the pain of the marginalized, continue to haunt us. The church must be at the forefront of the mission drive to transform this reality. Yes, the church has the potential to lead in the mission of transforming realities. Above all God is calling us now to journey together with the God of life throughout the length and breadth of the Connexion as a true transforming discipleship movement. God cares and God has done it and continues to do it. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” (John 1:14). Jesus became the “incarnation” of the love of God, and mission is being the presence of God in word, deed and signs; becoming the “incarnation” of God’s love. Barriers must fall and love must cross the street, igniting the life-changing mission of God.

What mission?
The 2013 World Council of Churches Assembly meeting in Busan, South Korea adopted the Statement on Mission and Evangelism, entitled “Together Towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes.” That statement begins by affirming faith in the Triune God who is acknowledged as “the creator, redeemer and sustainer of all life.” It further reminds us that mission begins in the heart of God and is therefore God’s mission. It is that missionary God who calls and empowers the people into a community of hope. “The church is commissioned to celebrate life and to resist and transform all life destroying forces.” Any denial of life is the rejection of the God of life. The mission of God must reflect the transforming love of God. It must be true to the message of the Gospel. Paul Verghese from India once wrote, “The mission of the church is the greatest enemy of the Gospel.” (Unisa Study Guide: Church and Mission, page 83.) Any congregation that seeks to serve itself is an enemy of the Gospel call “to go and make disciples, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them all that Jesus has commanded”. The Gospel message is to transform realities, change lives, and strive for justice, peace and dignity and to move beyond self.

Mission must translate into the building of genuine relationships in a way that does not dehumanize. Salvation is not only saving from sin, but also being saved for life that God intends us to live. Jean Vanier writes that the most important thing is not to do things to the poor and those in distress, but to enter into relationship, learn from one another and allow the transforming energy to create a true transforming
movement where we discover and unearth each other’s gifts to build a new world. Genuine relationships can only develop and thrive when both sides give and receive. As GA Hood put it, “some parts of the church are clearly being impoverished by feeling unable to give and others by their inability to receive.” (Hood GA, 1972:277). We must ignite a true mission spirit that grows fellow followers of Jesus TOGETHER. We belong together. We are baptised together into one body.

Jesus, the incarnation of God’s love, made residence in the margins. Note that Jesus did not tour the margins but dwelt in the margins of society. A WCC statement notes that mission has been seen as a movement from the centre to the periphery and from the privileged to the marginalized. It calls for the recognition of the people at the margins of society as authentic agents of mission. It is there that mission is affirmed as transformation. God chose the poor, the foolish and the powerless to ignite God’s mission of justice, peace and dignity, “so that life may flourish.” This calls for the negation of the propaganda spread by “market ideology that the global market will save the world.” It is time to seriously engage the paralyzing threat that a serious transformation agenda will drive investments away and make people poor. Who benefits from this ideology anyway? What could be described as God’s mission in the midst of economic and ecological injustice? What barriers need to fall and what is the nature of mission that dismantles those barriers? The church has to be resident among the poor instead of being tourists who sometimes bring some “goodies” as “gifts” for the poor. The poor must not be seen as a burden that waits for the crumbs of our blessings, but as partners and mission agents who can help the world to recover its humanity. The call is meant to awaken us to this reality. The cries of the poor and the marginalized which are sometimes met with resentment, suspicion and even brutal force are actually God’s whispers to wake us up. In most cities and big towns there is what is called “inverse densification” where the peripheries are densifying much faster than the inner suburbs. The scale of our resources or rather the distribution of God-given resources is skewed against this reality. In the church, more clergy are concentrated in single societies, and where there is densification, we are reducing agency. We have a smart excuse that says we must not station ministers in unviable circuits. What kind of mission is this? The global market is defining our mission strategy. Is it possible to demonstrate something different? Yes it is.

The complex mission field
The political, socio-economic and demographic landscape is changing rapidly. Migration and displacements are bringing countries all over the world onto each other’s doorsteps. Yes, there are different reasons for this - some are the harsh conditions created by conflicts and economic realities, but also there are factors of shrinking world space and exploding populations. Instead of a commitment to God’s mission that seeks to transform realities and create conditions that allow God-given life to flourish, some among us dream of running away from what has been
mismanaged politically and economically to some distant horizons where prospects seem better. But reality is proving that challenges will continue to exist and space will continue to shrink. We need each other in order to dig deep into the rich well of diversity. Together, we can be a transforming discipleship movement with a diversity of approaches and gifts which God can use to transform the world. In a conversation with our General Secretary, Rev Charmaine Morgan, a bishop from another conference said that in the context of the changing landscape and changing demographics at our doorsteps, the key is “not assimilation, not separation, but true integration” allowing each other’s stories to enrich us in the context of God’s Story. Authentic Christian witness is not only what we do in mission but how we live out our mission. It is not what we go out and do for others, good as that may seem, but is joining together and allowing God to enable us to see the gift of what God is doing in our diversity. I pray for the planting of new churches that reflect the changing dynamics. #True obedient churches must grow.

God igniting mission - “Missio Dei”
If we believe that mission is the mission of God and not of the church, then we need to spend more time seeking to understand what God is doing in the world and what God’s vision for the world is. I like the analogy of the matches/lighter - the potential is already there, it is a given. Igniting is not creating, but awakening what lies dormant. We are not asked to start or create but to ignite. The flame is already there - given by God. What do we ignite then? I want to further suggest the following:

(1) **Revitalisation of Wesley’s small groups:**
For John Wesley, class meetings were at the heart of the Methodist revival movement. He writes: “Never omit meeting your class or band… These are the very sinews of our society; and whatever weakens, or tends to weaken, our regard for these, or our exactness in attending them, strikes at the very root of our community.” (Watson KM, 2014). Kevin Watson makes a distinction between different types of small groups that exist in the church for different reasons. He argues that in the main there are three approaches to small groups: (a) Affinity Groups which are formed around common passions, interests and even hobbies; (b) Information driven groups which focus on conveying information and learning more about the faith, discussion and mastery of content; (c) He then advocates for transformation driven groups which focus on changed lives. This group is focused more on living than learning. This group focuses on transformation and not information. The guiding question becomes “How have you lived your life during this past week, in loving God and neighbour? How is it with your soul?” Edward Wimberley in a book titled ‘No Shame in Wesley’s Gospel’, speaks of the loss of relational connections and close-knit communities. Wimberley then suggests that the small groups are to “to recover the village/close knit community which was disappearing on account of global realities and dynamics.” He further explores the practical
theology of Wesley’s small groups and how it can contribute to the twenty-first century ministry to people who could be classified as “relational refugees.”

Wimberly speaks of shame as a feeling of being unloved and unlovable and argues that this is the experience of many twenty-first century people because of the loss of relational connections. Painting the dangers of emerging reactions which he calls “cultural narcissism or self-love, the cult of self-admiration which is replacing self-actualization, and equating wealth and social status with being loved”, he suggests that Wesley’s class meetings/small groups can serve as a means of saving grace and spaces for therapeutic interactions. The praxis of the supportive nature of class meetings is needed at a time where “brokenness, isolation and feelings of being unloved, commodification of human life and narcissistic or self-identity yield to shame.” #class meetings are the sinews of revival and transformation.

(2) Sunday Schools as key focus areas:
Statistics show us that in Africa, there is no shortage of children and young people. In fact a UNFPA report states that in 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, half the population is under the age of 18 and overall 62 percent of the population in Africa—more than 600 million young people—is below the age of 25.

We have to be the church that is resident in the space of children and young people instead of opening little spaces for children in our space. It is the children and young people who are able to take us into their space. It has been said that Sunday school is the door to evangelism. We have to imagine how to allow the children to take us where the rest of God’s people are. Reflecting on the statistics that we have, which are far from impressive, I hereby make a call that we revisit our Sunday school ministry/children’s ministry and prioritise it as our focus area as we seek to join God in igniting mission. Let each society do an in-depth audit of their children ministries and also scan the community in which it finds itself, praying that scales fall off our physical and spiritual eyes in order to see where God wants us to be. I have heard many testimonies of people whose formation began at an early age. I am sure there are also many such testimonies that you have heard. As we reflect on these testimonies let us ask ourselves: how many children are left unconnected in each community and are missing this opportunity of the means of grace? #Prioritise children’s ministry everywhere.

On the back of the 21st World AIDS Conference held in Durban in July, statistics released have shown that sub-Saharan Africa continues to carry the heaviest burden of HIV infections with 2000 girls between the ages of 15-24 infected every week in South Africa. This calls for an urgent re-evaluation of our programmes for young people with sexual and reproductive health and rights
education mainstreamed into all youth activities. The church is not immune to the impact of HIV.

Re-focused attention on children will begin in each local church and no local church can do it alone as if it is the only agent in that community. In order for us to do this we need to take statistics seriously. They will help us see how we are doing in the mission field that God has given us. There are agencies out there with the information and expertise to assist us. Let us count the number of children in our Sunday Schools/Children’s ministries against those outside in our communities. This can also apply to the reflection of membership planning for the future. I propose that we do a membership and children’s ministries census in each society, between now and synods in 2017. #Statistics must speak.

(3) Missional imagination:
Desmond Tutu urges us not to lose imagination. He cites CS Lewis in believing that “We were made for another world.” A church united in purpose and prayer is able to imagine a reality which is beyond the logic of the world. When poverty affects millions whilst tons of food is being thrown away; when violence and threats of conflicts abound all around the world; when fear and prejudice tear communities apart - another world is possible. That is the imagination of the people of faith. When divisions abound, an alternative society should be envisaged. The movement of the early followers of Jesus set off in barrier-dismantling ways, forming unthinkable relationships and fellowship. The disciples themselves were drawn from across impossible barriers. The composition of the first disciples of Jesus showed the intention to transcend the tensions of the old community. John Meier points to the startling juxtaposition of “Simon, the Zealot and hater of Roman occupation with Matthew, the tax collector, a lackey (foot soldier) of Rome.” (Meier JP, Matthew, 1980:105). This is the team for whom Jesus prayed for unity. He prayed to God to sanctify them with truth and he prayed also for those who would believe through the message of this team that outwardly looked ill-conceived, that all of them would be one.

In order for the above to be realised, this movement must be soaked in prayer. Prayer is not an obligation but an opportunity to rest in God in order to stay awake to what is true. God’s mission is looking for a church that is a maternity ward for the birthing of a new reality that is beyond the logic of the world. The church at the local level must be in the forefront of leading each and every member to be in active anticipation of that new world being born. We are all created in the image of God. The appreciation of that reality must be evident in the lives of our members and communities.

What a great vision God has given to this church! “A Christ Healed Africa for the Healing of the Nations.” Attempts have been made before in the form
of Obedience 81, Journey to the New Land and the Mission Congress - both past and forthcoming. They all speak to the birth of a new obedient church that follows the transforming spirit of God.

(4) **The vision of Jesus in John 17**
Reflecting on John 17, Michael Cassidy wrote a book entitled, “The Church Jesus prayed for” which planted a seed of missional imagination in me. In John 17, Jesus makes two requests: first He prays that He may be used by the Father for the full and final display of divine love. For that, He offers His own life in sacrifice. He then prays for a new society standing out in marked contrast to the world - a society of believers who belong to God and embrace the fullness of the divine truth. It is a society that reflects the unity of will and purpose that exists in the Trinity. He makes it clear that the disciples are neither to escape from the world nor be immune to the hatred of the world, but they are to reflect the divine love of God in their conduct in the world. It is this reflection of the divine love that must be ONE. That unity of purpose will make the world recognise the divine mission of God. It is possible when the Church has “moments of divine gaze” as Jesus did, focusing on God, communicating with God and allowing God to lend the shining presence of divine love on the church, so that the divine spark of mission may be ignited; so that the mission of God and not of the church may be ignited. AMEN.
THE GENERAL SECRETARY’S REPORT
TO CONFERENCE 2016

Rev Charmaine Morgan

Introduction
In the book *Church Next*, Gibbs and Coffey comment: “The longer a person lives, the more he or she will dwell on the past rather than live in dynamic interaction with the present or be inspired by the hope of future possibilities. If this is true for the individual, it also holds true for institutions that have an inherited corporate culture reinforced by each succeeding generation.”

At a time when we recall 200 years of Methodism on the southern tip of Africa, and we go back into history to remember where we come from, and to allow our heritage to shape our present witness and our intentional mission, the purpose is not to dwell in the past or to hold on to old ways just because we are familiar with them. We need to always assess where we are, keeping in mind who we are and what our heritage is, but we need to do so with one foot firmly planted in the current reality, and our eyes on the horizon of tomorrow. To this end, the statement of intent for the Year of Heritage is:

Celebrate our past,
Vitalise our witness,
Grow our mission.

A church that is driven by the past only, will become a just note in the history books. There are areas of our life together that need radical re-thinking. I will refer to some of these as I present this report.

Polity
I hereby announce to the Conference that the election for Presiding Bishop took place on the 27th of May 2016 by all members of Synods casting their vote as per the direction of the Laws and Discipline Edition Twelve, appendix 10. Bishop Ziphozihle Siwa was re-elected by absolute majority on the first ballot.

As a Conference, may I on your behalf extend our congratulations to Bishop Siwa, and assure him of our prayers for him and his family. We pray that the era ahead of us will be fruitful, and that the church under the leadership of Bishop Siwa, will touch the world in a transforming way, and bring glory to God.

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**Election Processes**

Although the election of the Presiding Bishop was conducted without incident on the day, the preamble to the election was fraught with activity unbecoming to the church. What is meant to be a process of discernment became a social media electioneering campaign more vehement than that of the South African local elections last month. This caused embarrassment to the church, hurt to all those whose names were being put forward in this manner, confusion to many, and palpable tension around the Connexion. The run-up to the election was contrary to the spirit of Methodism or Christianity, and must never happen again.

It is time for the church to completely re-envision how it is that leadership in the Church is appointed. We have more and more moved to a secular manner of thinking about elections. We are yet to learn to use social media in a responsible manner. In our elections in general, and nomination processes, there is little or no creative thinking. Marginalised groups (women to be specific) do not appear on the radar when nominations are to be made. We have over-democratised the church and shy away from courageous leadership by those we have put into place to lead us. I call on the church to task the Revision Committee to bring us fresh proposals for election procedures that will take the above pitfalls into account.

**Legal and Disciplinary matters**

The church has experienced a reduction in legal cases, which is very good news. One case concerning church property in Lesotho is still unresolved, as it has been for about a decade, but it seems to be moving to an immanent close. One case concerning election procedures is still to be heard in court. No clergy or Connexional staff issue was brought to the CCMA since Conference 2015.

Our Connexional Arbitration Team under the leadership of Justice Jali has four cases it is busy processing.

**Resolutions Booklet**

All members of Conference will receive a booklet containing all resolutions of Conference from 2003 to 2015. They are also made available to Districts, and will be sold in the Christian Connexion bookshops. These should guide our decisions and actions, and be helpful in considering any new resolutions.

**Laws and Discipline**

A Picture of the Church

Mission Resource Fund
One innovation springing from a 2014 Conference Resolution that is beginning to bear fruit is that of the Mission Resource Fund.

It is the intention of the Mission Resource Fund to give the church the financial means to establish new work, igniting discipleship communities. This includes initiating new discipleship communities (even before they can be called societies), establishing what could be called “ecclesial communities” in schools, mines, colleges, universities, hospitals, etc., as well as revitalising weak communities that have potential.

In 2015, eleven stations were served by an ad-hoc grant made available by the MCO before the establishment of the fund. In 2016, twenty four Circuits were served by this fund, and with Conference consent, the Connexional Mission Congress was subsidised. The 2017 figures will be made available shortly.

Property 4 Mission Fund
We have for many years been speaking about the great resource our properties are, and that they together, are worth in the region of R6 billion. We are in the business of Mission, but for that to make a real impact in the communities around us, we need a few components: we need a vision and a deeply rooted theology of mission; we need an understanding of the needs, and we need money. In order to help with the former, the Mission Congress will take place later in the year. To help with the latter, we need the church to understand that property belongs to the Presiding Bishop for the Time Being, and never to an individual Circuit or Society. We will in the course of time bring to the Connexion a proposal which, I believe, takes into account the property reality and the need to be intentional in mission on the local level.

Talking about property and money and where the money goes is an issue that can give rise to strong debates. I remind Conference of Mr George Trimble, who writes that it is necessary for Ministers and Leaders to assume responsibility for the effective use of all assets that belong to the church. He speaks about using our church buildings for mission. He continues: “Changed circumstances necessitate a courageous reassessment of the situation and possible reorganisation” (page 37). He goes on to say: “A church, as with society in general, needs to adapt to changing trends otherwise it will stagnate and continue to allocate limited resources to where the need is no longer greatest. That is poor stewardship”\(^2\) Where buildings are empty, decaying, costing money and not suitable for mission use, we have to re-think the wisdom of retaining the property.

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Let us re-look at how property can be transformed into mission, through a concerted Connexional effort and by using those buildings we can for intentional missional purposes, and by letting go of those properties that are no longer a missional asset to the church, but maybe even a liability. These are not easy decisions to make. Having been baptised in a certain building, remembering that your grandfather paid for a new church, or laid the bricks with his own hands, cannot be the only reason to hold on to the past. If it serves no missional purpose, and it becomes a financial liability, you have to make some tough decisions.

A church that is driven only by sentiment will in a hundred years’ time, just be a memory.

Some statistics
The Connexional statistics as presented by Synods will be reflected in the Yearbook.

Bearing in mind that we have no or incomplete statistics from some Districts, we have recorded 633 110 members, and including adherents, just over 660 000. When we take into account the tardiness of some to submit statistics, the obvious fudging of some numbers and the incomplete statistical returns, the accuracy of these statistics is uncertain. Let us in 2017 make a concerted effort to ensure that we have full and reported records of our membership and Ministry activities. Our members are the army of missioners, the force or prayers, the backbone of the church. If we take them seriously, we need to know who they are, and have effective means of communication with them.

The latest newsletter of the Lewis Centre for Church Leadership asks the question: “In Jesus’s parable about the lost sheep, how did the shepherd know that one sheep was missing out of 100 sheep?” No one is saying that statistics are the most important thing in the church. But it is very helpful in many ways. It is an expression of good stewardship, of accountability, of good pastoral care, and of intentional mission.

Let us for 2017 focus on our statistical returns, and even conduct a census in each Circuit and Society - of our membership, our ministries, as well as the needs and opportunities in the community around us.

Regarding some specific statistics
We have more than 5000 preaching places and Societies.
748 of those have visitation or evangelism teams.
There are 2970 Bible study groups or class meetings. (Where by rights we should have about 54 000 if all were in classes or groups of 12.)
There are only 646 Local Preachers’ training classes, 275 Youth Leaders’ training courses, and 133 Evangelism training courses.

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3 Leading Ideas. August 31 2016. Lewis Center for Church Leadership.
There are 201 preschool centres, 204 ministries to informal settlements, 254 ministries to prisons and 363 HIV/AIDS ministries in the Connexion.

These figures all suggest that a very small percentage of our churches are engaged in these educational and missional ministries. This is not to negate the work of a good number of Circuits that are very meaningfully involved in mission. But it does beg the question: If your local church disappeared overnight, who except your members will even notice? I wonder whether we are talking mission more than what we are doing mission?

Thoughts from the Districts
District Synods reports this year highlighted some common themes that ran through many or all Synods - the very important place that mission should have in the church, and celebrating some wonderful initiatives that are thriving.

Synods celebrated and honoured women Ministers in this 40th year since the Ordination of the first woman. There were celebrations, testimonies, gifts, prayers, Bible studies and conversations relating to Women Ministers as well as gender issues.

A number of Synods deliberated on diversity and inclusivity, and considered the issues around a deeply divided society and the church’s response.

Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic communities
The MCSA, with all other churches, was called to appear before the CRL in South Africa earlier this year. We were compelled by law to comply, although the question remains as to the extent to which the church should be accountable to government.

The main issue we were confronted with was the habit of some of our churches to charge people for conducting funerals. We assured the Commission that this is not church policy, and published to our members and Ministers, an extensive communique on the matter (attached), clarifying the church’s official position.

Stations and Agency
In 2016 we lost 39 active Ministers due to Superannuation, death, resignations, discontinuance and moving outside of the Connexion. We received 17 Ministers through Transfers, reinstatements and Candidature. If this becomes a trend, our total number of Ministers will decrease, whereas the mission need is growing. Offsetting this information on the one hand is the number of Circuits that are losing stations due to affordability issues, versus the Mission Resource Fund that makes available stations in new Mission areas or places where Revitalisation is called for. We are well aware of Circuits which should be doubling or even quadrupling their agency if ministry at any level of effectiveness is to be engaged in. The conundrum of ministry need versus affordability needs to continue occupying our collective mind.
If we are a church with mission on the margins of society, how does this reflect in our stationing procedures?

Programmes
Forty Years Celebration of the Ordination of Woman Ministers
Last Conference the Presiding Bishop called on us to make this year, the year of celebrating our Woman Clergy. Districts, Organisations and Circuits have been highly responsive to this call, and many celebration events have been held throughout the Connexion. Synods have paid tribute to their Woman Ministers, current and Supernumerary, in a variety of ways. Organisations, especially the women’s Organisations, have been very supportive and came forward with a number of very moving initiatives to celebrate. Many Circuits are having services, special teas, workshops and preaching series on the topic of women in Ministry, and this has been enthusiastically supported by congregations.

Although there are still issues to deal with, and discrimination is still alive and well from place to place, this year has certainly brought some of those issues to light, and has been an opportunity, taken by many, to expose the church to the ministry of women alongside the ministry of men.

The Year of Heritage
The Presiding Bishop called the Church last year, to make 2016/17 our year of Heritage. Recognising that there was some Methodist presence and ministry in the late 1700s in the Cape, 1816 is the year that Barnabas Shaw set out northward, and through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit found a community of Nama people who were immediately receptive to the Word of God, and the first worshipping community initiated by a Methodist Missioner was born at Bethelsklip in Namaqualand.

The stone of Bethelsklip becomes for us, in the next year, a symbol of our Heritage as Methodists. We invite the Connexion to become involved with our Year of Heritage. We will ask Synods to have celebration services, and we will bring books on our history to your attention (See the Christian Connexion stall). We are considering the concept of a coach tour to many of our Heritage sites late in 2017, and will make the information available on the website for people to follow the Heritage trail on their own as well.

The Heritage Committee established by the 2015 Connexional Executive is also proposing to Circuits to get involved, by displaying posters, making available pamphlets with a brief summary of where we come from, preaching on our Heritage, and telling the story of the Church in Sunday Schools. Create your Circuit history and make a display showing where your Circuit or Society comes from. Have a Methodist Heritage Day in your Circuit on one of the Sundays close to 24 May - maybe a celebration service, and a meal or a picnic. Celebrate our story, our hymns, our people and our unique contribution to today’s society. Study notes for Class
Meetings and Bible Study groups for the 6 weeks between Easter 2017 and Pentecost 2017 will be provided - printed and on the web, on our theological heritage and our unique place in society today. We also invite Circuits to “ponder the rock from which were cut.” (Isaiah 51)

We do this in order to …..

Celebrate our past
Vitalise our witness
Grow our mission.

Mission Congress
It is time to ready ourselves for the Mission Congress. Apart from any logistical planning that the Mission Congress Planning committee can help you with, I must remind the Conference to be active in mental and spiritual planning for the Conference. We need to come, ready to think with fresh minds, re-think who we are as a missional church and be ready to evaluate what we have been doing in the past ten years, and prepare ourselves to take a step deeper into how we best place ourselves to be an instrument of the Mission of God.

What is obsolete must go. Mission is only mission when it is in line with God’s mission, and when it touches the world for good. Otherwise it is hollow activity that only makes us feel better.

Conclusion
Our own Bishop Mntambo said it well: If you walk into an antique shop or a museum, there are items that are beautiful to look at, but useless. There are signs that say: “Don’t sit on this chair. Don’t touch the displays.” The items may be beautiful … but useless. He asks: Is this what we have become?

We need to honestly look at the mission we are engaged in, assess it accordingly, and be ready to re-align ourselves. This is not an optional extra for the church in terms of budgets, time or agenda-space. Mission is our heart, and without it, we are nothing.
Appendix:

The Methodist Church of Southern Africa and Funerals

1. **Does the MCSA have a policy about funerals?**
   Like all Christian churches, the Methodist Church conducts funerals or memorial services for those who die, as a memory, as an act of seeking healing for our grief, and above all, an act of faith - recognising that God is the God of the living and the dead, that Jesus promised to go and prepare a place for those who die (John 14) and that Jesus is the first, but all of us will follow in the Resurrection of the dead. (See 1 Corinthians 15)

2. **Who is supposed to pay for a funeral when they use Methodist facilities?**
   The church is not a commercial undertaking. It does happen that people wish to use a Methodist Church building for events. In this case one needs to be certain what the event is, and whether it falls in line with the mission of the Church. In cases when a Church which is in a good relationship with the Methodist Church wishes to use our buildings for a funeral, this is acceptable. A donation would be acceptable if a group wanted to make use of the church building.

3. **What is the definition of a Methodist in good standing?**
   A Methodist in Good Standing is a person who has no charges pending against them, and is not under suspension. More detail is contained in our Rule of Life: The directions we accept as our rule of life from the early Methodists fall into three principal groups:
   a. that of ‘doing no harm, avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is more generally practiced’.
   b. that of ‘doing good by being merciful after one’s own power, doing good of every possible sort to the bodies of people as well as to their souls and, as far as possible, to all’.
   c. that of ‘attending upon all the ordinances of God’. These include public worship of God, observance of the Lord’s Supper, maintenance of Christian community, private prayer, reading the Scriptures, and habits of self-discipline.

4. **Can a church accept a donation for services rendered?**
   Yes, but it cannot demand a donation.

5. **Are Methodist ministers allowed to bury non-members?**
   Jesus says, “Come to me all you who are heavy laden” (Matthew 11). Following the teaching and example of Jesus, we do not turn anyone away. John Wesley says: “You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent
in this work. And go not only to those that need you, but to those that need you most. It is not your business to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that society; but to save as many souls as you can; to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance.” This refers to the deceased, and even more so, to their loved ones.

6. **Is the minister the only person expected to conduct funerals?**
   No. Local Preachers may conduct funerals, and where necessary, a Member may even in extreme cases, conduct a funeral.

7. **Can ministers of the Methodist Church be hired to perform funerals and weddings etc.?**
   No. We are Ministers of the Gospel, and are not for hire.

8. **What does the Methodist Church teach about giving and tithing?**
   When one asks how much one should give, one must go to the Bible. Here only one portion is mentioned - the tithe or one tenth (2 Chronicles 31:4-12). There are many other passages that refer to the practice of tithing. It was certainly continued in New Testament times, as one can see from passages such as Luke 11:42; Luke 18:12. The truth of the matter is that we are not really giving to God when we tithe. We are then paying what we owe. We begin to give only when we give more than our tithe.

   The New Testament, although it recognises the Old Testament practice of tithing, sets a very different standard for giving. The Old Testament likes to set detailed regulations for life, e.g. the Commandments, but the New Testament is more concerned with the state of a person’s heart. Jesus always said that if a person’s heart is put right then his behaviour would be changed for the better (Luke 6:43-45).

   Jesus therefore does not set a fixed percentage that one should give. This does not mean that we may give as little as we want to. Jesus says that the only standard for Christian giving is that one should give as much as one possibly can (Luke 21:1-4). This is sometimes referred to as sacrificial giving; it is the kind of giving we read of in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, Mark 12:41, and the Widow of Zarephath in 1 Kings 17.

   We give because we know that everything belongs to God; we give because we are grateful; we give because worship is more than singing or praying - it touches the most sensitive part of a human being - their pocket; we give because we know we do not have to hold too tightly onto our worldly possessions for we trust God to supply our needs; we give because we know that the Church is one of God’s instruments in the world through which mercy flows, and we are part of that church.
9. **Is there a link between giving and Methodist membership?**
   The Laws and Discipline states: 3.15: They are expected, as far as possible, to contribute to the funds of the Church and to do some form of Christian service. Membership can never be on the basis of what a person gives (or what a person wears). Those with the least might be most in need of the grace of God as is evidenced in the love and care of the church.

10. **Do we allow cremations?**
    We do. Sometimes people are buried in the earth, sometimes at sea, and are sometimes cremated. There are even times when we do not know where the body of a loved one is. But we believe that God who is merciful and powerful is able to raise us to life on the last day, irrespective of what kind of bodily remains there are.

11. **How much should we pay for a funeral?**
    We show love and respect to a loved one who has died, by remembering them and honouring them, and seeking to have a funeral service that is respectful and appropriate. The amount of money spent on a funeral is not an indication of our love (or sometimes our feelings of guilt). It is not our way in the Church to accrue debt or to deprive the surviving family of a living by spending excessive amounts of money on funeral arrangements.

  January 2016
THE LAY PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS
TO CONFERENCE 2016

Mr James Mabhalane Nkosi

The Presiding Bishop, Rev Ziphozihle Siwa, the General Secretary, Rev Charmaine Morgan, District Bishops and District Lay Leaders in the Connexion, Unit Directors, Members of Conference, Distinguished Guests, I greet you warmly in the name of God our Creator and Father, Jesus Christ Our Lord and Saviour and the Holy Spirit our Comforter and Director.

Preamble

There is a proverb which says “Where there’s a will there’s a way”. Fellow esteemed members of Conference, allow me to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all females and particularly the female ministers as the MCSA celebrates the intentional decision it took, because of the will it had to break the patriarchal tradition, and ordained a first female minister for the ministry of Word and Sacraments while the sister churches had no will to so, and were still holding the resistive ideology of not ordaining females. I think our Church’s Conference of the past 40 years needs to be applauded for this intentional decision it took then. As we celebrate this decision taken by the church forty years ago, we are mindful of the fact that we celebrate it during this unfortunate period of our country finding itself at the cross roads of flames of anger and a spree of killings probably triggered by disagreements related to demarcations of Municipal boundaries and lists of nominated candidates as ward councilors as political parties were preparing for the Local Government elections that took place on 3 August 2016. These disagreements amongst other things led to the death of people and destruction of properties. The irony has been that most of these people that were maimed following the disagreements on the ward council list were mostly females. In my view these ungodly and gruesome acts have been perpetuated by refusal of the killers to break the back of the patriarchal system and wanting to sustain the business-as-usual theory at the peril of genuine transformation. Our church has strongly condemned any killings of people and destruction of property by whomsoever and for whatever reason.

I further pay tribute to our living and deceased heritage fathers and mothers of the Christian Church who have travelled before us in this journey in which we are; who taught us the church’s traditions and its practices; the traditions and practices of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa in particular. I salute them for their commitment and the job well done which they did, being conscious of the discipline and respect to their calling and ministry God had put before them. We are all present here in this our Conference which is a symbol of the landmarks these our fathers and
mothers left for us as a legacy to follow and keep in order to prevent the MCSA from existing as a dead sect, which John Wesley feared that might possibly happen if we who exist lose the call “to reform the nations, especially the church and spread scriptural holiness throughout the lands”. So I concur with the theme that it is time to ignite mission and cross boundaries of any kind.

Legacy
In my view as we are here, we are all a testimony of the unseen witnesses, martyrs, saints and great servants of God who laid the foundations for us to ignite unity under the discipline, traditions and practices of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa which I believe they valued highly.

So all of us as Methodist Christian leaders, the expectation from us is that we should be united and be undivided as we perform our roles and functions in harmony with one another as our fathers and mothers prayed for us to be. They prayed for us to keep faith and unity in remembrance of the prayer Jesus Christ prayed when praying for His disciples before commissioning them to go to the world on His behalf. Our fathers and mothers understood the importance of the policy of the tradition and practice of oneness working together towards promotion of God’s will at all times, by all means. Esteemed leaders and delegates allow me to say to this Conference that “united we stand against any challenge that might pose some threat in igniting mission and crossing boundaries in the church and God’s society, but divided we fall”, and God’s people shall perish while we exist as a dead sect. Being a dead sect is not the legacy our fathers and mothers left for us, but being prophetic is.

Heeding a call from leadership
My belief is that all of us here and those we left at home are proud to be Methodist Christians, because of the MCSA's traditions and the practices our forerunners kept on the highest pedestal. I believe it is by God’s grace that we have been given an opportunity to be taken care of and shaped for God’s mission in the traditions and practices of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, a Transforming Discipleship Movement, which through the strategic direction and appeal of the current leadership from Conference moving forward, we have to heed the call of “Igniting mission, crossing boundaries”, by using the five pronged strategic framework of deepening spirituality; evangelism and church growth; justice, service and reconciliation; economic development and human empowerment; education and Christian formation, which are spiraled around a magnetic core vision of a Christ-healed Africa for the healing of nations.

It is my prayerful submission that as servants of God we once more commit ourselves to this Transforming Discipleship Movement, the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, in pursuance of this bigger magnetic vision, the Christ-Healed Africa for the healing of nations.
I also pray that God will help keep us undivided to embark on prayerful spiritual discernment during and after Conference and enable us to draw from the best of the church’s practices and deep faith traditions to achieve what this magnetic vision has for God’s people and demonstrate to society what this church exists for.

This vision of a Christ-healed Africa for the Healing of Nations is quite a big elephant that we committed ourselves to, and it needs us to take it seriously and apply the Ants’ and Every Member Ministry model approaches to make it realisable. The ants live in highly organised groups. They are industrious, diligent, and each ant does its best to contribute to this highly organised group where it belongs. In my view the Ants’ model approach has all that this church needs to successfully pursue God’s agenda which He has put before us.

The Every Member Ministry model approach recognises each member’s potential, skills, gifts, talents, and a recognition of the part played by another part in the body and shared leadership. Elevation of the Every Member Ministry model is what the church needs in order to keep itself alive, to keep momentum in its life and carry its responsibility successfully.

When I looked at both abovementioned models, I observed that they are driven by three most important, paired traditions and practices, which are:

- **Determination and industriousness; focused commitment and diligence; shared responsibilities and teamwork.** I believe these three paired traditions and practices could be the answer to address the limitations the church may be facing during our time.

**Introduction**

It is with a sense of joy, challenge and responsibility that I stand to present my second report to this Conference, which covers abridged information some districts shared with me during the period under review, where they cited the challenges facing the church, and the instant remedial actions they took to address some of the challenges. It also covers the activities I performed as the Lay President, my observation of the entire Connexion, which includes an overview on the Every Member Ministry (EMM) project conversation I am pursuing in 2016 since Conference approval in 2015, plus the limitations the church faces, as well as a summary report on my visit to Ghana with the District Lay Leaders in April 2016 and the recommendations made to try to quell some challenges and improvement of the role of Laity moving forward.

**District Lay Leaders Perspectives**

The District Lay Leaders (DLLs) followed the directive of sub-paragraph 6.24.3 of the 12th edition Methodist Church of Southern Africa Book of Order as they were carrying out their responsibilities and found that the MCSA faces some challenging
issues which impact negatively on God’s mission. Despite these challenging issues, some districts have been able to do numerous projects like Cape of Good Hope which embarked on a R130 000 joint-project run by all organisations including what they call an Education Legacy project. KNB also has a fundraising project coordinated by the District Lay Leader.

**Challenging issues facing the church**

Districts have cited that the church faces challenges such as: Weakness in sustaining her membership where it finds her members, especially young people migrating to Emerging Churches; Lack of leadership skills both in some clergy and laity to lead circuits; Poor or Mismanagement of Church funds in some circuits; Tussles for power and authority in some circuits which destabilizes the circuits and consumes a lot of Church funds in the process of resolving such feuds; Resistance to cross the boundaries of racial and ethnic divide in some circuits; The culture of entitlement held by some clergy and some laity but less commitment to God’s mission. These challenges have been found to be holding God’s mission to ransom and are considered to be the enemies of this proverb which says “where there is a will there is a way”, and God’s will in church gets ignored.

**Instant remedial actions pursued**

The DLLs in some districts in collaboration with the Bishops, the District Executives and Circuit leadership, instantly worked to minimize or quell these challenges through arranging Youth Indabas, conducting workshops and seminars involving different categories of leadership at circuit and district levels focusing on clarification of: The Roles and Responsibilities of Circuit Superintendent Ministers; The Duties and Responsibilities of Circuit Stewards; The New invitation process; Effective Circuit management; Budgeting and Management of Church funds; Organisations’ need of accountability to the circuit and district leadership; Inter-Organisational cooperation; The role and importance of Youth in the church; Importance of people-in-the-pews driven mission approach. These initiatives were embarked upon with the hope of improving the situations in the church and local churches. In some circuits these instant remedial actions have yielded gains while in others, more long-term work still needs to be done.

**Activities Performed by the Lay President**

During the period under review I have been able to have formal conversations with the Methodist people in all twelve districts for the period of five (5) months. I started these conversations on 3 February 2016 and completed them on the 2 July 2016. I was using the guidelines I produced for the Every Member Ministry conversation. I have also per invitation been able to conduct leadership workshops at Newcastle, Vrede, Southdale, Lesotho and Volksrust circuits and societies respectively, as well as having been able to perform the following activities as mandated by par 5.8.2 and 5.8.3 of the MCSA BOO:
• Represented the Church in ceremonial activities:
  I was privileged to represent the church at the inductions of the Bishops of Central,
  Kimberly Namibia and Bloemfontein, and Natal West districts; induction of
  the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary President Rev. Professor S’manga
  Khumalo; induction of the General President of the Young Women’s Manyano
  Mrs. NP Motswenyane and the graduation of the SMMS Seminarians.

• Observed the ministry of compassionate care:
  I honoured the ministry of compassionate care and presence by attending funerals
  at Natal West and Northern Free State and Lesotho districts respectively.

• Visited and motivated Church structures:
  I visited the Local Preachers General Committee which had held its meeting
  at eMseni in Highveld and Swaziland District on 11 February 2016 where I
  presented proposals on revision of clauses in the LPA constitution to be in
  line with the MCSA BOO. I visited the Women’s Manyano who had held their
  meeting in Maseru on 13 February 2016 where I presented a paper motivating
  women on Leadership Empowerment. I led the delegation of District Lay
  Leaders to Ghana to benchmark on the role of the Laity in the Methodist
  Church of Southern Africa and the Methodist Church Ghana.

• Performed other duties and tasks:
  I have been able to attend both the SMMS Governing Council and SMMS
  Governing Council Executive meetings, the Resolutions Committee, Revisions
  Committee, Discipline Committee, the Mission Congress Planning Team as well
  as the Logistics Sub-Committee meetings at MCO and SMMS respectively. I
  further, together with the Connexional delegates, attended the World Methodist
  Conference and represented the MCSA at the World Methodist Council meeting
  at Texas in America.

**Opportunities in conversations and observation**
As I crisscrossed the Connexion with the Every Member Ministry conversations
guidelines which I developed for the purpose of talking to Methodist people, I found
that the project provided an opportunity for them to have an honest conversation
with the Connexion where they gave valuable inputs which enabled me to realise
that some church leadership, the clergy, the laity and the members alike at different
levels of our church structures have good intentions to respond to God’s will
whenever they embark on any activity which they believe promotes God’s mission.
However, I found that while having good intentions for God’s mission, in some
instances limitations do surface. I found that some of these limitations could have
been prevented through the Ants’ model and proper strategy for implementation of
Every Member Ministry model which the church has since the past twenty three
years convocation experience been talking about it, but found itself trapped in some
limitations that prevented its full implementation.
In using the Eleven Point Limitations Framework cited by Morris and Olsen in their book titled “Discerning God’s Will Together: A Spiritual Practice for the Church”, (1997:13-17) I have found that limitations do happen even in the faith institution during the so called reasoned discourse when people pool their ignorance and enter into political trade-offs and engage in power plays. Limitations do happen when people attempt to obey God’s will but actually do not obey it, instead imposing their own will in the name of God’s will. Limitations happen during individual discernment where people are apt to pursue God’s guidance for their self-interests and negate God’s will. Limitations do happen in decision making when the Spirit of God reveals the gifts of wisdom and guidance to people, and people never use them but become defensive. Limitations happen during ascetic spiritual sight if people end the dialogue just because the person they regard as holy has spoken. Limitations do happen during rigid reliance on procedures and rules where people bypass the importance of the church (laos). Limitations happen during the time when people look for consensus and make premature judgments. Limitations happen at the time where people depend much on the parliamentary rules and negate spiritual discernment. Limitations happen where people seek majority rule which shortens the meeting but does not guarantee that everyone will actively support the decision and implement it as accepted by majority. Limitations do happen where people do a single way of leading and ignore the power of properly discerning God’s will. Limitations do happen when people fear change and opt to do business-as-usual and not accommodate views from the pews. I then submit that for the church to escape from being trapped into these limitations, it needs to review its traditions and practices.

**Methodists’ Perspective on Every Member Ministry**
During the conversations with the twelve districts of the Connexion, the participants viewed EMM as an important tool that when a proper strategy is developed to implement it in all circuits, can help unlock people’s potential that would enable God’s mission in the church and society to succeed. Participants appealed that once the report of EMM has been produced, they would appreciate it if workshops could be arranged for them on how to implement the EMM model in order that their circuits benefit.

**Visit to Ghana**
From the 5th to 11th April 2016 the District Lay Leaders and I embarked on a benchmark visit to the Methodist Church Ghana. The primary purpose was to benchmark on the role of Laity in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and the Methodist Church Ghana. The following places which are far apart were visited at the expense of the Methodist Church Ghana:
• Ghana Connexional office which is situated in Accra and we were welcomed by the Presiding Bishop most Rev TK Awotwi Pratt;
• Ebenezer Methodist Cathedral, Winneba, where we attended the Annual SH
Amissah 6th Memorial Lecture organised by the Connexional Lay Movement Council, titled “The Media, The Church and Politics: Challenges and the Way Forward” in honour of Nana Dr. JS Annah, the 6th Vice President of Conference;

- Methodist Rafiki Satellite Village which provides living and educational facilities for orphans and needy children and children from the neighbouring community;
- The Cape Coast Methodist Diocese Cathedral which was established by the First Methodist Missionaries who arrived from Great Britain in 1835. We also visited the Cape Coast and Elmina Castles where we saw the dungeons which were used as a waiting area for slaves to be sold and shipped to the USA and other countries;
- Boys’ and Girls’ Methodist Boarding High Schools, Teacher Training College, Methodist University College of Ghana and its Campus in Whenchi which had started with the training of nurses and processing of agricultural produce;
- Two fully fledged hospitals with all the facilities. The hospitals are located in the rural areas where the services are mostly needed;
- A museum in Kumasi where the Kingdom of Ashanti Kings and King’s mother statue and artifacts dating from 1925 are preserved;
- The Methodist Church Ghana Freeman Guest House where we were housed for most of our stay. The Guest house has 60 rooms which can accommodate two people per room.

Lessons learned in Ghana
The role and strength of the Lay Movement, the involvement of the Methodist Church Ghana in Education and Health, Cooperation between Laity and Clergy, Church Mission, Partnership and cooperation between Government and the Methodist Church Ghana in running schools and Healthcare facilities, the role of the church in education, job creation, commitment of Laity to the Church, state-of-the-art Church buildings (Cathedrals in the Diocese), staffing at the Diocese offices, honouring of Laity who have contributed to the Church and branding of the Methodist Church Ghana.

A comprehensive report on the Ghana visit is in the Conference pack, but the recommendations cited in the Ghana report have been synergized with the ones I’m presenting in this script now.

Recommendations
I wish to submit these recommendations that have been drawn from the collation of information from the districts that submitted their reports to me, the inputs from circuits which I received during the Every Member Ministry project conversations, my observations and the synergy of the Ghana visit report. I therefore submit these following recommendations to Conference for it to explore and give direction about them:
• Recommend to Conference to direct all circuits to re-ignite class meetings where church members are spiritually nurtured and empowered.
• Recommend to Conference to direct circuits to employ strategies that meet the worship ways that appeal to youth, especially having services that would accommodate the interests of youth but never neglect the adults’ expectations.
• Recommend to Conference to direct circuits to interpret the signs of change and constantly forward the gospel to people’s new addresses (reach out).
• Recommend to Conference to direct circuits to promote people in the pews driven mission approach and programmes.
• Recommend to Conference to work on strategies to improve cooperation between Laity and Clergy.
• Recommend to Conference to direct circuits to implement the Every Member Ministry model principles.
• Recommend to Conference to approve the formation of collaboration between the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and the Methodist Church Ghana.
• Recommend to Conference to revisit and redefine the role and functions of Laity in the Church.
• Recommend to Conference to look into how the Methodist Church of Southern Africa brand could be enhanced and improved.
• Recommend to Conference to explore the possibility of establishing an Inter-Organisational cooperation structure.
• Recommend to Conference to seek ways of establishing projects and programmes which create jobs.

**Conclusion**

I wish to conclude by reminding Conference that where there is a will there is a way. Allow me to say where there is a calling there is a way. This should remind us of Mr. John Wesley who once said to his preachers “Never be afraid to go and challenge them to follow the way, because there is something called prevenient grace, the grace that walks ahead. The grace that takes people by the hand and says, ‘Come I will show you the way’. The grace that disturbs people even when they are far away and makes them say: ‘We know this cannot be the way, please show us the way’. It is in this spirit that I believe Conference will never be afraid to explore how the entire church can follow these recommendations after it has approved them.

I believe that Conference has the will to walk the way of transformation, as the church being directed by the Holy Spirit ignites mission and crosses boundaries.

Where there is a will there is a way.

Glory be to God, Amen
REPORT OF THE LAY GENERAL TREASURER

Mrs. Thini Ngonyama

Presiding Bishop, Lay President, General Secretary, Bishops and delegates, members of Conference and visitors, I greet you all in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour Christ.

1 Corinthians 4:2 states “It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.”

It gives me great pleasure to bring you greetings and a report on the work of the Finance Unit as well as the Audited financials for the 2015 year end. I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve God and see to the financial wellbeing of our People as a Finances Steward. I would like to thank the Finance Unit Executive members who will be stepping down at the end of 2016 for their support and expertise. This is a bitter sweet report; unfortunately some things cannot be left unsaid.

Objectives of the Finance Unit

Objective No. 1 Care for Ministerial staff and their families:
   a. Listen and respond positively to Ministerial staff, Supernumeraries and widows;
   b. Provide Ministers and laity with information about facilities the Church offers them.

Objective No. 2 Effectively administer Connexional Funds in accordance with missional objectives in an accountable, transparent and responsible manner:
   a. by providing appropriate administrative and financial systems and services;
   b. Control Connexional expenditure within reasonable limits.

Objective No. 3 Offer administrative and financial facilities to the Church:
   a. Providing Connexional financial and management guidelines to ensure integrity, accountability and responsibility;
   b. Encourage and train Ministerial and Lay leadership in management and financial principles.

Objective No. 4 Initiate financial resourcing for mission growth and development:
   a. Maximise income and capital growth on Connexional money and assets;
   b. Ensuring responsible and informed investments strategies;
   c. Consider vacant church-owned land and buildings in such a way as to formulate strategies to utilise the asset effectively.
The Finance Unit is responsible for:
1. The payments of stipends for 817 ministers, deacons, evangelists and biblewomen, and 911 pensioners’ pensions.
3. MCO is an administrator in term of the financial services act and as such, administers the Supernumerary Fund, the Provident Fund and Lay Staff Pension fund.

Given this big portfolio I’m proud to introduce to this Conference, the highly skilled and passionate team that works with me daily in helping me execute the duty of stewardship for the Connexion’s financial resources and assets. Members of the Finance Unit are here this morning to hold my hand through this report, and will also be available at lunch time for any one on one questions you might have.

Administration matters:
The Office is well integrated as per Conference decision; we have been working on a few operational improvements.

Economic outlook and synopsis:
The outlook for Southern Africa and the world economy has deteriorated in recent months following a lot of socio-economic and political factors. Over the past year the rand has depreciated by 30 per cent against the US dollar (which is a major economy). Thus SA inflation remains projected at around 6.5% by the last quarter of 2016. This not only has negatively affected the disposable income of most people but has a direct effect on the MCSA and our investments returns. Our Asset Managers’ forecasts show that we are looking at bleak (bearish market) over the next few years. I will touch on our pension funds investment performances later in this address.

We are certainly at a point where we need to be even more cautious in our spending. Not just the Connexion but all UNITS and organisations. This Connexion spent R1.8mill in 2015 legal fees, yet we have close to R4 Mill in arrears.

We have well defined financial policies that govern how funds should be managed. In the Yearbook, we have the Policy on effective management that applies to all Units, Organisations etc. The Connexion also has a travel policy that should be applied and, if anything, even stricter rules should be applied.

I warn against the practice of giving lavish gifts in whatever form, wasteful expenditure on travelling and other unnecessary events. It cannot continue, not in our context, especially after the recent CRL commission probe into churches. Let us be prudent and take a hard look at ourselves.

We are at a time where we need to strategically look into utilising and reviewing our funding models as a Connexion. The property assets are a huge investment vehicle and as such we are looking at employing a Property officer in 2017. This office
will be aimed at implementing the Connexional properties strategy, particularly the effective use of our property portfolio in generating income streams that will benefit the Connexion at large.

**Arrears Report:**
The arrears report for all districts has been included in each delegate’s pack. The concern is the over 2 months arrears was at R4.8 million as at the 20th of May as reported to the Finance Unit executive. This amount has since reduced to **R3.8 Million** as at the 20th Aug 2016. We can’t pay stipends if we do not receive what needs to be paid over.

As at 10 September only 56% of circuits had submitted their 4C schedules despite the constant reminders. The deadline is 2 weeks of synods rising … it has never changed, and I would imagine that this should by now be a basic process within each circuit.

This leaves us exposed to the high risk of losing our exemption status with SARS. It also causes unpleasant administrative delays in assessments, budgeting and general administration.

We will be imposing 20% penalty on circuit assessments for late submissions. I draw the attention of this Conference to para 9.87 of the Book of Order.

I want to thank those districts which have complied and commend especially those with no arrears in the over 2 months category. I wish to thank district treasurers for their support. In 2016 we requested DT to step in to the stipends and allowance forms process of stipend forms and found that it worked well even though we are still struggling.

We are also working on a code of conduct for Treasurers and I hope to bring that to this Conference next year.

**Organisations and Units:**
I am concerned at the level of noncompliance with the policy on effective financial management requirement to submit AFS and completed institutional competency assessments by Connexional and District organisations, schools, homes, Trusts, institutions etc. The deadline is 30th April annually. We need to ensure that the mentioned organisations are ethical, accountable and have good governance. This is not optional - it’s mandatory; nobody should be autonomous, we all need to account. We can’t assist when a crisis arises if we are not aware of the state of things.

**Stipend Augmentation Fund:**
The Finance Unit reports that the SAF is stable with a Balance of **R3 122 100 as at the 31st December 2015.**

In 2016, the Fund was able to augment ordained ministers in Mozambique with an
amount of R1 000 per month. The Trustees are happy to report that we are able to set aside R2 000 per month in order to augment stipends of Ordained Mozambique Ministers during 2017.

The Trustees of the Stipend Augmentation Fund and the Voluntary Stipend Fund call on Conference to reaffirm the importance of these Funds in:

1. **Ensuring that a minimum stipend is paid to Ordained Ministers;**
2. **Ensuring that a minimum stipend of R15 000 is paid to probationer Ministers until such time that this amount can be reviewed;**
3. **Ensuring that a basic stipend is paid to Ministers, Deacons, Biblewomen and Evangelists, in the event that they are not paid, for a period of up to three months.**

The Trustees request that Ministers, Deacons, Biblewomen and Evangelists remember these Funds and contribute 1% of their stipend to assist these Funds in meeting their objectives.

**Medical Benefits**

We remain with Topmed as our medical provider with the strategy of improving the plan annually. The plan, like any other medical aid scheme in South Africa is governed by the Medical Aid Schemes Act and as such we are bound by its regulations. I am quite aware that there is still a lot of room for improvement with the plan itself and PHA’s administration. As a result, the Finance Unit meets with Topmed on a monthly basis to review and resolve claims queries.

I caution against the constant use of social media to voice unhappiness with Topmed and at times, the administrators (MCO). This is not the platform. We need to remember that our service providers have a certain image of the Church and its people. I ask that we respect the social media policy and address matters by using proper channels.

At last year’s Conference I reported that we will be conducting TOPMED road shows across the Connexion; thus far only 5 districts have invited us for these roadshows.

The roadshows are meant to be a platform for us to educate, enlighten and also receive feedback which assists us in our annual negotiations.

Following the feedback received and recent medical requirements by members, I am pleased to report that the following possible improvements to Medical Aid will be implemented in 2017:

1. Maternity Programme (Registration within 12-20 weeks of pregnancy), 2 Antenatal consultations and 2 Scans per beneficiary per pregnancy.
2. The MRI & CT Scan ‘out of hospital’ benefit is increasing to 3 scans with a benefit amount of R5000 per scan.
3. The Optical benefit is being amended to every 12 months, rather than the current 24 month, and the benefit is being upgraded at no additional cost.
4. The Wellness Benefit will be in place for 2017.
5. The dental benefit covering impacted wisdom teeth will probably be allowed under the existing benefit for 2017. The Dental benefit will be re-addressed in 2017 for 2018.

**Pension Fund Matters**

In 2015 I reported that the Trustees will be conducting Connexion-wide roadshows in line with both the Pensions Fund’s Act requirement for Trustees and the Conference 2010 resolution to this effect. I am pleased to report that the Pension Fund Roadshows were held across the Connexion with the first district being the Cape of Good Hope District on the 4th February and the Clarkebury District on the 17th May 2016. Pertinent issues that require immediate implementation were discussed, and some of these matters will come before this Conference as resolutions. These include amongst others:

- Rule amendments;
- The proposal to address issues of Justice insofar as pensions are concerned by augmenting pensions for those members who receive lesser pensions to an acceptable pension, and creating a pension augmentation fund;
- A resolution to reduce circuit contributions to pensions from 3 times to 2 times.

These resolutions will be addressed at the appropriate time during this Conference.

I would like to thank all districts and members for the constructive, exciting and challenging conversations.

The funds are invested with 3 of the Top 5 SA investment managers. The Fund Performances as at 31 December 2015 are as follows:

1. **Supernumerary Fund**
   The market value of the Fund is R1.5 billion with an annualised return on investment of 12.40%.

2. **Supernumerary Fund Reserve**
   The market value of this reserve fund has increased to R210 million with an annualised return on investment of 10.49%.

3. **Lay Staff Pension Fund**
   The market value of the Fund is R50.3 million with a return on investment to date of 12.68%.

4. **Lay Staff Pension Fund Reserve**
   The market value of this reserve fund has increased to R2.1 million with an annualised return on investment of 9.26%.

5. **Provident Fund**
   The market value of the Fund is R29.7 million with a return on investment of 8.71%.
Despite the turmoil in markets and the recent political climate in South Africa, the investments have done well and the funds are in a healthy position.

**Mission Resource Fund**

In 2014 Conference passed a Resolution by which 25% of what comes into the Church Reserve Fund is used annually for Church Planting.

This fund is NOT a rescue fund; it is not to be used to pay off arrears in assessments but rather it is aimed at funding mission to ignite discipleship communities, aid in starting up new work with the end goal of education empowering and reviving our Societies/Circuits.

In 2016, a total of 25 stations were funded:

- 13 - Stations with Ordained Ministers
- 6 - Stations with Probationers
- 6 - Stations funding toward Evangelists/Deacons.

The funding is to be reviewed annually.

**Stipends 2017**

We still urge circuits not to increase additional stipends by more than 1% over the recommended increase of 6.5%. Generally this requirement was met in 2016 and I request that we maintain it so as to ensure the church’s ability to maintain the 80% target to stipend and pensions in line with the Pension increase policy.

**Reports for Adoption:**

I move the adoption of the audited financial statements for the MCO, The Ecumenical Affairs Unit (2014 & 2015), The Youth Unit (2014 & 2015), The Millennium Resource fund, The MCO Order of business together with the arrears report, the Unit budgets, pension funds investment reports, amendments and all other reports attached to the MCO report to CE and Conference 2016.
DISTRICT REPORTS
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE (01)

Bishop Michel Hansrod

INTRODUCTION
Situated in the most Southern part of Africa, the Cape of Good Hope District geographically reflects the diversity of South Africa in particular and Africa in general, in respect of the social, economic, political, racial, cultural, religious and language aspects of life.

The Methodist Church specifically, in this huge geographical area which spans some 500 kilometres to the East and North, and some 700 kilometres to the West, offers ministry through some 23 Circuits, 435 Societies and is served by 79 active Ministers, 64 Supernumeraries, 23 Members of the Order of Evangelism, 1045 Local Preachers and a huge band of disciples who serve as Stewards, Leaders, Carers and Teachers, whose servant leadership is to be commended as they serve tirelessly and fearlessly as agents of transformation, healing and hope.

As a District, we seek through our various ministries, Circuits, Societies and institutions to reflect God’s call upon the Methodist Church of Southern Africa to proclaim the “Gospel of Healing and Transformation” and to actively participate in working towards “A Christ Healed Africa for the Healing of the Nations”.

DISTRICT VISION ON MISSION AND MINISTRY
As a mechanism of the Wesleyan principle of accountability, the leadership of the District continues to meet annually outside of Synod for its Strategic Review and Planning, in which it seeks together to test its missional pulse and through prayer, discernment and conversation, seek God’s direction and dream for the future. Following on previous Indabas, the 2015 gathering noted the following:

That God calls us to be a mission-shaped church, living out our Connexionalism through relationships of mutual respect and communication, underpinned and kept healthy by proper application of procedures and processes, and celebrating how far we have already come.

In seeking to become a “Church Shaped for Mission”, we heard God’s voice inviting us to see the world through God’s eyes and to be brave enough to begin to engage in the messy and difficult ministry of loving the world around us with the love of God, in word and deed whilst recognising the ‘warning’ that at times, mission requires us to be open to disruptive moments and practices.
We recognised the disruptive nature of God’s Spirit drawing our attention to:

a. The Higher Education Crisis which resulted in violence on the University of the Western Cape Campus.

b. The desperate need for introspection and prayer regarding our own spiritual, emotional and vocational health as Ministers, and that of the Church as a whole.

We heard the vital call to integrity and excellence in matters like the administration and financial controls of the Church.

We heard God’s call to support and help each other in ministry through mentoring, encouragement, inspiration and prayer for one another and for our ministerial staff.

We sensed the inspiration of the Spirit as we considered the plans and hopes that Synod in Namaqualand in 2016 would be an experience of mission and celebration, rather than business as usual.

We heard God’s call:
- To ensure the highest integrity in all of our reporting;
- To commit to a high work ethic and to mutual accountability in this regard;
- For Ministers to lead the way in cross-Circuit missions;
- For a renewed commitment to finding ways to equip ourselves and one another for effective cross-cultural ministry.

As a result of the #Feesmustfall Campaign we sensed a Macedonian Call to work together as a District to appoint a University Chaplain in the Cape Metropole.

We recognised the need for clearer co-ordination of youth work within Circuits, and the proper recognition of all forms of youth work and formations within our Circuits and District.

We celebrated the missional approach of Organisations in terms of involvement in ministry to children’s homes, homes for the aged, members in crisis, hospitals, jails, in skills development programmes, mentorship of members, bursary assistance to students, a counselling project, and particularly the call to all Organisations to collaborate on a single District-level mission project.

The Namaqualand Synod presented us with the unique opportunity of a Cycle-Mission to the Synod, the celebration of 40 years of the ordination of women in the MCSA, a united mission and legacy project.

We heard the clear call that a Discipleship Movement Shaped for Mission should be the platform of work for every member, Society, Circuit, and Organisation for 2016.

We acknowledge and celebrate the rich variety and enormous diversity of the work being done under the banner of the Mission Desk, and the passion and commitment of all those involved in facilitating both ‘mission being’ and ‘mission doing’ at a
local and District level, from meeting physical needs, to justice issues, to social and mental wellbeing where we seem to already be touching many aspects of God’s mission.

During 2016 we celebrate the 40\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of both the Ordination of Women, and of the June 16\textsuperscript{th} Uprisings and acknowledged the great importance of commemorating these moments in ways that honestly, properly and respectfully engage with the true issues, values and deep-seated pain involved, and offer honest and meaningful individual and institutional confession of our sinful role in the perpetuation of the education crisis and the exclusion of women. In our District this includes celebrating the story of Cynthia Richards.

We heard the invitation to partnership with the Mozambique District through ministerial exchanges.

As a District we heard, discerned and recognised that we are on a journey together. In many ways we are further down the road than we were five years ago and in other ways we are not, and in some ways this is how it will always be because of the ongoing nature of our journey. We resolved to truly commit ourselves to being a Transforming Discipleship Movement Shaped for Mission as the singular call to action in 2016 in all of our Societies, Circuits and Organisations, each doing it in our own unique way, with our own unique strengths and weaknesses, trusting and knowing that others all over the District are doing the same, celebrating our differences and collaborating where we can. If we can do this we shall be getting somewhere very meaningful.

**DISTRICT SYNOD**

The 187\textsuperscript{th} Synod was hosted by the Namaqualand Circuit coinciding with the historic bi-centenary celebrations of the Namaqualand Mission. In keeping with the Connexional platform of work, our worship, business and conversations centred around God’s call to us to become a Mission Shaped Church. We were extremely privileged to have amongst us our Presiding Bishop, Rev Zipho Siwa and Mrs Siwa, the General Secretary, Rev Charmaine Morgan, as well as the Mission Unit, Communications and Ecumenical Affairs Unit Directors.

In a moving service commemorating the 40\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of the Ordination of Women, Synod acknowledged the sinfulness of the exclusion of women from the ministry of Word and Sacrament for so many years and gave thanks for those who sacrificed a great deal to help us discover that God’s mission includes all. Through a powerful Bible study by Rev Nomsa Nomqolo the Synod was challenged to acknowledge the continued discrimination against women in our churches, and to repent. We recognised that, to be shaped for mission, we must ask whom we continue to exclude from the ministry, as well as continue depending upon God’s Spirit for direction, as enunciated through a Bible study led by Rev John Stewe as a son of Namaqualand.
We celebrated the various ministries of a number of both lay and clergy, for their faithfulness in fulfilling God’s missional call upon their lives through the awarding of Long Service awards; significant amongst these was one of 40 years to Rev Tim Attwell, whilst together with families and friends we gave thanks to God for those who have finished their earthly journey and joined the church triumphant.

Eleven cyclists rode from Nuwerus to Springbok, a distance of 200 kilometres, and raised funds for the Synod Legacy Fund for mission and ministry in Namaqualand. Synod remembered the many who had sacrificially given of themselves and their resources to share in God’s mission over the last 200 years. A very special sacrificial offering was a gift of R4000 collected by pensioners from the Eastern Cape, sharing from their meagre resources with others. A total sum of R250 000 was raised for the Namaqualand Legacy Fund enabling mission to continue in Namaqualand, whilst the District Organisations handed over school uniforms, books and stationary to the value of over R150 000 to the eleven schools under our Missional leadership.

Leliefontein Methodist Mission and Bethels Klip were the sites for the bi-centenary celebrations where we gave thanks to God for the many who obediently served God and were challenged to continue the Missional Journey for the next 200 years.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CELEBRATIONS
Despite numerous challenges we celebrate the ongoing activity of God’s Spirit throughout the District in the following:

• The Commissioning of our New District Lay Leader Mrs Ayanda Woji.
• The 200th anniversary of Mission and Methodism amongst the indigenous people of Southern Africa.
• The Centenary Celebration of Mission and Ministry at Norwood, 170 years at Raithby and 120 years at Kenilworth.
• The District School of Discipleship which continues to serve as a vehicle for the equipping of Disciples for the work of Mission and Ministry.
• The consolidation of our drug rehabilitation and prevention programme for children at Heatherdale Children’s Home.
• The impact of our Ministerial Mission Week exchanges within the District on the various Circuits where these have been hosted.
• The ongoing annual review of ministry by all clergy.
• The Launch of our Gender, Counselling and Care for Creation Desks, in our Mission Unit.
• The monthly theological reflection sessions of clergy persons, District Seminars, Retreats, Consultations and Forums continue to serve as conduits for the empowerment of all engaged in Leadership for Mission.
• The huge volume of Missional activity through our Organisations, Units, Circuits, Societies and individual members engaged in, amongst many other things, feeding schemes, education, poverty alleviation, restorative justice,
crime prevention, care for the vulnerable, healing, palliative care, prophetic activism and governance lobbying.

- The interactive and enthusiastic participation of both laity and clergy in the preparation for the ensuing Mission Congress in discovering God’s call to us to become more Mission Shaped.

CONCLUSION
Recognising God’s invitation to engage in God’s Mission, we remain mindful of our many shortcomings and challenges and are aware of the enormity of the task at hand, yet privileged at the opportunity to share God’s love, grace, mercy and compassion in the various communities we are found in. We recognise that we are part of God’s mission and continue to commit ourselves to working towards God’s dream for a healed and reconciled world.
2015 has been a wonderful experience in our District - action-packed, full of fun and very successful. Every Minister (active and retired) and every lay leader (at Society, Circuit and District levels) deserves to be thanked for contributing to the wonderful atmosphere we are blessed to enjoy. It is often said that the taller and heavier a building, the stronger its foundation must be. The story of our success in our District is not different. Looking back now we realise that the use of our Ministers’ Retreats in February and in September have been central in shaping the mind and the bond of fellowship among our Ministers. These retreats have provided for us a platform to forge unity and spirituality that formed a broad foundation that can withstand a multitude of forces.

The spirit of unity of purpose in our District has been visible as we inducted new Ministers and during the hosting of the various conventions for our Organisations. Throughout the District, one can observe a desire by regions to work together and support the hosting Circuit. It is that spirit of co-operation that has helped the differences and united in making our work as best as we could.

The work of God in our District continues to grow around programmes that are linked to the Methodist Mission Pillars. Our Circuits and Organisations continue to be the mission vehicles at Society, Circuit and District levels. Through the use of class meetings, the Manyano as well as mission groups, the District has seen evidence of a spirituality that has minimized or eradicated destructive conflicts and unruly meetings. The result is that the use of our Conflict Resolution Committee and structures such as the Disciplinary Committee has been reduced to a minimum and one hopes they can be found unnecessary in the near future.

Despite limited financial resources in our District due to its largely rural nature, we are proud to report that Circuits continue to pay their assessments to the District and the Connexion. A number of Societies and Circuits have reported through Synod various outreach programmes that help feed and clothe the poor. Organisations like the Women’s Manyano, the YMG, Local Preachers Association and the Wesley Guild are supporting a number of students at Tertiary level with fees and accommodation.

Perhaps the centre of our mission goal in the past year has been the effort to revive the Healdtown Mission School again. With the assistance from the National Government Resource fund led by Archbishop Ndungane and the involvement of the provincial government, the Healdtown project has taken a giant leap forward. While a lot still needs to be done, the current progressive mood by other stake-holders has added energy in the District to dream big about the Church’s role in education.
In preparing for the Connexional Mission Congress in November 2016, our District had since 2015, crafted a District vision and thrust for the future. This vision and the District mission components specifically, have been debated by the District Executive and the Ministers. Put simply, our goal is to develop a creative and imaginative environment which will promote young minds to think “out of the box”. As we face the rapid and ever changing landscape of being a church in Southern Africa, is it not wise to invest our resources in young minds in a broader context where innovation and creativity are actively encouraged and promoted?

Given the context of a retiring Bishop who is not bound by the limitations of another election and facing the realities of a District that is about to celebrate 200 years (1820-2020) since the Rev. William Shaw planted the seeds of evangelism at Salem, it is time for this District to realise its potential for greatness, using the foundations and legacy we have, and strive for excellence.

As we close this year just past, we hold dearly to our success filled with the memories of a great and wonderful time which helped shape our character. We leave this past year with lessons we have learnt from our mistakes - lessons that will help us in our endeavours to come. Even as we celebrate the past, we cannot forget to trust in Him who alone is our strength and source of wisdom. We thank Him for what has passed, and we trust Him for what is to come. To God be the glory!
INTRODUCTION
Queenstown District continues to strive towards its vision of becoming an ‘Oasis’; a place without dividing fences/boundaries, where all are welcome to contribute and participate irrespective of race, colour, gender, ethnic group without prejudice. This we strive to achieve through encouraging principles of team work amongst ministers and partnerships between ministerial and lay leadership.

We also strive to make the District a place of peace by attempting to creatively address matters pertaining to conflict pro-actively and decisively. This we do because we believe mission can only happen where conflict is managed and eliminated.

I am pleased to report that even though we had situations that almost became uncontrollable in a particular Circuit, yet when the District was allowed to intervene the way forward was charted and the situation has been brought to normal.

The District Theme for the year 2016 is ‘Reclaiming a forgotten but essential Wesleyan approach to Ministry and Discipleship’. This theme seeks to redirect the District towards reclaiming spiritual Leadership for both Ministerial and Lay people, but also to reclaim the class meeting as a primary focus where personal transformation begins and can be sustained and is under-girded by Wesley’s thought that “there is no holiness without social holiness”. So then our approach to Ministry and Discipleship should reclaim Spiritual leadership for all, yet should be practically expressed through class/small group meetings as a strategy to bring about personal and social transformation.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT
Ministerial
The District Ministers retreat was led by Rev Vido Nyobole under the theme ‘Living out our Calling’. This retreat served as a reminder of who we are and the purpose for which we are called, as we were reminded, inspired and encouraged towards living out our calling through cultivating the following:

• An experience of personal encounter with Jesus
• A burning desire to preach the word
• Compassion for the least
• Readiness and availability to serve
• Willingness to sacrifice (suffer).

The District Ministers Convocation a day before Synod which is an attempt to empower ministers for their vocation focused on the following:
• The calling and character of the ordained (Clergy ethics) - Rev. VG Nyobole
• A theology of Sacraments: Baptism & Holy Communion - Rev Nathi Mananga
• These were through presentation of a researched paper followed by discussion. And we concluded our Convocation by a service of re-affirmation of the Ordination vows and Holy Communion.

LAY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & EMPOWERMENT
The District annual Strategic workshop which serves as a means to bring on board newly appointed Superintendents, Circuit Stewards and Treasurers met in King Williams Town on the 05-06th February 2016. We have discovered that this approach assists in eliminating confusion and conflicts in Circuit, and re-enforces collaboration amongst Circuit Leadership. The standard content of the workshop is as follows:
• Re-visioning and Evaluation of the District.
• Conference decisions and resolutions for discussion and implementation (New Stationing Procedure).
• Role of Circuit Stewards & Treasurers - Powers of Duties of Superintendents (Chapter 7 of L&D).
• Strategies for financial management, Budgeting and Administration.

It is this leadership workshop that has recommended to Synod via District Executive that the District should develop Mount Coke as a Centre for a Methodist Work in the area by:
• Building a District Manse to accommodate a Bishop;
• Building District Offices;
• Form a partnership with government in re-developing Mount Coke for a convention centre, early childhood development centre, Methodist Lodge and Heritage Site.

DISCIPLESHIP COURSES
Discipleship courses as coordinated by the District EMMU (Supervisor of Studies and the Lay Leader), focused on development and empowerment of class leaders in the light of the District theme and Synod address. We have spread the discipleship workshops by grouping circuits into regions - in order to make them accessible to as many leaders as possible and minimize travelling. The meetings are budgeted for by the District. These meetings were well attended, very successful this year.

The areas of focus were the following:
• Origin, Purpose and value of class meetings;
• The content of small group/syllabus;
• How to reclaim conducting a class meeting for our present context.

Border Region Rev ME Matyumza Bishop
Queenstown region Mr Zandile Jakavula
Gcaleka Region Mr Fungile Dotwana
Drakensberg Region Rev VG Nyobole
DISTRICT MISSION

Bursary Fund: Queenstown District continues to pride itself on the Dr TSN Gqubule Bursary Fund, meant as an access to tertiary Education for Children coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Bursary Board recommended and accepted all 10 new applicants for the year 2016 for funding, excluding those who are currently in the system (2nd & 3rd year students). We continue to value our Circuits and District Organisations for their valued commitment and contribution to the Fund.

Mission: It is worth mentioning that the District Organisations have made Mission work a priority and have come up with creative initiatives and formed Mission Funds that are specifically meant for Mission Work.
• Rev Mvume Dandala Mission Fund (2002-District Wesley Guild)
• Rev Vuyani Nyobole Mission Fund (2014-by District YMG)
• Mr Zandile Jakavula Mission Fund (2016-by District Local Preachers Association)
• Inkanyamba Mission Fund (District Womens’ Manyano) formed as a means to reclaim Methodist Heritage of assisting our people for Education initiatives (TSN Gqubule Fund).

The District Organisations have contributes towards Building houses for the homeless, and supplying school uniforms, computers/laptops, furniture for the poor and the marginalised people in the District. These Organisations collect thousands of rand annually not only for maintaining the Organisations but for responding to the Needs of our people in the District. We thank God and sincerely appreciate these initiatives and sacrifices from Methodist people in the District and the Leadership who implements them.

EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH

The District continues to use the strategy of combining the District Evangelism and Biblewomen Convention with the District Mission Outreach. This year the focus is at Tsojana Circuit 323. Spiritual Leadership Development and Empowerment Workshop was led by Rev MG Caba and Rev. Khaya Makhumsha - in preparation for the Mission Outreach week which is led by District Ministers, Mission Unit and District Convention of the Order of Evangelism & Biblewomen and is funded through the District budget.

This strategy has yielded positive fruits as it has assisted this circuit to pull out of non-viability status. We recognise with great honour the co-operation of Rev Sizwe Dlamini and the Tsojana Circuit Lay Leadership for their sincerity in approach together with District Mission Unit as led by Rev Thembile Pimpi. This approach focuses more on the sustainability which depends entirely from within the Circuit. It has made great strides in Kei Circuit 310, Ngqamakwe 333 and now Tsojana 323. We are re-examining how it can also assist Centane Circuit 321.
DEVELOPMENT OF CHURCH BUILDINGS
This part of Mission work is very important in a rural District like ours because a congregation that has no place to worship struggles to grow and eventually dies.

- I am delighted to report that this year East London 314 will dedicate three churches: (Nondlwana, AM Mbete, Mission at Mncotsho 2 and T Rweqana and Mncotsho 1 (leadership of Rev Matyumza).
- King Williamstown 312 will dedicate two churches as part of celebrating ten years of Ministry for Bishop AM Mbete (leadership of Rev Nkomonde).
- Gompo Circuit 340 dedicated two churches on the 09th August at Mpintsho (under the leadership of Rev Lofafa).
- Butterworth 322 will be dedicating two churches in September (under the Leadership of Rev Makananda).
- Kei Circuit 310 will be dedicating two churches on the 13th November under the leadership of Rev Gobingca.
- Woodehouse Forest Circuit 326 dedicated ten church buildings out of fourteen on the 9-10 July, built during the term of Rev AM Dondashe, in recognition of his role and celebration of his Ministry in Circuit 326 over a period of 18 years.

CONCLUSION
I am pleased to report Presiding Bishop and Conference that the Queenstown District of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa is still and very much alive to the mission and vision of God and continues to strive towards becoming a ‘transforming discipleship movement’.

I humbly express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all Circuit Superintendents and Ministers, Circuit Stewards, Organisation Leadership and all Methodist people in the District - most particularly circuit 314 where I am currently stationed - for the enormous and unwavering support they afforded me thus far; also for their affirmation and encouragement. I continue to plead:

Let us do our best; Let us do our very best; Let us do it every day.

We praise God for the life and Service of Rev Dr Simon Gqubule who has served as a Superintendent in Mt Coke on two occasions and as a District Bishop. And for the life and service of Rev Nkululeko Tunyiswa who served in Kamastone Circuit. May their labours continue to disturb us; may their good works continue to live amongst us. May their souls rest in peace.
In most instances this is where we find ourselves in most parts of our vast District. The KNB District is geographically located in very arid parts of the land, areas stricken with a high rate of unemployment resulting in a myriad of social problems. The recent image depicted by the Statistician-General of South Africa presents a gloomy state of affairs mirrored in youth unemployment statistics. These statistics present a clear-cut status quo of our District and has negatively affected our propensity to do mission. Our District has seen itself go through dire financial constraints and we have joined the lament: there is famine in our land... Yet it is with hope and a renewed spirit that we look ahead as the people called Methodist in this District that God will lead us safely...

INTRODUCTION
It is prudent that as I write this report I begin with the planning meeting we held as a District in an attempt to re-define ourselves and map a way forward for ourselves. From our planning meeting we reflected and proceeded to evaluate our past, to re-imagine a future with success. We set ourselves goals beginning with the clergy, setting values that we believe can drive us to a restored way of relating with each other, and acknowledged our differences; we emerged visualising ourselves as a “Melting-pot”, and concluded that going forward we are going to embrace our diversity - expand our comfort zone. In an effort to foster and continue intentional diversity, for the Ministers this has been maintained in our quarterly fellowship meetings referred to as ‘Kopano’. For the laity, in an effort to extend the process of the “Melting Pot” we have laity-training that enhances knowledge of process and procedures in the church. Our “Melting Pot” is anchored by three core values as is
the traditional African “drie-voet” (three-legged) pot, which will form the focus of the District over the next three years. For 2016 we will focus on diversity; followed by a focus on heritage during 2017 and in 2018 spirituality (diagram 1).

We have tasked ourselves to follow these three values that form the legs of our pot. These values will be explored over the next three years guided still by the Presiding Bishop’s theme “Together a transforming discipleship movement” and the sub theme “Shaped for Mission”.

DISTRICT SYNOD
The year 2016 was a historic year for us as a District as we held our 135th Synod in the Archbell and Tweespruit Circuit which in many ways is the Mother of the two Districts: KNB & NFS&L. We met at St. Paul’s Methodist Society in Thaba ‘Nchu where many of our forebears in the faith met, a chapel built 183 years ago by the Rev. James Archbell and the first batch of Methodists amongst the Sotho-Tswana. The theme of our Synod was “We are the body of Christ, A transformative movement”, with our focus being “Embracing our diversity”.

Thought provoking bible studies were led by the Rev. Vuyelwa Sebolao, and tribute to women in the Ministry was offered by the Rev. Otto Mbangula and his old question about the calling of women reverberated: “If God has called them who are you to stand in their way?”. Rev. Winifred Van Rooi-Baumann also delivered a moving sermon as she charged the Candidates and Ordinand at the Witness Service. Synod reflected on and interrogated the report that expressed the wish of the Namibians to be a District again. Synod approved the request; however, there are areas that still need to be investigated. This is also a matter of listening to God and to each other. The Synod also celebrated the work of women in the ministry, reflected on it and resolved on certain motions that aim to enhance the life of women in the ministry. The District Synod resolved that mission imperative sub-committees be appointed to drive mission within the District. The life of mission in the District is as follows:

Spirituality
The KNB District has one of the broadest varieties of worship in the Connexion. These spiritualities continue to be harnessed in our conventions and regional gatherings. Our District conventions went well despite a few unsettling things in terms of venues. We are thankful to the Bloemfontein Circuit, who on two occasions came to our rescue under these dire circumstances. Mission work was the focus in all those conventions and the organisations are the backbone of our ventures. We as a District have rediscovered who we are spiritually, surrounded by limitless hope. ‘Share in the Spirit, allow for the Holy Spirit to transform you’ - Anonymous.

Evangelism and Church Growth
This mission has been well executed by the Order of Evangelism in our District. In 2016 the KNB District joined hands with the NFS&L District in their annual
alternating conventions. We had the convention this year in the Vaal River Circuit and spread our door-to-door campaign across the Barkley West area. Ministers in the District joined the mission campaign and a lot was achieved with the joining of hands between the clergy and the laity. The District has further observed exceptional growth in the ‘sowing of the seed’ through the nurturing and growth in the Junior Manyano across the District. This has been a collaborative effort in an effort to preserve both Methodist ethos and Christian values.’

‘Hold your head high, stick it. It gets dark sometimes but morning comes, keep hope alive’ - Jesse Jackson.

Justice and Service
The organisations have been the leaders in the execution of this mission pillar. The Women’s Manyano and the Young Women’s Manyano have continued to drive programmes on the observance and education of the 16 days of activism against Women and Children Abuse (Thursday’s in Black). In further efforts to preserve souls and the soil, the Young Women’s Manyano have heeded to the call to alleviate poverty, hunger and HIV/AIDS by registering a Non-Profit Organisation in the Zastron Circuit to feed child-headed households and address other social ills affecting the community. The Young Men’s Guild has not grown weary of engaging in marches against the abuse of women and children in their conventions. The children’s ministry has also done well in this regard by also raising their voice in marches across our District.

‘Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much’ - Helen Keller.

Human and Economic Development and Empowerment
This mission pillar has not been given much attention across our District; however, increased efforts and energies will now be put into it. It has dawned on us that we need the collective in order for us to attend to bigger tasks. An evident and sporadic growth in food gardens has seen a point of departure in better addressing this mission. Specifically for this pillar of Development and Economic Empowerment a task team has been formed to co-ordinate the proposals coming from the different conventions.

Education and Christian Formation
It is the role of education to remedy a mis-aligning economy. To transform and reform the job market, education is the most efficacious instrument in the forming of a society. Across the District at varying levels organisations have responded to this mission with the utmost commitment. The Youth Unit has done considerable work and has focused on the education of young poor children throughout the District. The youth further launched the campaign “Educate a child” in which members of the MYU in the District embark on ensuring that members of our church take part in educating our society. Each circuit is to identify 10 children from very needy
families, perhaps some within the church and some outside the church, that can be assisted with school uniforms every three years. The drive is to buy school uniforms, shoes and pay their annual school fees, if payable until the child reaches matric. The Women’s Manyano as well as the Young Women’s Manyano have also heeded to the call by investing in the educational space (procurement of educational toys and uniforms) to ensure children are afforded the opportunity to be educated. 100 school uniforms were donated to a disadvantaged school in Botshabelo and 100 school shoes in Kimberley in an effort to protect the child and ensure access to education is not hindered. We continue to pray over the higher education space that while #FeesMustFall lingers the spirit of reformation may settle and probe the space to educate and form the 21\textsuperscript{st} century graduates we yearn for as a nation.

‘You can never be overdressed or overeducated’ - Oscar Wilde

‘Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world’ - Nelson Mandela.

\textbf{CHALLENGES}

We have on-going challenges financially, geographically and with diversity in ideas and ideologies, but with the help of God we are confident that we shall overcome. We will be intentional in trying to attend to these challenges, knowing that God will make a way where there is no other way. Time will tell and time will heal. Genesis 3 says: “\textit{And God said: Adam where are you?}” We took note of the fact that Mission is God’s initiative and we join God in search of Adam, beginning with the Society, Circuit and District we dream of. We intend to be Mission intentional, knowing that a mission-less church is not worth its salt.

\textbf{CONCLUSION}

It is at this time that we as the KNB District find ourselves as this living melting pot yearning to be moved as Methodists who are called into this harmonious whole. I take this moment on my journey to thank my family, the District Management Committee, the District Executive Committees and Ministers for expanding their comfort zones to embark on this journey thus far with me. May the discerning Spirit fall upon us all as we descend to depths unknown and emerge with strengths unimagined because of His presence with us through this journey. I pray Gods’ blessings and breakthrough as we look ahead through the window pane of hope to see His deeds of mercy.

God Bless Africa and this District.
INTRODUCTION
The Methodist Church is found in cities, town or “dorpies”, townships, informal settlements, villages and the mountains of the Kingdom of Lesotho, across the “platteland” of the Northern Free State. Our places of worship where ministries emanate comprise of both formal and informal structures, some even from the farm “Skuur” (a barn). In every meeting place we seek to fulfil God’s vision for the church in general and the Methodist Church of Southern Africa as Healing centres to proclaim the “Gospel of Healing and Transformation”. In all this we are longing to work towards “A Christ Healed Africa for the Healing of Nations”.

We believe that we are still embracing God’s call to be: “Together a Transforming Discipleship Movement”.

SPECIAL EVENTS:
The Women’s Manyano are still pursuing their focus of “Turning the Role of Women’s Manyano into that of the Mission Warrior”. Also they have set themselves goals which are complementary with the church’s theme: “Together a transforming Discipleship Movement”.

We have witnessed our mothers becoming real disciples of Jesus Christ when they donned their uniforms and confronted moral degeneration at schools, addressing gangsters, the issues of teenage pregnancy, the abuse of alcohol and drugs; at Police Stations addressing and submitting memorandums that cried out for action to stop rape and the abuse of women and children. Lastly Women’s Manyano has committed to taking full responsibility of raising and parenting the triplet young girls they have adopted at Kroonstad.

YOUNG WOMAN’S MANYANO:
The Young Woman’s Manyano continue to donate groceries to the needy, and also uniforms to the orphans and needy learners. The Young Woman’s Manyano has started with chain prayers with fellow sisters in Christ. Every convention they are having reading corners and also circuits are encouraged to have reading corners and to open their buildings for homework centres.

YOUTH UNIT:
The Youth Unit acknowledges the drug and substance abuse challenges in the youth ministry, which has needed attention. Hence the Youth Unit have established a Youth Ministry Against Substance Abuse which is guided by the Masa program.
Youth Synod strategies to deal with drug and substance abuse in the District were formulated. The only challenge which remains is that of integration; despite efforts to integrate other entities including Youth Pastors, Youth Groups, Youth Fellowship, Youth Association, Teen Church, they alienate themselves from the Youth Unit. Poverty alleviation in this District is a concern especially with the Youth Unit.

The Youth unit donated about 100 sanitary towels to learners of a Primary School so as to restore dignity to these girls who missed school due to this problem. The Youth Unit in the District established and launched the Solomon Thekisoe Mission and Educational Fund that seeks to provide and also assist individuals within the unit in their Educational Journey. The Children’s Ministry continues to grow both at District and Regional levels. The Children’s Ministry held a successful weekend at circuit 611 where the event was packed with Debate, Public Speaking, Spelling Bee and Poetry. The children did not miss the opportunity to display their polished talent.

YOUNG MEN’S GUILD:
The Young Men’s Guild visited the Orphanage in Phomolong, Kroonstad. All circuits in the District were requested to donate R100 towards this home and Kroonstad circuit was mandated to facilitate the adoption and care of the home. An Anti-Xenophobia march was conducted together with the Ministers from the Fraternal and led by the Young Men’s Guild. The organisation donated 14 food parcels to needy families. An outreach was organised to Likubu Primary School where a donation of R2 000 was made for education purposes.

LESOTHO:
All Circuits in Lesotho, as far as mission is concerned, are trying, although poverty is rife. The unemployment here is due to the closure of mines. The economy of Lesotho depends mostly on South Africa especially with employment. Circuits cannot be viable as far as assessments are concerned due to this rate of unemployment. In other circuits life is improved by having vegetable gardening and fruit tree nurseries, although the past year was hit by drought. Even as the picture looks so dim, there is a silver lining. It is always a great pleasure to announce that two particular schools, namely Hlotse Methodist Primary School and Methodist High School achieved 100% pass rate. In Leribe the circuit is in the process of getting a site for the Hlotse Methodist High School.

Parents from the Hlotse Primary School do not want to lose their children from the discipline of the school. This says a lot about us as the Methodist Church in Lesotho. We thank God that even in the whole situation where our property is still not with us, there is a need to celebrate God’s grace.

CHALLENGES:
• Circuits in Lesotho cannot meet their assessments. Most circuits especially in South Africa have improved;
• Unemployment that is rising in this District;
• The unending case of Maseru and Ficksburg/Ladybrand Circuits.

FUTURE PLANS:
• Minister’s Pre-Synod convocation, where a platform of accountability, development and mentoring will be experienced;
• District Mission congress in the early new year;
• Development of Laity and empowerment which will be led by the Lay Leader and team.

CONCLUSION:
In conclusion the Northern Free State & Lesotho District still continues to proclaim that God calls the Methodist people to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ for healing and transformation. Also in this District we are Together a Transforming Discipleship Movement which is shaped for God’s Mission. In his book, Transforming Discipleship: making disciples a few at a time, Greg Ogden says,

“Following Jesus’ example, it is vital that we issue a call to the journey of discipleship.
This means that the invitation to discipleship should be preceded by a period of prayerful discernment. It is vital to have a settled conviction that the Lord is drawing us to those to whom we are issuing this ‘invitation’”. (p 177).
NATAL COASTAL DISTRICT (07)

Bishop Michael Vorster

Ecumenical affairs should be, and is, a cross-cutting matter in all that we do in order to become an inclusive Mission-shaped body of God’s people for Justice and Service. For many years we have not always known what to do with our Church’s Ecumenical Affairs Unit. We have correctly set aside fulltime ministers to be Directors of the Mission unit, and EMMU and several other fulltime staff. Through this the church says we take mission and training for ministry very seriously, (our treasure lies where our hearts are). Yet is the MCSA not supposed to run on two tracks: God’s Mission and Unity? Yes we have made great strides through the Church Unity Commission who have facilitated agreements between the former British based Mission churches. For years ecumenical affairs was not even in our L&D. Yet we stumbled on trying to understand how this fitted in to the MCSA.

The MCSA Conference of 1958 stated that we are one and undivided, meaning that we need to address the divisions within the church which were and still remain gender, race, age, sexuality, clergy vs laity and an ethnic divide. In later years we have become more vocal about our ethnic divide. One need only read the articles in New Dimension ‘The Elephant in the room’, to get a sense of this.

We attempted to address the gender divide by ordaining women 40 years ago. However we need more women to be invited into our District and we need to appoint more women Superintendents. As a Synod and Circuits we need to be more intentional and courageous about this. I fear that the new system of CQMs nominating Bishops will work against women being nominated.

We endeavour to address the racial/ethnic divide through the formation of Geographical Circuits and cross-cultural stationing. Most former ‘white’ churches are now mixed in our District. We have yet to see ‘black’ churches transform in a similar way, whereby ‘white’ Methodists become members in township and rural churches, embracing essentially black Methodist worship. However within our ‘black’ Methodist churches, transformation is steadily growing as different languages from our Connexion are introduced through hymns. Our pace is slow but it is sure, and there is much room for improvement.

We need to work on the clergy/laity divide through the promotion of a better understanding of our MCSA structures and processes. A special training and mediation team will be set up to address this issue.

Let us together transform Sundays into the most united time of our Christian witness, away from, as it is at the moment, the most divided time.
We also need to pay more attention to our divisions on denominational lines. Lines of division have also been drawn between South African Council of Churches (SACC) aligned churches and those churches allied with the National Interfaith Council of South Africa (NICSA). Our experience is that this goes all the way to grassroots Church fraternals in our District.

It is encouraging to note that in recent years the MCSA has taken Ecumenical Affairs far more seriously, shown in particular when Rev. Dr Mvume Dandala, Rev Purity Malinga and now Rev ‘Musi Losaba were appointed as Directors of the MCSA Ecumenical Affairs unit. During their period of leadership the MCSA Conference has solidified Ecumenical Affairs as can be seen in the latest edition of the L&D (MBO) para. 8.5 pp 89 to 92. In addition to this, District Ecumenical Affairs Secretaries (DEAS) and the Ecumenical Affairs advisory Committee (EAAC) have together developed a user friendly handbook entitled: What is Ecumenism?

All of these developments, the establishment of a Connexional Ecumenical Affairs advisory Committee; the annual DEAS consultation; the booklet, all assist the communal body of the MCSA to strengthen our vital united witness and mission of the church universal. After all did the Head of the Church universal not pray: “That they may be one...?” (John 17). I am bold to say that every book in the canon of Scripture points us toward the unity of humanity, nature and the cosmos. This is the essential transformational mission of the church.

The need for a separate ecumenical affairs emphasis is a corrective to what ought to be normative. If this is not flagged constantly we so easily sink into our own self-preservation and selfish interest to protect our denomination. Is not the secular corporate language of protecting the branding of the MCSA logo, one indication of this? Can there ever be a copyright on that which promotes the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Re Philippians passage Chapter 1: 17-18 “...the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice....”

Ecumenism is at the heart of all we do as we participate in God’s transforming mission in the world. One need only understand the word Oikos, the root word for Ecumenism to see its centrality when engaging with Methodists Ignited for Mission. Allow me to offer a fuller understanding of Ecumenism from the Oikos Journey monograph; it is worth quoting in full to capture its richness:

“The meaning of Oikos
One approach that can help us gather the necessary biblical and theological

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1 Bishop Mike Vorster chairs the EAAC on behalf of the Connexion
2 Approved by Conference 2015.
3 The Oikos Journey – published by Diakonia Council of Churches.
resources to engage the world of economics from the perspective of the God whom we worship is to focus on a Greek word in the New Testament: Oikos.

Literally, Oikos means ‘house’, ‘household’ or ‘home’. It becomes a powerful term for us because it is the root for three significant words - economy, ecology and ecumenical - and therefore points to the interconnections between the church, God’s creation and economic justice. The English word ‘economy’ comes from two Greek words: Oikos-nomos, meaning the rules of the household. In seeking to understand God’s economy, we must step back from a limited notion of ‘economics’ meaning a specialised academic subject understood only by experts, and return to these original, basic roots.

To speak of God’s economy is therefore to speak of the rules that God has established for our household, the world in which people live, work, struggle, flourish and die. This earth that God created, this sphere that spins through space, this globe, the household in which humanity lives and seeks meaning, our only home - this must be the place where we start to think theologically about economics.

For millions of years God has shepherded the earth into existence so that it can sustain life. To do so requires a delicate balance between human life and other life; between life, death and rebirth; between production, consumption and waste; between the needs of the current generation and the needs of the many generations still to come; and between our creative ability to shape and reshape nature, and our sinful desire to do so for selfish ends.

From God’s perspective therefore, economy - Oikos-nomos - is directly related to ecology - Oikos-logos. Both concern the earth as our Oikos, our home. God’s economy concerns how the bounty of the world in terms of earth, water, air, plants, helps human life to flourish. It cannot be separated from ecology, from the intricate web that sustains life on the planet.

Since the advent of science, technology and the industrial revolution, however, the economy and ecology have split apart. Economy now means generating wealth, using the earth as natural resources or as a receptacle for our waste. The world economy has to do with seeing everything as a commodity to be bought and sold, removing the role of governments in supplying basic needs to their people by handing this duty over to private companies, and making maximum profit out of every single transaction that happens. It no longer sees the relationship with ecology, with keeping in harmony with the wider Rhythm of the earth. And in so doing, it no longer seeks to keep in harmony with fundamental biblical principles to do with God’s economy.

A third word that comes from the root Oikos is ‘ecumenical’. In this case it is from the Greek word oikoumene, meaning the ‘whole inhabited world’. The idea of the house or household of God here refers to the church - fellow-citizens in the household of God - and provides the grounding for the ecumenical movement of Christian unity. The word ‘ecumenical’ carries with it some of the meaning of both
economics and ecology. God has created this ‘house’ and is busy at work seeing to justice and equality, reconciliation and the flourishing of all creation. The church, the ‘household of God’ is called to be a community of faith showing God’s purposes in creation as a sign to others, through seeking not just the unity of Christians, but of all the people of the earth. Down through the centuries, the church has turned to the bible in the context of crisis, to find meaning and a way forward....”

There is no doubt that Mission and Ecumenism are inextricably linked. To speak of one without the other is a false doctrine. Ecumenism is not an optional extra. In NGO language it is a ‘cross cutting issue’ in all that we do in obedience to our Lord. Mission must be done in unity together with others, or else the church should be honest and register as a charity organisation.

In this District we are grateful to have significant ecumenical bodies like the Diakonia Council of Churches, KwaZulu Regional Christian Council, the KZN Christian Council and the KZN Church Leaders Group. For instance together with other churches:

- As Methodists we were engaged in the so-called xenophobic attacks and continue to assist with the reintegration process since March 2015.
- We continue to monitor and engage with broader social and economic justice issues.

Two noteworthy local ecumenical initiatives are:

- Ingwavuma Circuit who have built five church buildings together with five other denominations. Rev Lucky Mgomezulu has played a pivotal role.
- The Umlazi Ecumenical Council plays a very significant role in bringing churches together in that area. Rev Linda Mandindi and Rev Sandile Dlamini (Uniting Reformed Church) are playing an important role within the UEC and are engaged with a very sensitive ministry at Glebelands Hostels where more than 50 people have been killed.

Striving for unity is the essence of transformation. It is the raison d’etre of the Church. The first thing our Lord says is we must repent (metanoia) of that which impedes and blocks the work of the unifying Holy Spirit who leads us to bring Good news to the poor, liberty to the captives and every other instruction in Luke 4.

I am pleased to say all Circuits are involved in mission in one form or the other. However we still have shortcomings as a District when it comes to Unity in Mission but there are promising signs.

Let us affirm where we have come from and assess where we are now. The elephant in the room is becoming more visible because we are more willing to have honest

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4 (Bishop Mike recently elected as chair).
discussions with each other. At Synod 2015, I believe the Lord led me to say that we need to wake up because the ‘Madiba bubble’ has popped and that there has never been a rainbow nation. Not long after these words were spoken, we saw our youth’s impatience with the pace of change as expressed through #rhodesmustfall/#feesmustfall protests; racism reared more of its ugly head mainly through social media; white privilege is in the spotlight and is in the process of being exorcised; black hurt is voicing itself through the expanding de-colonialisation movement; growing corruption within Government and business is worsening economic disparity. Is this not all symptomatic of how we have fallen short of God’s Mission and unity for us as South Africans in particular and humanity in general? **Should we as church not to be at the forefront of just transformation?**

Our **Courageous conversations** need to continue, which moves us into the costly process of reconciliation, confession, repentance and restitution. We delayed our District Imbizo for February 2016 to pause and find the best way to have our conversations. However we have not been idle; we have begun to talk about some parts of the ‘elephant in the room’ through the conversations begun on Conventions.

We need to be more intentional to be in touch with the realities and experiences of our youth at tertiary educational institutions. Where there are such places in our Circuits we must assign a minister (or two) to have pastoral oversight. At the moment we tend just to put it under the general umbrella of the Circuit.

Ecumenical opportunities for us to make a real difference to the state of our Province and nation are growing. For instance:

- Under the umbrella of the Church Unity Commission’s Centre of Hope trajectory a national hearing and healing programme is underway in all Provinces. Here in KZN we are part (the Bishop chairs) of The **Indlebe* (Ear) Programme**: Towards truth, justice, healing, reconciliation and peace in KwaZulu-Natal. This programme aims to **create safe spaces and hearings for the purpose of truth, justice healing and reconciliation** for those among us who: previously were unable to tell their stories to the TRC; have been traumatised by current poverty and poor service delivery; have been re-traumatised through Xenophobia; are women who have been affected by Gender Based Violence; children who have been traumatised, through abuse. Already work has begun with those who were traumatised by so-called xenophobic attacks. Continued building of better business and human relations between us locals and our African compatriots in places like Isipingo continues to be facilitated.

- The ‘**shot at and the shooters**’ is the start of a journey of repentance and restitution whereby former members of the Apartheid SADF will publically confess that what they did was wrong on June 16 2016 in SOWETO. They are in conversation with the June 16 Foundation facilitated by the SACC. How do we embrace a similar process within our District?

- The SACC initiative: **The South Africa We Pray For** campaign is a commitment...
to all three aspects of the prophetic tradition. The disposition of the Church in this regard is prayerful - seeking to “soak the country in prayer!” It certainly cannot be triumphalist or arrogant, but it has to be accompanied by a confessional and penitential dimension, in recognition of its own gross imperfections as individuals and institutions, and for being knowingly and unknowingly complicit in the injustices that pervert the country.

Attending an anti-Corruption symposium recently, there was a **cry for a life-style audit** for all those in government. I would amplify this call for a life-style audit in business and the church as well.

Now is the time to act, now is the time to get on the bus of costly reconciliation. We can no longer live in a fool’s paradise; all is not well, yet together as people of faith we can make things better.

I conclude with these words from Philippians 1:27-30: “**Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.**”

Shalom
Since the beginning of 2016, I have met with the Ministers at a Ministers Retreat, had a Superintendents’ Meeting, established a District Mission Committee, established a District Glebe Committee, met District Circuit Stewards, met with active Ministers’ Wives, Regions of the district and Midlands Council of churches, visited District Mission Projects and met with District Executives of Organisations.

DISTRICT RETREAT
The theme was, “Here I am Lord, send me”. This retreat was soul searching, leading to commitment, God being our Helper. Rev David Barbour of our District professionally led this Retreat at Africa Enterprise in Pietermaritzburg.

SUPERINTENDENTS’ MEETING
Here we explained in detail the new stationing procedure and planned for the 2016 Synod.

DISTRICT MISSION COMMITTEE
We realised that the District Mission Secretary needed more people around him in this Ministry. We added a person for each Pillar of our Mission Imperatives. We added one for environments, one for HIV and Aids, one for Child Care.

DISTRICT GLEBE COMMITTEE
The District has some Glebes, some of which have been lying neglected and were threatened by informal settlement. The Committee will identify all those Glebes and we are going to seek professional advice as to how to use them effectively. We have started to use one for gardening. Indaleni families are leasing plots for their subsistence gardening.

DISTRICT CIRCUIT STEWARDs
Natal West District had no District Manse and Office. We discussed the idea of a permanent District Manse and Office; we introduced and explained in detail the new Stationing Procedure; District Finance Position; District Office Secretary and the up-coming Mission Congress. What transpired in the meeting was:
(i) The Methodist Church is already a Church in Mission.
(ii) Our Mission in not well co-ordinated and managed at Society and Circuit Levels.
(iii) Our Church Structure needs to be re-visited by way of identifying people, equipping and job descriptions.
(iv) Circuit assessment methods must give a space for financial strength at local level.
(v) The proportion of Ministers per Societies needs to be looked at.
(vi) Mission Congress to be regional rather the Connexional so as to allow greater number of people per District.

ACTIVE MINISTERS’ WIVES
Women form the majority in our Church. Ministers’ Wives have more time than Ministers, to meet with women in our Church. We drew attention to the importance of attending Sunday Services more than Organisation’s Gatherings, we talked about the importance of respecting, showing love for all and taking care of them. We also talked about the importance of being a Minister’s wife.

REGIONS OF THE DISTRICT
Natal West District is divided into four Regions. The Bishop visits these Regions twice a year, to meet with Ministers. What I have heard from some Ministers is that some Circuits still follow the Quarterly Method of Pledging and I was told that to bring these Circuits to monthly contributions will be a struggle. I am planning to hold workshops on Giving with these Circuits, one at a time from next year 2017. Though we are all in an economic down-turn, the principle of giving to God still needs to be upheld with what we can afford.

MIDLANDS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
Kwa-Zulu Natal Council of Churches has mandated Church Ministers in the so-called Midlands to form a Council and I was nominated to be to be a Board Member. We are going to Train as “Election Observers” for the up-coming Local Government Elections in August and we are going to attend to many local issues that affect the lives of people.

DISTRICT MISSION PROJECTS
• TVET Construction at Indaleni at Richmond is making good progress. Mobile class-rooms have been assembled and put in position.
• School for the Deaf still in normal progress at Indaleni.
• Gardening in family plots making good progress at Indaleni.
• Hospice clothing project at Estcourt.
• Day care at Umtshezi.
• Computer Skills Training at Newcastle.
• Thembelihile Primary School at Howick.
• Alcoholics Anonymous at Port Shepstone.
• Marlewood crèche at Port Shepstone.
• Thandumntwana crèche at Port Shepstone.
• Zizameleni crèche at Port Sheptone.
• Nakekela Sewing Project at Port Shepstone.
• Siyakhula crèche at Port Shepstone.
• Soup Kitchen at Port Shepstone.
• Bursaries and School uniforms to different Schools.

DISTRICT EXECUTIVES OF ORGANISATIONS
Here we talked about Conventions in Circuits that are struggling financially, about being mission oriented, and that their themes to be in line with Connexional theme and rosters.

WHERE WE NEED HELP
b. Training of Project Management.
c. Training on How to Start a Project.

CIRCUITS
There are now only three Circuits that are not yet at Peace. These are:

Southdale 0803
This Circuit is divided into two if not three factions. There is history behind this division. We need a Minister who is able to unite people. Any Minister who would take any side will never be able to lead that Circuit.

Bulwer 0809
The previous Minister did not allow the over-stayed Circuit Stewards to carry on. Now the incumbent Minister inherited the situation of the aggrieved Stewards who are now against anything done be the incumbent Circuit Stewards and the Minister.

Newcastle 0830
This Circuit is financially going down with high speed and this is going to affect the District because Newcastle is one the Big Circuits in the District. The problem here is Circuit leadership-style of leading.
Firstly, please allow me to say thank you for the opportunity to serve the MCSA in this capacity. It has been a great joy for me to experience the richness of the Methodist people who live in this vast District who serve and worship our great God. The first six months of 2016 has been what I would classify as an orientation period. It has been a tremendous gift for me to be able to experience the different communities found in our District.

The theme for 2016 has been ‘A healthy organism is a growing organism’. In it we have taken opportunities to examine our Spiritual Health, Emotional Health and Physical Health. This has been covered at retreats and business meetings.

The theme for Synod was ‘Servant Leadership that gives shape to Mission’. The Synod address interrogated the transformation from the ‘pew to the pulpit, the pew to the palace and the pew to parliament’. We asked questions about how we can easily lose our servants’ heart on the journey. We all started in the pew, as new believers, transformed by the Grace of the Gospel, but our walk was hijacked by power, greed and compromise. We were introduced to Martin Luther King’s words:

“Not everybody can be famous. But everybody can be great, because greatness is determined by service. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You don’t have to know about Plato or Aristotle to serve. You don’t have to know Einstein’s theory of relativity to serve. You don’t have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.”

God calls His leaders to have humble hearts, honest hearts, unselfish hearts and giving hearts.

One of the greatest challenge we face in the District is the imbalance of resources. The West of our District needs far more resources to do its work effectively. As a District we are continuously looking at creative ways to deal with the imbalance. In saying that, the tireless work of the laity and clergy in these areas is a witness to all of us and I am grateful for their commitment to sharing the Gospel despite the challenges they face.

The work of Mission is evident throughout the District. The countless programmes that are running to serve the homeless, widows and orphans is without any doubt making an impact. We continue to provide a ministry to the marginalised, the refugees and asylum seekers.
I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the Rev Witbooi who has helped me make the transition into this position of leadership. His commitment to the church and the legacy he left has made an indelible mark on the District. Thank you too to the Executive of the District and the Connexional Executive, for their support and guidance.
INTRODUCTION
It is a profound privilege to report on another year of God’s work within the Highveld and Swaziland District. Through the year we have been sustained by God’s Mercy, Love and Power. It has been a year of some struggling and faith, but much progress and rejoicing. We have witnessed increased poverty, drought, violent crime and protest. Often the Church has responded to these difficulties with increased faithfulness and effectiveness. Sometimes our response has been unfaithful or inefficient. Yet God is still good. God remains present with us and in us, through Jesus Christ and the Comforter and Encourager (the Holy Spirit) equipping us in every way to be increasingly faithful disciples.

SIGNIFICANT MISSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS
Since our 2015 Synod, significant missional developments have taken place. Some of these relate to the appointment of Rev Ntsikelelo Zabeko as our District Mission Coordinator. A competent and enthusiastic Mission Desk has been established with more effective attention and leadership being offered to key aspects of mission. Swaziland Schools and ministry to those affected by drug and substance abuse were identified as two major foci. Our hope is that by intentionally focusing on these two opportunities, improved togetherness, buy in, and coordination will develop at District level. Evidence of this is already emerging.

Many of our Schools in Swaziland have become neglected and, as a result, our daily witness to over 20 000 children and their families has been compromised. The region (3 Circuits within Swaziland) has been quite intentional in setting an example by offering renewed investment of resources and energy to our Schools. More of our District Organisations have begun to contribute to the well-being of our Schools. Much of the responsibility of running the Schools has been devolved from the Superintendents to competent lay people. Prospects of funding and financial support from the European community and the Methodist Church in Germany have opened up. A strategy to twin individual Schools with Church communities within the District and beyond is being developed.

Our District Youth Unit has taken on a project of establishing a Drug Rehabilitation Centre. Much planning and initiative is being put into this. Unused and underused Church properties within the District are being considered as prospective permanent venues for this project. Several awareness events and marches against drug abuse have taken place in both countries (South Africa and Swaziland) and training courses
for those who want to minister and care for those affected by substance abuse have also taken place.

The District Leadership and District Mission Leadership are of the mind to make economic and employment capacity building a third priority focus within the District. This decision is substantially as a result of the emerging realities of increased poverty and unemployment levels within our two countries. The District Finance Committee and a District Task Team have taken up the responsibility of researching and responding to emerging trends. This includes giving attention to Circuits and Stations that show evidence of coming under financial stress.

The District is also giving renewed attention to ecumenical work and ecumenical relations (under the leadership of our newly appointed Ecumenical Affairs Coordinator - Rev Stephen Day). In this regard several important developments have occurred within Swaziland. Our previously neglected relationship with the Council of Swaziland Churches has been improved. Our participation has been very much welcomed by the Council. Our involvement in the Council’s programme for political and economic justice within Swaziland will strengthen the witness of both Organisations in the quest for political justice in the country. Our engagement with the recently published CSC “Kairos document” in Swaziland, opens up opportunity for further progress in this regard.

Initiative has been taken to improve our processes for pastoral care and vocational accountability for our Ministers and their families. The introduction of a Day of Vocation for the Presbyterate Order was successful and well received. The event facilitated an opportunity for deeper reflection on our discipline questions. Much of this time was given to consider the care and treatment of our women in ministry. Out of this engagement a research and study initiative to investigate the effects of patriarchy on ministry and society was introduced and a resolution to this effect was sent to our Synod.

EVALUATING ESTABLISHED MISSION ACTIVITY

SPIRITUALITY

Generally the tried and tested Methodist resources are relied upon. We recognise the need to be more innovative and intentional in promoting spiritual discipline and discipleship support. Some of our Ministers and Circuits have been innovative. We celebrate an increase in the number of weekday Prayer Meetings and Devotional Groups. A number of intentional discipleship orientated initiatives have been attempted but some have failed. Yet we are resolved to continue exploring effective programmes for discipleship and disciple making. Other activities of a devotional nature include Bible Studies, Retreats, Quiet Days, Prayer Meetings and various Seminars.
JUSTICE AND SERVICE
It remains of concern that the service aspect rather than the justice aspect of this imperative remains dominant in our witness. A wide range of activities, mostly of a welfare nature, continue to exist within the District. Many of these have been reliant on reduced South African Government subsidies. Careful and innovative management has been necessary to keep some of our major initiatives going. It is pleasing to note that most of our Churches offer some form of relief or service ministry to the wider society. Some are reviewing the use of buildings in order to make better use of them during the week.

One recognises an increased awareness of justice issues in many communities. Matters of economic justice are receiving increased attention in the light of increased poverty. Much of our input in equipping clergy has been aimed at increasing our prophetic consciousness. Our increased involvement and influence within the Councils of Churches, SACC (South Africa), CSC (Swaziland), has contributed to, what I believe to be, improved levels of awareness among our people.

EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH
Traditional methods continue to dominate in most of our communities. Revival Services remain a primary tool for evangelism in most of our Township communities. Use of Alpha, with various levels of effectiveness, is still employed in some communities. Our ineffectiveness in respect of evangelising was raised at our Synod and the need for a more intentional and coordinated initiative is evident. Some effective work has been done in developing and growing areas in Gauteng (Hillside is a good example of this) and pockets of significant numerical growth are evident in Swaziland.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT
As noted above, we recognise that what remains a neglected area needs to become one of greater priority with the emerging demographical realities of our context and time. We have extensive under-utilised and unutilised property and other resources which need to be used better for economic upliftment. Yet several skills and employment creation activities do exist within the District, most of these offering basic skills training to assist disadvantaged people to find low level employment. Other initiatives include an entrepreneur mentoring programme and assistance to people who may be entitled to unclaimed pension payouts. A new skills and employment creation initiative has been launched in the Central Swaziland Circuit. Some evidence of improved initiative for economic development and empowerment is encouraging but will need to be nurtured and promoted.

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN’S WORK
Education and children’s work remains, possibly, the highest priority and the greatest strength of the Highveld and Swaziland District. We retain four residential
Children’s Homes (2 in South Africa, 2 in Swaziland). In all four cases we are facing sustainability and funding challenges. In the case of Epworth (the grand old dame of children’s work in the District) this is most evident. Decreased and unreliable Government subsidy and the fact that corporate sponsorship is more difficult to raise, remain the cause of anxiety and challenge. Epworth’s work is not merely that of a Children’s Home but extends way beyond the residential facility to impact the lives of many children in need. At Synod we were made aware of the need for increased support from the Church if this institution is to succeed in keeping its doors open.

Swaziland Schools (referred to above) remain our most wide-ranging ministry to children within the District. In addition, we are able to report an increased number of crèches, early childhood development centres, tuition support schemes, feeding schemes, partnerships with Government Schools, etc. It is pleasing to note that several Churches have responded positively to open up their buildings during the week as Reading Centres.

We celebrate an introduction of a District Child Care Desk with Rev Debbie van de Laar being appointed as Coordinator. Important initiatives have already taken place to ensure improved safety and care for the children placed under our care.

**CONCLUSION**

I conclude this Report very aware that there is much of great significance that has not been touched on. Mention might have been made of further initiatives in education and health care, particularly.

I rejoice in the truth that this Report cannot be exhaustive as I submit to the requested length.

I rejoice in the gift of life and ministry in this time and place.

I rejoice in the gifts of support and encouragement, and some for criticism, from people who care about the Kingdom of God.

I rejoice in the gift of our District Leadership Team who work to make the Church a better and more faithful institution.

We rejoice in the Grace and Provision of God for a District that is becoming more and more interesting.
INTRODUCTION
This has been said about the church, that it should be the only Organisation that exists, not for its members but for those outside of it. This among others is what continues to inspire us, challenge us and give us reason for our existence. This is the reason we continue to engage in mission and ministry to the world. We are deeply aware of the need to take the gospel especially to those who need to hear about and to know and experience the saving love of Jesus Christ. We continue to be conscious, as reported last year, that we are called to move out of our places of worship to meet the world instead of waiting for the world to come to us; we are called to be incarnational in a world that desperately needs to encounter the Lord Jesus; our presence must be transformative, changing lives for the better, giving hope and bringing new life among God’s people. This challenge means that we must then think, not whether people can afford ministry, but whether they need it. The challenging question then continues to be whether we focus only on those who can ‘come’ to church or whether our focus is for us to ‘go’ to those who cannot come.

SYNOD THEME
The Synod Theme continued to be the same as last year. We believe this is the focus we should continue to give to our work for the foreseeable future, and to make this theme not simply words we put on every year but to let this be part of our being, our DNA so to speak. So we continue to focus our energy, vision and planning around “Transformed Disciples in Mission”.

MISSION AND CHURCH PLANTING
Over the past two years we have sought to continue with our focus on mission in our District. We believe mission is at the heart, at the core, and must be the business of the church wherever God’s people and disciples of Jesus Christ are found. We have been consistent in keeping this focus before the District. While we do have many mission related activities, these have been operating independently and apart from other similar activities in Circuits. Many of our Circuits and Societies have child learning centres in different forms, Crèches, ECD Centres, after-care centres; others include feeding schemes, soup kitchens, and self-help and skills development projects. The District has now embarked on a programme to bring together all mission projects to share ideas and resources with the view to develop these in a more united and focused manner. To this end the District Mission Field Worker will conduct an audit of all the mission activities and to convene a meeting of all involved in this work to find ways in which we can co-operate for the benefit of all.
A large part of our vision for mission is how we fulfil our church planting vision. In 2015 we identified three potential areas for church planting and mission, namely, Lephalale, Maun and what used to be called the Far North Mission. We committed to raise funds and establish a District Mission and Church Planting Fund through which we will resource mission in these areas. At the writing of this report an amount in excess of R500 000.00 has been raised. Other sources have been from the 60% return on our Mission and Extension Fund contributions to the Mission Unit, the Mission Resource grant from the MCO and from Circuits who have heeded the call to contribute 10% of their total Rhona to this fund. Besides these Circuit contributions, we will still invite every Methodist in our District to contribute a voluntary amount of between R20 and R50 in order to make this fund sustainable over the next number of years.

FINANCING MINISTRY
Our country is still going through a difficult economic period and this affects the ability of many Circuits and Societies to finance ministry and mission. Over the past year a few Circuits have struggled to meet their financial obligations and have indicated that they will have difficulty in retaining ministers in the next year. It would be grossly negligent of us as a collective to let these Circuits struggle to the point of giving up agency. We have to consider some possibilities to assist them to get back on their feet.

DISTRICT AND CIRCUIT BOUNDARIES
As reported last year, the matter of District and Circuit boundaries is still on our agenda. We now have become intentional about clearing these barriers to effective mission where the District Vice-chair has begun consultation with those Circuits that need to reconfigure their boundaries. It has come to our attention in these consultations and discussions that a number of Societies that were established within the boundaries of other Circuits are a result of conflicts that took place and some people chose to establish new Societies. Such past conflicts make it extremely difficult to work on realigning our boundaries. In many of these cases there needs to be a process of reconciliation and healing of past hurts before any discussion about boundaries can happen. The District Boundaries Committee has begun consultations with affected Circuits to work on the matter.

The Bishops of the Limpopo and Central Districts have begun preliminary discussions about a Society situated within the Central District and yet belonging to the Limpopo District. There is openness with all parties concerned to bring this matter to two Quarterly Meetings affected and then to Synods of both Districts in 2017. We believe that the matter will be resolved to the satisfaction of all and for the benefit of the church and its mission and administration.
The matter of Botswana becoming a District continues to be under discussion. The Connexional Boundaries Committee has had a consultation with the people of Botswana in order to hear their request and give some guidance on what would be necessary in order for the region to become a District. A report will be presented to Conference by the Connexional Boundaries Committee. Needless to say, all who were part of the consultation understand that much work needs to be done to realise this vision.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF ORDAINING WOMEN
2016 is the year in which the MCSA celebrates 40 years since our church ordained the first woman to the ministry of word and sacrament. Since then there has been a steady increase in the number of women ordained. Our Synod gave time to recognise the women in the ministry, to celebrate with them and give thanks to God for the gifts they bring into the life of the church. We also gave women ministers a prominent place at our Conventions and other events where they were recognised and affirmed. We are conscious of the need not to make this a once-off event but the beginning of continued recognition for a section of our society who make a valuable contribution to our ministry even in the face of still present gender stereotypes.

EDUCATION
Ministry to Educational Institutions
Our District has a number of tertiary institutions within its boundaries and the need has been recognised to strengthen the church’s presence in these institutions. To this end Circuits that have tertiary institutions within their boundaries have been encouraged to be intentional and focused in their ministry to such institutions. Consideration has also been given to the possibility of establishing chaplaincies to institutions of learning, linking them to nearby Circuits. One of our Societies in Pretoria has offered some ministry to a University in the form of their Youth Pastor. We are happy to inform that as of next year (2017) there will be a minister stationed in that Circuit with the specific brief to be a chaplain to University students. We see this as the beginning and that as this ministry develops so will we find the means to extend it to other institutions.

Branches of Methsoc do exist in most of the tertiary institutions, but mostly linked to the Wesley Guild and connected to local Circuits. This is another vehicle through which we may offer ministry to Methodist students in educational institutions.

School Visits
During the past year the Bishop visited schools, particularly those that are headed by Methodists. It has been encouraging to see the commitment of our people to education and we commend and continue to pray for them. We became aware
of the immense difficulties under which educators are expected to work, often burdened by administrative work that takes away their time from the classroom. During these visits we became aware of children who live in poverty, many of them without shoes. At the beginning of this year the Bishop initiated an “All God’s children got shoes” effort. We had a fairly good response from people who gave money for shoes to be bought and delivered to schools. Others were challenged to buy shoes for children in their local schools. We will continue with this campaign in the future.

XENOPHOBIA AND RACISM
We have had a number of incidents of Xenophobia and Racism throughout the country in the past year. This is a symptom of hardening attitudes and discontent with the way our country and society at large is going. This is not a result of one, but many factors and problems we have to face as a nation. We believe the church should be in the forefront, offering alternatives to hate speech and destructive behaviour. Our Circuits and Societies are encouraged to make space for conversations around these issues, allow people to articulate their concerns and fears, and to offer possible solutions. We have started with a plan to establish an anti-bias and pro-diversity working group who will assist our District in finding ways to assist us in dealing with these issues. We hope to introduce discussions at our ministers’ Summer School, organise training and discussion events in our Circuits and Societies in order to give support, bring healing and enable our people to become agents of reconciliation in the world. This working group will finalise its plans and present it to the District for implementation in the next year.

MINISTERS’ WELLNESS
We are glad to report that our District has established a ministers’ wellness programme through which care and support is given to ministers and their families. This is not only when there are problems but also to encourage ministers to care for their complete well-being. The initiative has drawn the interest of the Presiding Bishop’s office and we have been asked to share this idea with other Districts throughout the Connexion. Circuits have been asked to support this initiative and take an active part in any way that will promote the wellness of our ministers.

USE OF KILNERTON PROPERTY
We have a valuable Connexional resource which is under the stewardship of our District, and that is the former Kilnerton Institution, which later also accommodated John Wesley College after the closure of the Federal Theological Seminary in Pietermaritzburg. The property has been utilised by various groups for training and meetings. The fact of the matter is that it is not being used to its full potential. The call has been made to our people to consider ways in which we could fully take advantage of this available property. Some of the ways that have been suggested are the following:
• The 4G Youth Pastor’s Training to use it as the training venue.
• A residence for University of Pretoria and other institutions nearby to cater for Methodist students.
• A Lay Pastors’ Training Centre, including Bible Women and Evangelists.
• Make it available for Holiday School especially for Matriculants.

CONCLUSION
We express sincere gratitude to all our people for keeping the Methodist flag flying even in these challenging times. We regard our District as one among those who continue to seek ways through which the mission of the church and the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ is advanced. We have a hard-working complement of ministers who do their best to exercise their ministry. We have committed lay leaders who are custodians of the life of the church, and who wish to see the church growing, but most of all to see the church influencing the world in meaningful and transformative ways.
INTRODUCTION
As Fernando Sabino correctly puts it “no fim tudo dá certo, e se não deu certo é porque ainda não chegou ao fim”, meaning, “at the end all is right, and if it is not yet right it’s because it has not yet reached the end”.

We thank God that this saying has inspired us to keep it up even in the midst of many adversities. Galvanized by God’s mission we can but only move on and keep on keeping on, believing that “that which is to come is better than what it was, and what it is”. And it’s in this context that we, as a District continue to look forward with our eyes focused on Jesus Christ, and pursuing God’s purpose, the owner of the mission.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW
God has been good to us. We experience His mercies and compassion in the midst of turbulent moments that Mozambique has gone through due to the socio-political, military and economic crisis which affected the most vulnerable of our communities and tested the future of our younger generations. Your continuous support and prayers are deeply appreciated and indispensable for our survival. We would not like to see our children experience the shame and the devastating effect of war that we experienced in the past.

Since the November 2014 electoral process and the establishment of the new government at the beginning of 2015, Mozambique has been going through a very troubled time. The opposition party has not accepted the results and is demanding talks and negotiations on one hand, and/or threatening to govern those provinces that it won on the other hand. Talks were conducted between themselves, then with domestic facilitation/mediation but did not earn the desired results. Now a so called “Dialogue Joint Commission” assisted by International Mediators has been put in place and this has become the hope for the nation. Yet there has been a growing demand for the Commission to be more inclusive because peace is of interest for the whole nation and thus, the involvement of other interested sectors of our society is of paramount importance and deemed unavoidable, just as we have been advocating for.

It is becoming clear that the contesting parties have lost mutual trust which affects the whole nation and we believe that it is time for us to invest in restoring that trust which has been lost and it is on that understanding that we have embarked on that initiative as our prophetic role engagement, as it will be seen further in our report.
ANNUAL SYNOD
Our Annual Synod which met at Limpopo Norte Circuit, “SILASI TIVANE” Local Society (Chókwe, from the 26-29th May, 2016) was Mission-oriented (missional in purpose), starting with our God inspired theme “As a true and perfect Discipleship Movement, ‘Let us fish according to Jesus guidance if we are to be successful’” (John 21:6).

This theme indeed challenged and continues to challenge and inspire us to do Mission not our own way, but God’s way, according to what Jesus commands us to do and in the way He instructs us to do it. Throughout our deliberations we became more than ever convinced that sometimes we mess it up because we are not into His business but into our own businesses. So, the call is indeed to do it God’s way, with a clearer understanding that it isn’t ours but His, that we are but just invitees and that certainly we are just privileged to be invited to such an important and revolutionary endeavour, because in reality God can (and if necessary, will) do it even without us.

We also had a joyful moment of celebrating the 40th year anniversary of Women’s Ordination in our Church by recognising women Ministers in God’s Mission in our Church. From the District Retreat to the Synod itself, our women Ministers led and inspired us by work-shopping us on the basis of their experience in ministry and by challenging us through Bible Studies. We indeed salute women in ministry and we thank God for the gift it represents to the Church.

We deeply and prayerfully reflected about our prophetic responsibility in times like these and the call to be deliberately and progressively more of a Mission-minded Church. We re-examined our Connexional challenges like “how Connexional is our Connexionality”, the socio-political dynamics of our Region, the Education crises, the issue of droughts ravaging our countries, the issues of minority groups discrimination including the tragedy of Albinism and human trafficking in our Region, as well as the undertakings and challenges of our District.

Synod challenged Young People to be more organised and focused on God’s Mission and above all, work towards galvanizing the spirit of togetherness not only within the Church but also throughout the country in order to capture young people from all various groupings of society to promote and work for peace (Youth for Peace). Young People on the other hand expressed their need for more and closer accompaniment by the whole Church and parents.

ACHIEVEMENTS/MAJOR CELEBRATIONS
God is strengthening His work in our expansion into strategic areas. We are thankful to Him and to all of you for your prayerful support that allowed us to experiment with new horizons out of our “comfort zone”. God’s work in “Zona Centro” (Cruzamento de Tete) and in “Zona Norte” (Nampula) is growing. Negotiations with the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe to station a Shona speaking Minister from Zimbabwe in “Zona Centro” are at an advanced stage, in the spirit of a partnership between Methodists
in Mozambique and Zimbabwe and between our two countries. And the presence of a Minister in Nampula is galvanizing God’s Mission in “Zona Norte”.

We thank God for the signs of true Connexionality. We have successfully stationed an Evangelist from Natal West in Macie Circuit and a Minister from Natal Coastal is on his way to Matola Circuit. We pray, believe and hope that many other Ministers and Evangelists from throughout the Connexion will rise up to their call and take hold of Wesley’s call to “go not just to those who need us but to those who need us most”.

• **SPIRITUALITY**
  Groups of Intercessors are emerging in most of our Circuits which is a clear indication of spiritual revival that brings Spiritual growth, which is expressed in the devoted and devotional life of our members that make them to grow closer to God and improve in Giving and Thanksgiving, as well as in Missional mind-likeness and Evangelism outreach which gains momentum in our Circuits.

  Ponta d’Ouro was the place where we held our Ministers Retreat this year mid-February. Our time together there helped us to discover the potential for Mission that Ponto d’Ouro offers. We reflectively revisited our Calling and God’s Mission as we celebrated Women’s Ministry in our Church. We closed our Retreat on Sunday by a Service with Holy Communion with our KwaNgwanazi Society fellow Wesleyans in Manguzi, South Africa, in an effort of building partnership with our neighboring District of Natal Coastal.

• **EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH**
  We praise God for His blessing on the challenging work of strengthening the expansion of His Mission throughout the country and we consider this to be a ripe time for this purpose.

  We have successfully concluded and dedicated three new Church Buildings, one of which was built in record time which generates enthusiasm on the efforts of building new places of Worship as well as shelter for our Staff. As a matter of fact we envisage finishing and dedicating at least three more Church buildings by the end of the year, even as the “District fund raising” initiative continues to inspire Circuits initiatives.

  Support is required to galvanize the ongoing good Missional work that is being carried on at “Zona Norte” for it to gain the status of a Circuit.

• **JUSTICE AND SERVICE**
  In partnership with our Korean Missionary Partner we managed to provide potable water to two Communities in Boane and Matutuine districts by developing “boreholes”. This is an ongoing project that we hope will help a lot of Communities in need of that precious and indispensable commodity.
We are proud of our Children’s Ministry activities which have given joy and hope to our children throughout all Circuits, especially with the awareness workshops on Children’s Rights and Protection that are being carried out throughout our District. We enforce that our Churches become a safer place for our children and many of our Church buildings (properties/halls) have also been used as Crèches.

The Fighting Malaria Initiative under the Mozambican Inter-Religious Program against Malaria (PIRCOM) of which we are part and play a leading role continues to make a huge impact in contributing to the reduction of deaths caused by malaria and because of its potential in impacting social behaviour change through communication (SBCC) is gaining respect and admiration even by the Ministry of Health.

The stage that our Country is at present in terms of the ongoing socio-political, military and economic crises has led us to embark on an initiative tending to “restore trust” as our contribution towards building a Culture of Peace and Social Cohesion within our Communities.

We have been inspired by the reading of the book entitled “The Speed of Trust” by Stephen MR Covey in which he outlines ‘The 13 Behaviours that Generate Trust’ that we believe, if well understood, embraced and implemented, can indeed restore the trust that has been lost.

- ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

In our District we continue investing in human capital by capacitating our Leaders for efficiency and effectiveness in empowering our people and our Communities at large. Thus, training/capacity building workshops for the various Church groupings and/or Organisations/Departments on Church Structures, Class Leadership, Leadership and Development, Stewardship and Giving, Peace building and Conflict Transformation, “ToTs” training with the purpose of cascading it to Circuit and Society levels continues to be our focus.

We are conceptualizing an ambitious “Food Security” project to respond to the cyclic food shortages provoked by recurrent droughts that affect our communities time and again. The Agricultural project in Mapandzeni at Limpopo Norte Circuit serves as our inspiration that gives us hope that challenges and crises are but opportunities for learning and activating the potential for imagination and creativity that are within us.

PERSPECTIVES

As a way of expressing our obedience to Jesus orientation, we plan to undertake the following:

- To invest in restoring trust in the country and create a movement for Peace “Wesleyanos pela Paz”, as our contribution for building a “Culture of Peace” in the country.
• To formalize the ownership of the land where we envisage establishing a “Hope to our Children” Center in Chinhacanine to galvanize Children Ministry in the Northern part of Gaza Province, that goes as far as the border with Zimbabwe in Chicualacuala, which will also serve as an ark of salvation in time of floods, as indicated in our previous report.

• To strengthen work in “Zona Norte” (Nampula Mission Station) and galvanize the expansion of God’s Mission and Evangelism in the Northern part of Mozambique. We need your support to build a Mission House there and carry on several mission projects related to Children Ministries and Agriculture & Livestock. We have already acquired a plot for that purpose.

• To continue investing more and improve accommodation for Workers (manses) which remains a continuous challenge for our District.

• To print our produced and/or translated training material in Portuguese.

• To strengthen our now established Mission Chaplaincy for the Seafarers in Maputo and Nacala.

• To strengthen our partnership with the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe and realise the stationing of a Zimbabwean Minister in “Zona Centro”.

• To establish partnership with Natal Coastal District for “Projects beyond Borders” initiatives and embark on Missional endeavours together in Ponta d’Ouro.

CONCLUSION
May our being be to do His Mission the way He commands us to do it, with a clear understanding that only then are we to be successful, but if we do it our own way we will labour in vain, just as it was with the Disciples away from the Master. Let us therefore, cast the net on the right side (according to the Master’s orientation - as a True and Perfect Discipleship Movement), so that we may catch.

To God be the Glory.

Shalom...
First of all it gives me great pleasure to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude, as a newly inducted Bishop of the Clarkebury District, to all my co-workers in collegiality, District and Circuit leadership and all people called Methodists in the District for their confidence in electing me into the office of pastoral responsibility in the District. This is the District which is situated in the rural areas of the mountains of the Drakensburg, Mbhashe and Mgwali rivers, to the beautiful sea port of Port St Johns, up to the Mzamba Holiday Resort and Umzimkulu i.e. old borders of Transkei. The commitment and dedication of 68 ministers (inclusive of 4 probationers) to the pastoral management of 53 Circuits sustains the uniqueness of this District in maintaining mutual respect and value.

CONFLICTS IN THE DISTRICT
Upon my arrival in the District certain circuits were in the midst of very volatile conflicts, but through mediation and communication we have been able to resolve most of them. We are currently in pursuit of resolving all the remaining conflicts so that those circuits too, can enjoy the blessings of a harmonious Circuit. The main issues that fuel conflicts are constant power struggles within the congregation, mismanagement of circuit resources, the seamless integration of church agents and the existing church officials within the circuit. It has been a strenuous journey for the District yet it has proven to be fulfilling. Seeing the spiritual growth that has transpired within the District is further affirmation that anything done within Christ prospers.

SPIRITUALITY
The Methodist people annually gather for conventions where bible studies are conducted to contextually broaden their understanding of scripture. These conventions are the cornerstone of maintaining the churches spirituality. Each year our congregants gather to replenish their thirsty souls. It is of vital significance to also indicate the dedication and commitment of our Circuit leaders not only to the street revivals or house pastoral visitations but also to broaden Christ followers in their understanding of the bible. We salute the formation of a group of intercessors who are continually, in the prayer services, communicating with God to commit God’s people into not only accepting Christ as the Lord and Saviour but also to walk in his footsteps. Healing ministry is taken seriously in this regard.

EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH
Without any hesitations it is of crucial importance to recognise the excellent work done by the Oder of Evangelists and Biblewomen in the District, for it is commonly
known as a place of Mission. Again in partnership with Undzondelelo certain circuits benefited from the sessions which many times leave the communities with an educated understanding of what it means to be a ‘Good Methodist.’ Hence our use of this theme for 2016 was calling for the ‘Connection of the Unconnected’ to God as a Discipleship Movement. The District is therefore committed to use any relevant tool of Evangelism for the purpose of growing this church. Nevertheless our statistical circuit report still needs monitoring and review in this regard. We are pleased to report that the Synod 2016 recommends to Conference a new station that was established as a result of the growth within the Circuit.

JUSTICE AND SERVICE
Clarkebury District, being rural, has introduced a range of projects and programmes as a response to poverty. Land has been and is being identified for the implementation of huge envisaged proposed projects whose intention is to create jobs, in an attempt to eradicate poverty. The success of this dream will only come through the partnership with government, relevant institutions and the business sector. The outreach ministries of our Organisations always leave an impact in the communities. The significance of fighting against all forms of abuse, inclusive of substance abuse, in our communities is now clarified, as we continue to establish centres in the regions or circuits for the purpose of awareness campaigns, as well as sometime using the ‘Sexual Harassment Document’ agreed at Conference. We are grateful to the Mission Unit for the establishment of the desks such as MASA, Health, Child care and Human Trafficking which are directly responding to these mission stumbling blocks.

HUMAN EMPOWERMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Our District developed a partnership with ECRDA (Eastern Cape Rural Development Agency) and the Department of Agriculture whose aim is to empower small farmers to grow. With government’s appeal of going back to basics, those circuits with Agricultural land make it available not only for crop cultivation but also for skills development. Young people are also encouraged to join Agricultural farming and the MEC for Agriculture was invited to address, encourage and urge them to participate in programmes of ‘All Go Green’, etc. Livestock upgrading has started in the area of Tabankulu under Mnceba Circuit. This is aiming at changing the livestock in the surrounding communities, so as to produce quality wool and marketable lamb/sheep.

EDUCATION AND CHRISTIAN FORMATION
A Convener of this desk has been nominated and has already begun to participate in most of the Eastern Regional/District activities within the Clarkebury District.

The commitment to participating in conducting school’s morning prayers by most of our Circuit superintendents, ministers, evangelists, bible-women and preachers has been applauded by the Synod 2016. Negotiations with the Department of
Education regarding hostels are continuing with an acknowledgement of the church’s commitment to the provision of sleeping facilities and/or renovation to certain extent.

Young Men’s Guild and Women’s Manyano took initiative in painting and donating to schools during their gatherings at conventions.

CONCLUSION
Agreeing fully that the church will continue to be watchdogs to those in governance, we continue encouraging the members of our ecumenical community to continue voting for the betterment of our people’s lives. It is my wish and hope that together we continue to be ‘A Transformed Discipleship Movement’ for healing and economic empowerment in our land.

Shalom!!!
Minutes of the 127th Conference
of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa

21-25 September 2016 in Pretoria

The Presiding Bishop welcomed all to Conference. The hymn *And are We yet Alive* was sung. The opening prayer was led by the Lay General Treasurer. The Lord’s Prayer was sung in Xhosa. The Presiding Bishop read from Matt 9:35-38.

The Bishop and the Lay Leader of Limpopo District welcomed Conference.

The role was called as per Laws and Discipline, page 54, par 5.5.14–29. Names are recorded in the attendance list. The General Secretary noted that 44% of the Conference were women. The Presiding Bishop declared the Conference properly constituted. There were no apologies.

Conference agreed that permission be given to the Mission Unit staff, Ms Nancy Herron and Rev Prof Stephen Hendricks, and the Finance Unit staff member Ms Linda Makalima to be present, to participate in discussion but not to vote.

The following appointments were made:

- **Assistant Secretary:** Rev Mike Durrant
- **Recording Secretary:** Ms Vanessa Peters.
- **Logistics:** Mrs Heather Fleming and Nokwana Nyobole.
- **IT Assistant:** Mr Siphumeze Ndlela.
- **Letter Writer:** Rev Winifred van Rooi-Baumann.
- **Resolutions Committee:** Revs. Vusi Vilakati (Convener), Nkosinathi Geja, Bishop Mthobeli Matyumza, Bishop Jonathan Anderson and Mr Chris Dali, Prof Nancy Malema, Ms Samantha Visagie, and the Commission Facilitators – when their commission business is discussed.
- **Listening Committee:** Rev Pam Delport (Convener), Rev Ian Howarth, Mr Ayanda Gogobala, Rev Kamogelo Monoametsi, Rev Martinette Barnard, Rev Nkosinathi Geja.
- **Scrutineers:** Rev Kimish Mbalo (Convener), Ms Anelisa Jali, Mr Ngubo Manquba.
- **Precentor:** Rev Luxolo Mantini
- **Convener of Commissions:** Rev Dr Vukile Mehana
- **Women, Men, Children and Vulnerable Groups:** Dr Zolela Ngcwabe
- **Ministry:** Rev Michel Hansrod
- **Property, Admin and Finance:** Mrs Nombasa Hlati.
Public Issues, Advocacy
and Communication: Ms Thuli Nkomonde
Policy and Doctrine: Rev Lea Marumo
Mission: Mr Vusi Chuta.

Conference received the Report Book, Resolution Book and documents from the Finance Unit and agreed that these would be taken as read.

The Agenda as printed in the Reports Book was moved by the General Secretary and Conference adopted the hours of Conference contained therein.

It was noted and agreed that the Conference Operational procedure follow a consensus decision making process.

Reports were received from the Communications Unit, Human Resources Unit, Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary and the Organisations.

The Annual Conference award was given to:
  Dr Gcwalisile Cynthia Kabanyane for her outstanding community service.  
  Mr Zandile Jakavula for excellent service to the MCSA.  
  Judge Dikgang Moseneke in absentia.

Speaking with reference to John 17:13-26, the Presiding Bishop addressed Conference. (The text appears in the Year Book 2017).

Reports were received from the Lay President, the General Treasurer and Director of EMMU. The financial reports and statements were accepted by the Conference. The Conference accepted the proposal to train Local Preachers through SMMS and to base the choice of course on educational level instead of age.

Reports from the General Secretary, Mission Unit Director and the Convener of DEWCOM, were received. The Conference received the formal announcement by the General Secretary of the re-election of Rev Ziphozihle Siwa as Presiding Bishop. The members of DEWCOM were agreed to as per the proposal in the report on DEWCOM.

The report from the Ecumenical Affairs Unit was received. Rev Davis from the Bible Society presented a special Bible featuring all 11 official languages to the MCSA to commemorate the 200 years of Methodist witness in Southern Africa. The Presiding Bishop and Conference welcomed the Ecumenical guests – Rev Dr Muthali (Presbyterian Church), Revs Davis and Jonas (Bible Society), Rev Griffiths (CUC and Anglican church), Rev van der Linde (DRC) and Rev Dr HiRho Park (UMC). Rev Griffiths addressed the Conference on some of the issues of church unity.

The report on Women in Ministry was received. The Conference agreed to make a concession and consider the resolutions raised in the report. These were referred to Commission 1 and the Resolutions Committee.
The Youth Unit report was received.

Conference received the amendments made to the Laws and Discipline by the Connexional Executive.

**Appointments**
Conference made the following appointments:

**Finance Unit Executive:**
Mesdames Hlathi, Simon, Panya and Mathunjwa, and Revs Sibeko and Bell.

**Bishops for 2018-2022:**
- Rev D Matsolo (Mocambique).
- Rev J Anderson (Highveld & Swaziland)
- Rev L Mantini (Natal Coastal)
- Rev J Freemantle (Grahamstown)

**Connexional Committees:**
- EMMU – Rev J Anderson
- Chaplaincy – Rev T Mntambo
- Communications – Rev Z Siwa
- Ecumenical Affairs – Rev M Vorster
- Mission Committee – Rev T Mntambo
- Structures Committee – Rev M Hansrod
- DEWCOM – Rev M Matyumza
- Stipend Augmentation Fund – Rev G Rivas
- Methodist Publishing House – Rev M Hansrod
- Order of Evangelism – Rev T Fandaleki
- Order of Deacons – Rev T Fandaleki
- Revisions Committee – Rev C Morgan
- Local Preachers’ Committee – Rev W Dlamini

Conference received a report on the MCSA’s relationship with the Methodist Church of Zimbabwe and approved the resolution calling on our members to behave in compliance with our discipline when interacting with members and leaders of the Methodist Church of Zimbabwe resident in South Africa.

**Stations.** The final list of stations for 2017 as prepared by the Connexional Executive was proposed by each of the Bishops in turn and was seconded by the District Lay Leaders. The stations as proposed were approved by Conference.

**Resolutions.** All resolutions before Conference were dealt with as reflected in the detailed record of Conference.

**Ordinands.** Conference received 31 ordinands into Full Connexion – 26 presbyters,
1 deacon, 1 presbyter on transfer, 3 presbyters changing category. The questions of discipline were asked of them in preparation for their ordination and reception into Full Connexion on Sunday 25th September 2016.

Conference received the reflections of the commissions on the Presiding Bishop’s address.

Conference approved a response of the MCSA on Education and the crisis facing tertiary institutions in the wake of the #feesmustfall student protests.

Conference agreed that a task team on Women in Ministry and Youth be established. Rev Leseba Nkhumise was appointed as convener. Districts to suggest names to serve.

Conference received the Commitment for the Empowerment of Women in the MCSA and it was signed by all the Bishops.

Conference gratefully recognised the contribution made by the Lay Leaders whose office comes to an end in 2016.

Conference received the invitation for Conference in 2017 in the Central District by Rev G Rivas.

Conference received the Message to the Methodist People prepared by the Listening Committee.

Conference concluded its business at 16:00 on Saturday 24th September 2016.


These together form the record of the 127th Conference of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.

Tshwane
24th September 2016
CHAPTER 1

A Statement of the 127th Annual Conference of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa to the Methodist People

The 127th Conference of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa was held in Pretoria, in the Limpopo District from the 21st to the 25th September 2016 under the theme ‘Igniting Mission - Breaking Barriers’.

The people of God gathered in the Limpopo District, which is the northern most area of the Connexion. It is named after the Limpopo River, which forms the district’s western and northern borders.

The message in the opening service was given in a dynamic, courageous and academic way by Reverend Purity Malinga speaking to the theme ‘Igniting Mission - Breaking Barriers’. She reflected on the barriers such as religion, race and gender that prevailed in the church and challenged the Conference to intentionally deal with these barriers and encouraged the people called Methodist to transcend the subgroups we create as a church.

The Bible studies were led by Reverend Pumla Mtshiselwa. With much charisma she conceptualised the theme of the conference by adopting Martin Luther King’s speech: ‘I had a dream’. Her address moved from a superficial community to a real community characterised by the emptying of oneself. She encouraged us to dream of a church where barriers of race, tribalism and gender are broken down. For this to happen she felt that leaders should possess an underdeveloped sense of fear. We were also challenged by the ‘animal imagery’ of Isaiah 11:6-9 to turn the dream into a reality, in the line of breaking barriers.

The diverse worship was a testimony that we could still be one despite our differences in language and style of worship.

The Presiding Bishop’s address, by using John 17, challenged Conference to become reignited spiritually and join God ‘in dismantling and overcoming barriers’. He prayed that God would ignite a fire within us and motivate us to cross the street in love because mission is all about that kind of love. The Bishop encouraged us to be more intentional in breaking down the barriers that affect church and society, the emphasis being on the Methodist people moving from a talking church to a mission church of action.

During the General Secretary’s report on the work of the past year, she appealed to Conference, not to reflect too much on the past but live in the present and be inspired by hope for future possibilities in the life of the church. At this time as we reflect on 200 years of ministry in the Methodist church in Southern Africa, we need to
remember where we come from, and allow for our heritage and our present ministry to be our intentional mission. She used the illustration of articles in a museum claiming that if we become a museum church we will look beautiful but we will not be functional and useful. Through the use of this imagery we were challenged to reconfigure the usage of our buildings and property in the light of mission.

The Lay President motivated once again for the priesthood of all believers and appealed to clergy and laity to work together to minimize conflict for the sake of mission. He appealed to Conference to honour our fathers and mothers who prayed to keep the faith and honour Jesus’ commission to go into the world on Jesus’ behalf and serve his people.

Conference celebrated the fact that our finances are well looked after. We were challenged to be prudent in the use of resources. We also celebrated the healthy state of the supernumerary fund and the benefits increased by TopMed. The intentionality about the health of the whole person resulted in the development of a wellness programme which is spearheaded by the Human Resources unit. Conference also celebrates the increase of the circulation of the *New Dimension*. We were encouraged to promote community journalism.

The Women in Ministry convenor, in the light of the 40\(^{th}\) celebration of the ordination of women, once again made the Conference aware of the barriers of patriarchy, ethnicity and gender that still exist, and even though Conference celebrates 40 years of women in ministry they still lament that many still suffer because of the barriers they have to face during their ministry.

We were graced by the presence of many ecumenical guests. The General Secretary of the Church Unity Commission brought greetings on their behalf.

The Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary and Education for Ministry and Mission Unit were celebrated in terms of the growth of these educational institutions in becoming internationally recognised, and we also celebrated the work of all the mission units and organisations. Through these reports one could see that there really is fire in our mission.

In a moving memorial service the Conference recognised 20 ministers called to higher service, remembering their faithfulness, dedication and service to the ministry and life of the church.

**Reception into full Connexion**

During the Saturday morning worship we accepted into full Connexion 24 presbyters, 1 deacon and 1 presbyter transferred into our Connexion. Conference also acknowledged 3 presbyters who have changed categories. They were ordained by the laying of hands and prayer at the closing service on the Sunday.
The orientation of the many resolutions reflects an intentionality about mission, the need for transformation and a preparedness to become a missional church.

We conclude with the words of our General Secretary inviting circuits to “ponder the rock from which you were cut” (Isaiah 51). We do this in order to “Celebrate our past, vitalise our witness and grow our mission”.
CHAPTER 2
CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

2.1 PHOTOGRAPHS OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE
In light of our current policies on ethical communication, Conference calls on all Methodist people to desist from the practice of taking photographs of vulnerable people who receive assistance from the church and directs the Communications Unit in consultation with relevant units to further provide ethical guidelines relating to the protection of identity and dignity surrounding the taking and use photographs.

2.2 SUPPORT FOR PARENTS OF LGBTI CHILDREN AND SAME-SEX COUPLES
Noting the continuing discrimination, judgement, and lack of support for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transsexual and Intersex (LGBTI) parents and children of same-sex couples with regard to adopting children and creating suitable family structures, Conference directs the Connexional Task Team on Marriage and Family Life to develop suitable tools for addressing misconceptions and deconstructing barriers to healthy pathways to parenthood, and to report on progress at the 2017 Conference.

2.3 WESLEY GUILD AND METHODIST YOUTH CONSTITUTION
Conference notes the consideration for fully establishing the Wesley Guild as an Organisation and directs the Revision Committee to include this matter in the current discussions on the governance of the Youth Unit and bring a report to Conference 2017.

2.4 WOMEN IN MINISTRY
In recognising and celebrating the 40 years of the ordination of women in the MCSA (Res. 2.38, YB 2016, p.104) and the challenges faced by women ministers, Conference directs the Office of the Presiding Bishop to appoint an inclusive Task Team to attend to all matters that will affirm and elevate the ministry of women within the MCSA. Amongst other things, these include the constitutive focus on women by the Conference of 2016 and substantive recommendations of the Women in Ministry consultation, namely, discrimination and justice issues relating to the ministry of women; representation of women in all structures of the church; reviewing and changing legislative and election processes; removing barriers to leadership; development of materials for addressing gender bias and sexism; and the holistic empowerment of women in the ministry.
2.5 PREACHERS WITH DISABILITIES
Conference affirms resolution 2.35 of 2015 (YB 2016, p.103) and directs Education for Ministry and Mission Unit (EMMU) to explore the possibility of developing material for Preachers with dyslexia or visual impairments and report on progress at Conference 2017.

2.6 RETIREMENT AGE OF MINISTERS AND DEACONS
Conference affirms current legislation on the retirement age of Ministers, and directs the Office of the General Secretary in consultation with the Human Resources (HR) Unit, to investigate and provide guidelines on how the skills of Supernumeraries can be utilized. This should include guidance on remuneration and a report to Conference 2017.

2.7 RELATING TO MINISTERS BEYOND THE CONNEXION
Noting the increase in the number of ministers seeking to serve beyond the Connexion and the likely future shortage of ministers in our Connexion, Conference directs the Office of the General Secretary in consultation with the HR Unit to investigate why ministers chose to explore beyond the Connexion, as well as provide guidelines on the nature of the relationship these ministers have with the MCSA, for reporting at the 2017 Conference.

2.8 NON-ITINERANT CATEGORY OF THE ORDER OF DEACONS
In favour of the discontinuance of the Non-Itinerant ministry in the Order of Deacons and directs the Revisions committee to make the necessary changes in the Laws and Disciplines (L&D, 12th Edition, 2014).

2.9 AGE OF CANDIDATURE AND RETIREMENT FOR DEACONS
Conference affirms the 2015 Resolution 2.46 (YB 2016, p.105) and refers matters concerning medical aid and stipends relating to the Diaconate Order to the Revision Committee to be included in ongoing discussions for further consideration and report to Conference 2017.

2.10 TRAINING AND MENTORING OF PROBATIONERS IN CIRCUIT
Conference notes the need for consistent support, encouragement, accountability and mentoring of probationers in circuit and directs EMMU to facilitate the implementation of this process. The following guidelines apply:

- The Superintendent of a Circuit where a Probationer is stationed shall annually appoint a Probationer Mentoring Committee consisting of five (5) people, i.e. Leaders of the Society/Section/Circuit, along with a Minister with whom the Probationer works closely.
- Unless there is a reason for change, the same committee is to walk alongside the Probationer until the ordination year or until s/he leaves the station.
• A Minister will be a convener of the meetings and meet with the Probationer at least once a quarter.
• The committee is expected to compile a minimum of two (2) progress reports annually (April and October). This report should be signed by the Superintendent and sent to the District Supervisor of Studies.

2.11 SYNOD ORAL EXAM
Noting the decline in the performance of Ordinands in the Synod Oral Exams, Conference resolves that in the year in which Probationers are recommended for ordination, they will do an Oral Examination. This Exam shall be assessed by a Synod Listening Committee appointed by the District Bishop as per EMMU guidelines. This does not replace the Ordinands’ Oral Exam on the floor of Synod in the year of Ordination.

2.12 WIDENING THE POOL: THE ELECTION OF FEMALE CLERGY TO POSITIONS OF SENIOR LEADERSHIP
Conference notes that the ongoing failure of the MCSA to elect female clergy to the office of Bishop and other positions of senior leadership denies our understanding of what it means to be the body of Christ, impoverishes the church, undermines its witness and compromises its commitment to justice, healing, and transformation. Conference directs the Office of the Presiding Bishop to set up a task team to explore this ongoing reality and make recommendations for changes in the legislative processes of identifying, nominating and appointing suitable candidates for these roles that would address these concerns.

2.13 ECUMENICAL REPRESENTATION IN PROVINCIAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL COUNCILS AND RELATED GATHERINGS
Noting the provisions 6.10.1 to 6.10.9 of the Laws and Discipline, Conference resolves that:
• representation to Provincial and Regional Ecumenical Councils, Conferences and other such gatherings be appointed and authorised by the District Bishop; and
• where ministers or members are individually invited to such gatherings, to inform (seek permission to attend) the District Bishop and the District Ecumenical Affairs Secretary.

2.14 CANDIDATING INTO THE OF ORDER OF EVANGELISM
In light of the unintended consequences for those considering candidating for the order of evangelism in the whole Connexion, Conference resolves to reduce the entry requirements for Biblewomen and Evangelist candidates to Grade 10 or its equivalent and further directs the Revisions committee to make the necessary amendments to the Laws and Discipline (Clause 14.4.6.)
2.15 CONFERENCE VENUE
While Conference notes the 2012 Resolution (Resolutions Booklet 2016, p.124) and acknowledges the work done by the Finance Unit to investigate this matter, our current practice of rotating Conference enhances our connexionality and should continue.

2.16 GIFTS POLICY
In light of the 2015 resolution 2.10 (YB 2016, p.99), Conference receives the comments and recommendations from Circuit Quarterly Meetings and Districts Synods and directs the Finance Unit to consolidate this suggested framework to be referred to circuits and synods and to report to Conference 2017.

2.17 SUPERNUMERARY FUND RESERVE
Conference resolves that as of the ensuing financial year, the Circuit contributions to the Supernumerary Fund Reserve shall be reduced from a “two times” to a “one-time” contribution and no contribution to the Church Reserve Fund at present.

2.18 PENSION AUGMENTATION FUND
Conference resolves that the Finance Unit creates a Pension Augmentation Fund and designs guidelines for governing the fund for the purposes of addressing pension justice issues. Any surplus from the Supernumerary Fund Reserve in any one year, as determined by the Actuary, shall be calculated and 10% shall be set aside for addressing issues of justice through the Pension Augmentation Fund.

2.19 SUPERNUMERARY RESERVE FUND AND CHURCH RESERVE FUND
Conference directs the Finance Unit to develop a guiding framework for the administration of the Supernumerary Fund Reserve and Church Reserve Fund in a manner that prioritises matters of justice and mission and report to Conference 2017.

2.20 CIRCUIT ASSESSMENTS AND MISSION FUNDING
In light of the forthcoming Mission Congress (November 2016) and the ongoing work of the structures committee on reviewing our polity, Conference directs the General Treasurers, in consultation with the Mission Unit, to develop a strategy for funding mission, and report to Conference 2018.

2.21 DIFFERENCES IN STIPENDS AND OTHER ALLOWANCES
Conference recognises the issues relating to the remuneration of the Orders of the Diaconate and Evangelism and directs the Revision Committee in
consultation with the Finance and HR Units to include these issues in the current discussions (Res.2.4, YB 2016, p.99) and bring recommendations to Conference 2017.

2.22 STIPEND AUGMENTATION FUND
Conference resolves that Ordained Deacons, who are stipendiary, are to be eligible to receive benefits from the Stipend Augmentation Fund.

2.23 PROPERTY PORTFOLIO
Conference receives the recommendations of the consultation between the General Treasurers and District Trust Property Secretaries (DTP) and directs the Finance Unit to set aside R1m from the Connexional Property Fund for a year to set up a property division, including the appointment of a dedicated person, establishing its mandate and proposals for its continued funding, and report to Conference 2017.

2.24 TRUST PROPERTY MATTERS
Conference receives the following proposed amendments and recommendations of the Ministerial General Treasurer and the Lay General Treasurer regarding the effective management of Methodist properties, including the consideration for a dedicated person at a circuit level to coordinate the oversight of properties on behalf of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting. Conference refers these matters to the Revisions Committee for consideration and reporting to Conference 2017.

2.25 PROTESTS IN SOUTH AFRICA
Conference directs the Mission Unit in collaboration with the Ecumenical Affairs Unit to create resources for training on peaceful means of expressing discontent and facilitating conflict resolution at all levels of the church. Conference further directs Districts in collaboration with Ecumenical partners to assist local communities in this.

2.26 STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND JUSTICE IN SOUTH AFRICA
Conference notes that with the celebration of 22 years of democracy, South Africa is now confronted with a number of governance issues that are testing the strength of its governance procedures. The notable sense of unfairness, corruption, patronage and abuse of state resources that has often led to the agonizing sights of chaos and violence in parliament, is regrettable.

Conference affirms the prophetic witness and action of the Presiding Bishop in responding to political and public issues. We affirm the programme of the SACC’s “Anchoring Democracy” and Conference further calls on
the office of the Presiding Bishop, SACC, and the ecumenical partners to continue calling on the government to ensure an equitable democracy that ensures that all voices in the public and political discourse are guaranteed space. This should also include an emphasis on the urgency of promoting good governance, ensuring accountability in public office and an accelerated delivery of essential services. (Refer to the SACC website for documents relating to The South Africa We Pray For)

2.27 PARTY POLITICAL CHAPLAINCY
Conference 2016 affirms the 2014 and 2015 resolutions not to appoint ministers as chaplains to political parties. Conference further affirms our stated position on religion and politics (Miscellaneous Resolution 31, L&D, p.223) along with the conviction that our ministry extends to all spheres including social, economic, political and environmental spheres of life. Conference directs DEWCOM to develop a guiding theological document and practical tools that will shape our response, describing amongst other things:
• the pastoral and prophetic nature of our ministry in the political and public space;
• possible expressions/forms of our ministry in the public/political domain including non-partisan ministry to political parties, governments, national parliaments, provincial, regional and municipal institutions and traditional spheres of leadership.

2.28 ASCENSION DAY and OTHER CHRISTIAN HOLY DAYS
Conference affirms the 2012 resolution on Christian Holy days (p.144 Resolutions Book) and encourages Districts, Circuits, Societies and all MCSA institutions to commit to observing all the Christian Holy Days including Ascension Day. Conference directs DEWCOM to finalise the guidelines on Christian Holy Days and liturgical guidelines for distribution as soon as possible.

2.29 PREGNANCY AND REINSTATEMENT CLASSES
(i) Conference notes with concern the practice of suspension and consequent reinstatement classes of single women who are pregnant, which continues in some Circuits. This is contrary to our practice and the spirit of affirming the dignity of women. Conference resolves that this practice must be discontinued immediately. Superintendents and Organisations are directed to approach this matter pastorally.

Conference also acknowledges DEWCOM for the resources their ongoing work on human sexuality and family life offer and directs District and Circuits make use of these resources in facilitating discussions and shaping their pastoral responses. See the DEWCOM Blogspot http://mcsadewcom.blogspot.co.za/
(ii) In the context of the changing landscape of family and human sexuality, there is a need to discuss all the above issues in relation to our understanding of ‘sin’, ‘Law of God’ and Church discipline (L&D Para. 11.2)

Conference further directs the Connexional Task Team on Family Life in consultation with DEWCOM to include all these issues in their deliberations and report on progress at the 2017 Conference.

2.30 PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
Noting growing statistics of sexual abuse and the sexual exploitation of children, including child abuse images, Conference strongly condemns all such and related acts. Conference calls on all Methodist people to be vigilant in reporting these criminal and harmful acts as they constitute serious violations of fundamental rights, in particular the right of children to the protection and care necessary for their well-being. Conference directs the child care desk to highlight available resources in this regard.

2.31 LOGISTICAL DELAYS IN DISTRICT DISCIPLINARY PROCESSES
Conference notes that our current disciplinary procedures make no provision for situations where a District Disciplinary Registrar (DDR) fails to perform his or her duties resulting in detrimental delays in the processes of discipline. In light of Resolution 2.1 & 2.2 (YB 2016, p.89), Conference refers all issues of timing relating to Discipline to the Revisions committee. While the Revision Committee does this work, Conference resolves to grant the Connexional Disciplinary Committee power to condone late submissions.

2.32 THE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR OF STUDIES AND DISTRICT STATIONING COMMITTEE
Conference notes the important role played by the District Supervisor of Studies (DSS) in the formation and training of probationers and resolves that where necessary the DSS shall be invited to the District stationing committee.

2.33 STATIONING OF MINISTERS IN CONNEXIONAL UNITS
Noting the calendar differences between Conference, Connexional units and church institutions and how they complicate the timing of appointments to these entities, Conference calls the Connexional Executive to align the processes of all ministerial appointments, ensuring that Connexional units and SMMS are finalised by Conference. Conference further directs the Office of the General Secretary in consultation with the Human Resources Unit to develop appropriate mandates for interviewing, constituting interview panels, as well as procedures for ensuring transparency and accountability of process and outcomes.
2.34 ORDER OF DEACONS
Conference receives and refers to the revisions committee the following changes to the L&D relating to the order of Deacons:
Para. 13.1.1 should be amended to read:
Delete: “Deacons belong to an ordained ministry of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.”
Insert: “A deacon in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa is ordained for the ministry of word and service.”

Para. 13.2 should be amended to read:
Delete: Members of the Order are known as “Deacons” a term reserved in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa for members of the Order of Deacons.
Insert: “As members of an ordained ministry, members of the Order of Deacons are addressed as “Deacon.”

2.35 DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION
Conference commends DEWCOM and other Units for the resources and documents they produce to assist the church in legislation, training and teaching and shaping mission. Conference further notes that the church has no intentional strategy of making the educational resources produced by DEWCOM and other entities available to local communities. Conference instructs the Communications Unit in consultation with other relevant Connexional Units and committees to explore strategies for distributing important educational resources and information endorsed by Conference. This should include importing all endorsed documents to the MCSA website.

2.36 MISSION SYNODS
Conference calls on Districts whose borders extend to the member countries, Swaziland, Lesotho, Namibia and Botswana, to annually convene a Mission Consultation to focus on public issues, ecumenical collaboration, as well as the relevant alignment of resources with missional priorities specific to that country. Conference directs the Revision Committee to develop the necessary provisions for reporting and accountability for this work at District Synods, Mission, and Ecumenical Units respectively.

2.37 MCSA REPRESENTATION IN LESOTHO, BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA AND SWAZILAND
Noting the complex missional, ecumenical, socio-economic and political realities facing the countries of our Connexion, Conference calls on Districts, whose boundaries extend beyond one country to develop meaningful structures for missional cooperation, administration, and engagement on
public issues. Conference refers this resolution back to the Structures and Revision Committees, including consideration of legislation in those countries establishing structures for formal representation.

2.38 STRATEGY FOR TRANSFORMATION AND EFFECTIVE CONNEXIONALITY
Conference notes the importance of strengthening Connexionality, accelerating processes of transformation and the implementation of Conference decisions and mandates, and directs the Structures Committee to develop guidelines for assisting Districts and Circuits to effect transformation and strengthen accountability.

2.39 EVANGELICAL CRUSADE
Conference notes that the word ‘crusade’ within the Christian tradition carries unpleasant connotations and calls on the Local Preachers Association and all other Entities to always use concepts and themes that are in line with our Methodist ethos.
CHAPTER 3
THE WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL

3.1 Resolution on Syria
Believing that the way of Jesus Christ is a way of nonviolence and peace; yet, recognising the sinful nature of all human beings, deeply concerned about the continued and escalating violence in Syria and the surrounding region, further deploiring the use of religion as a political wedge to pit peoples against each other, and finally, observing with horror the use of chemical weapons against the Syrian people, The World Methodist Council

1. Strongly condemns the use of violence as a means of resolving political disputes.
2. Stands in solidarity with all those who are suffering as a result of the conflict in Syria.
3. Urges its member churches to call on their governments to bring international pressure to bear on the participants for peaceful solution in this conflict.
4. Directs its Officers to forward this resolution immediately to the G20 and the United Nations affirming restraint and diplomacy.

3.2 Resolution on Arms Fair Held in London
Believing that the way of Jesus is a way of non-violence and peace and that we are called to live in a way in which “swords are turned into plough shares, spears into pruning hooks and nations will no longer train for war” (Micah 4.3) and as the WMC meets in London to debate issues of concern to its global body, members are deeply troubled by the arms fair being held at the same time in the capital. The World Methodist Council:

1. Condemns the profiteering by governments and companies from the sales of arms.
2. Supports those Christians and others engaged in peaceful protest against the fair.
3. Urges its member churches to support and encourage organisations working for peace and dialogue.
4. Urges its member churches to disinvest from any holdings in organisations involved in the arms trade.

3.3 Resolution on Ownership of Epworth Old Rectory
From the Epworth Old Rectory trustees, presented by Claire Potter, curator WMC London, 12 September 2013.
The World Methodist Council notes that Epworth Old Rectory is held in trust by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (of the British Methodist Church), for the purposes of the World Methodist Council.

The WMC confirms both the responsibilities and opportunities this ownership gives us. The WMC confirms that it will continue to offer financial support, administration support, and a connection between Epworth Old Rectory and the World Methodist and Wesleyan family.

3.4 World Methodist Hunger Movement Resolution
From the WMC Men’s Affiliate WMC London, 12 September 2013.

The World Methodist Council encourages all member churches of the Wesleyan/Methodist family to engage in hunger mission projects during the time span of the World Methodist Conference in Houston, Texas, August 31-September 4, 2016.

All hunger projects will be registered at a designated website (to be determined).

Reports will be tallied and reported on Sunday, September 4, 2016, and reported as ONE collective act launching a World Methodist Hunger Movement.
CHAPTER 4

AMENDMENTS TO METHODIST BOOK OF ORDER
(LAWS AND DISCIPLINE) 12th EDITION (revised)

4.1 Chapter 4
ADD: New Heading

4.54 TRANSFERS FROM CUC or WMC CHURCHES
An Ordained Minister from a CUC member church or a World Methodist Council member recognised by the MCSA who desires to enter the Methodist Ministry shall apply to the local Bishop or, if they are from outside the Connexion, the General Secretary.
Before the Connexional Executive accepts their application or otherwise, all such applicants shall:

4.54.1 Provide a letter of recommendation from their church.

4.54.2 Possess the basic education qualification (Grade 12) or equivalent and at least a theological Diploma equivalent to that which was offered by the Joint Board until 2005, or a Diploma or degree in Theology from a Seminary or University recognised by EMMU.

4.54.3 Complete the relevant application forms provided by the General Secretary.

4.54.4 Be interviewed by a District Screening Committee chaired by the Bishop and including the Director of EMMU or the General Secretary or their representative.

4.54.5 The report of the screening Committee interview is presented to Synod (appointed by the General Secretary if the person is from beyond the Connexion) for deliberation and recommendation.

4.54.6 If recommended by Synod, the name and report of the person wishing to transfer is sent to the Connexional Executive for decision and stationing.

4.54.7 The person undergoes the same two years On Trial as all other Ministers transferring in.

A Minister seeking to transfer from any other church goes through the process as described in the Laws and Discipline. (4.53)

DIVORCE AND MINISTRY

4.121 Amend to:
In the Holy Scriptures in Mark 10 verse 5ff Jesus responds to the Pharisees saying “it was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this Law” that permitted a man to divorce his wife. Then
Jesus teaches against divorce as he goes on to refer to the book of Genesis 2 verse 24.

The Church, in realising the realities that certain marriages are painful and complex, recognises that marriages do fail. When that happens the Church should approach this reality pastorally in responding to the Ministers and their families who are going through divorce.

While exercising this ministry of caring, the Church’s position is clear that divorce shall not be viewed as normative. The Church shall strengthen its pastoral and counselling ministry in respect of family life, with particular attention to the Minister, his or her Spouse and Children. However, in seeking to deal pastorally with Ministers who divorce, the Church shall not surrender to the idea that divorce should ever be an easy option.

It is therefore permissible in principle, subject to careful scrutiny and safeguards, to admit persons who are divorced, or divorced and remarried, as Ministers in Connexion with The Methodist Church of Southern Africa.

A Minister who considers the option of Divorce is strongly counselled to make this known to the Bishop, in order for the Bishop to offer counselling and guidance or to refer the matter for counselling or guidance.

4.124 Replace existing clause to read:
The District Bishop in consultation with the ex-officio members of the District Executive shall appoint a District standing committee on Divorce and Remarriage consisting of no less than three (3) and not more than five (5) persons who are skilled, knowledgeable and experienced in marriage counselling and divorce. The Committee shall serve for a three (3) year term, eligible for re-appointment for two (2) additional three (3) year consecutive terms. The Bishop shall also appoint a Convener of this Committee.

4.125 Replace existing clause to read:
The District Standing Committee shall interview the parties involved in and or affected by the proceedings, to investigate and make an assessment within twenty one (21) days of the suspension of the Minister.

The functions and duties of the District Standing Pastoral Committee on Divorce and Remarriage shall include:

4.125.1 To meet with the divorcing Minister within twenty one (21) days
of suspension, individually or jointly with the spouse, to determine the cause of divorce or explore any possibility of reconciliation and professional assistance.

4.125.2 To investigate if there was any act of misconduct by the Minister. If the Committee concludes there was alleged misconduct then the Committee shall recommend to the Presiding Bishop that disciplinary procedures be followed.

4.125.3 To determine what pastoral assistance is needed especially towards the children (if there are any), to minimise the negative impact of the divorce.

4.125.4 To determine the state of negotiations with regard to a divorce settlement with special attention to the Church Pension Fund and Medical Aid as it affects the children and the vulnerable Partner in the marriage, and how fair this settlement is for the whole family.

4.125.5 If the divorce is inevitable, what are the implications on the calling and stationing of the Minister, and the state of the two individuals’ readiness especially in relation to the future welfare of the children, and their future as individuals.

4.125.6 Remains unchanged.

Add clause:

4.125.7 The advisability of forfeiture of emoluments to be made by the Presiding Bishop.

4.126 Replace existing clause to read:
The District Standing Committee on Divorce and Remarriage is also to consider cases of re-marriage in the following instances:

a. An application for reinstatement of a former Minister who has been divorced,

b. An application to marry by any Minister who has been divorced,

c. An application by any Minister to marry a person who has been divorced,

d. The candidature of any person who has been divorced or who is married to a divorced person.

4.127 Replace existing clause to read:
The Standing Committee on Divorce and Remarriage makes recommendations to the Connexional Executive and/or the Presiding Bishop as to the readiness of the couple to re-marry and to recommend that permission be granted or otherwise. Re-marriage shall normally only be considered after two (2) years have elapsed since divorce.

4.128 Replace existing clause to read:
In the case of a. and d. above, the Standing Committee shall report to the Bishop, for reporting to Synod.
4.129 Replace existing clause to read:
In the case of b. and c. above, the Standing Committee shall report to the Presiding Bishop who may approve any application in regard to remarriage, reinstatement, or candidature of a divorced person, subject to ratification by the Connexional Executive.

4.2 Chapter 6
6.4.2 Add: “The District Lay Leader” (after 6.4.1. and before One Conference appointed Seminarian).

DISTRICT LAY LEADER

6.23 Add at the end of clause: “The District Lay Leader is ex-officio a member of Synod and of all District Mission Groups and committees.”

4.3 Chapter 11
11.14 Delete: ‘a person’, insert: ‘a member’
To read: “The District Discipline Registrar shall present the case against the accused or may appoint a member of the MCSA, to present the case against the accused at the hearing.”

4.4 Add New Appendix 16:
Order of Business for Connexional Executive
Order of Opening:
Devotions
Calling of the Roll
Constitution of CE
Appointment of CE officials
Appointment of the Hours of Session
Adoption of the Agenda

1. Do we adopt the Minutes of the Previous Meeting?
2. What are the Matters arising from the previous meeting?
3. What business of Conference is referred to the Connexional Executive?
4. What report do we receive from the Finance Unit?
5. What reports do we receive from Connexional Discipline, Arbitration and Mediation Committees?
6. What report is received from the Education for Ministry and Mission Unit regarding Candidates, Probationers and Ordinands?
7. What Resolutions, Notices of Motion and Memorials are before the Connexional Executive?
8. What amendments to the Laws and Discipline are proposed by the Revision Committee and what amendments are proposed to constitutions of Organisations?
9. What matters are referred to Districts, Units, and Circuits from the Connexional Executive?
10. What matters are before the Connexional Executive relating to Supernumeraries?
11. Who is appointed (when the term of office comes to an end) as Lay General Treasurer?
12. Who is appointed (when the term of office comes to an end) as Wardens of the Orders?
13. Whom do we appoint as Connexional Registrar?
14. Whom do we appoint as Connexional Marriage Registrar?
15. Whom do we propose to the Conference for appointment as Bishops and Unit Leaders?
16. Whom do we appoint to the Finance Unit Executive?
17. Whom do we appoint as trustees of the Pension Funds?
18. Whom do we appoint to Connexional Discipline, Mediation and Arbitration committees?
19. Whom do we appoint to Connexional Committees?
20. What District and Circuit Boundary changes are accepted?
21. What changes are received of Clergy personnel status regarding:
   a. Deaths
   b. Applications to Superannuate
   c. Applications for Secondment
   d. Leave of Absence
   e. Resignations/Discontinuances
   f. Ministers who will be deemed to have resigned if not stationed
   g. Reinstatements or Transfers in
   h. Change of Category
   i. Study Leave
   j. Transfers out and Ministers beyond the Connexion
   k. Permission to Explore
   l. Applications for Remarriage
   m. Divorce Proceedings
   n. Local Preachers’ Status
   o. Ministers without Appointment: Marriage
   p. Ministers Beyond the Connexion
22. What is the final Draft of Stations to be presented to Conference?
23. What administrative matters are before the Connexional Executive?

4.5 Add New Appendix 17:

Order of Business for Conference
Calling of the Roll
Constitution of Conference
Appointment of Conference Committees and officials
Appointment of the Hours of Session
Reception of Conference Reports, Resolutions
The Address of the Presiding Bishop and Conversation on the Work of God

1. What is the report of the Lay President?
2. What is the report of the Lay General Treasurer?
3. What is the report of the General Secretary?
4. What are the reports of the Districts, Units, Committees, Orders, Seminary and Organisations?
5. Whom do we receive as Ecumenical Guests to Conference?
6. Whom do we appoint to Connexional Committees?
7. Whom do we appoint as Unit Directors?
8. Are there any Units to be closed?
9. Are there any Units to be established?
10. What is the report of the Connexional Boundaries Committee as to District boundaries?
11. Whom do we appoint as our Bishops?
12. Whom do we elect as the General Secretary (in years this is to be held)?
13. Whom do we elect as the Lay President (with nominations from Synod, in years that this should be done)?
14. Which ministers who have died since last Conference are remembered at the Memorial Service?
15. Who are the Ordinands approved to be Ordained and Received into Full Connexion at this Conference?

As per Laws and Discipline, each Ordinand shall be required to give the following undertakings:

4.46.1 I will adhere to the Laws and Discipline and all other policies, decisions, practices and usages of the Church;
4.46.2 I will accept and obey the discipline and decisions of Conference and the Connexional Executive;
4.46.3 I will go to whichever Circuit or Station I am appointed;
4.46.4 I will not malign this Church, its Ministers, doctrines or practices;
4.46.5 Should I leave the Ministry of this Church for any reason, I will not conduct another Ministry in the Circuit or area to which I was appointed;
4.46.6 Should I leave this Church, I will not encourage any member or adherent of the Church to follow me;
4.46.7 Should I leave this Church I will accept the decision of the Connexional Executive or of the Presiding Bishop governing the termination of my service and my occupancy of Church property.

16. What is the Statistical report of the Connexion?
17. What is the final draft of Stations?
18. What are the resolutions of Conference?
19. When and where will the next Conference be held?
20. What are the decisions relating to all reports and discussion papers?
21. What is the Message to the Methodist People?
22. Closing Ceremonies
CHAPTER 5

METHODIST CONNEXIONAL OFFICE
PROFILE OF THE METHODIST FINANCE UNIT

CHALLENGES TO THE CHURCH

1. The MCSA’s property portfolio is under-utilized. The huge reliance on circuit assessment for the running of the MCSA places the Church’s operations at risk. The Church needs to strategically position its property portfolio in line with market trends by investing in property research and audits. This will place the MCSA in a better and competitive property position. Strategically investing in property and land may provide an opportunity for the Church to establish a property portfolio that can generate income for the benefit of the whole Connexion.

2. Based on the number and type of insurance claims received, it is evident that there is a need for all structures of the Church to implement processes to safeguard our buildings and ensure that the MCO Insurance team is made aware of any changes in property registers.

3. The MCO expects all Circuits to pay their assessments on time. As at May 2016, 43% of circuits were over 2 months in arrears. We appeal to District Treasurers to proactively monitor the arrears reports in order to exercise control in limiting the arrears.

4. Non-compliance with submission deadlines continues to pose a challenge. This not only threatens the church’s tax exemption status, but also makes it difficult for this office to assist circuits in their financial planning. Financial 4C and 4S Schedules must be completed, audited, approved by the April Quarterly Meeting and 2 copies submitted to the District Treasurer well before Synod annually. One copy is to be sent to the Finance Unit Compliance team as soon as possible but by no later than 2 weeks after the Synod meeting. Late submission of these Schedules is not acceptable. Please refer to paragraph 9.87 of the Book of Order Revised 12th edition.

5. All Church owned property is to be registered in the name of the Presiding Bishop, and all Title Deeds lodged with the MCO for safekeeping. This includes properties which are fully paid for in cash at the time of purchase. A copy of the Title Deed must also be sent to the MCO where properties are bonded to a bank. This needs to be done in every instance.

6. The average cost to a Circuit for an Ordained Minister is approximately R600000 pa. This must be taken into account when considering the viability of a Circuit and deciding on the number of Ministers a Circuit can afford. We strongly
discourage circuits from offering additional stipends that are too high and in certain instances result in circuits struggling to meet their obligations.

**HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**

1. The Finance Unit team continues to seek ways of improving efficiency and processes through training and industry interactions.
2. The Circuit assessment account is carefully monitored throughout the year to control costs. In an effort to assist the Church to achieve mission objectives we have maintained the Circuit Assessment at 20% of Ministers’ stipends plus allowances for 2017; however this level cannot be maintained beyond 2017.

**SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES - A BRIEF OVERVIEW**

- **Pension/Provident Funds**
  The Finance Unit administers the Supernumerary Pension Fund, the Lay Staff Pension Fund and The Provident fund. Total assets under administration amount to R1.5 Billion.

- **Payment of Stipends/Pension**
  819 Ministers, Evangelists and Biblewomen, as well as 729 Supernumeraries are paid monthly through the Finance Unit.

- **Insurance of Church Properties**
  The Finance Unit administers the insurance cover through Marsh Insurance for the Church’s assets.

- **Medical Aid**
  The Finance Unit, in conjunction with TopMed Medical Scheme, administers the medical aid that covers 2381 active members and dependents.

- **Property**
  The Finance Unit holds Title Deeds and administers the records of over one-and-a-half-thousand properties owned by the MCSA.

- **Supernumerary Reserve Fund.**
  The Finance Unit administers the Supernumerary Reserve Fund. It is a Church Fund established in 2003. The aim of the Fund is to underwrite retirement benefits and also assist with ill-health retirements & Ex-gratia death benefits.

- **Church Reserve Fund**
  The Finance Unit administers the Church Reserve Fund established in 2007. It is a Church Fund. This fund is instrumental in Mission Resource funding.

- **Mission Resource Fund**
  Conference 2014 resolved that 25% of any contribution to the Church Reserve in any one year would be allocated as seed money for Church Planting. This fund is aimed at assisting the church “Igniting Discipleship Communities” by funding current or new missional work throughout the Connexion.

**OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY OF THE FINANCE UNIT**

The Finance Unit exists to facilitate the vision of a Christ-healed Africa by:
Objective No. 1: Care for Ministerial staff and their families:

Strategy
a. Listen and respond positively to Ministerial staff, Supernumeraries and widows;
b. Provide Ministerial staff with information about the facilities the Church offers them in their Ministry, such as facts about the itinerant ministry, stipends and allowances, Pension benefits, income tax, health care, retirement planning and general financial management advice.

Objective No. 2: Effectively administer Connexional Funds in accordance with missional objectives in an accountable and responsible manner:

Strategy
a. Provide appropriate administrative and financial systems and services;
b. Control Connexional expenditure within reasonable limits;
c. Exercise management oversight of out-sourced specialised services to those who have the financial resources and expertise, such as insurance, investment management, processing medical claims.

Objective No. 3: Offer administrative and financial facilities to the Church:

Strategy
a. Provide Connexional financial and management guidelines to ensure integrity, accountability and responsibility and monitor such;
b. Encourage and train Ministerial and Lay leadership in management principles;
c. Provide Bishops and Superintendent Ministers with financial and other information to enable them to manage effectively;

Objective No. 4: Initiate financial resourcing for mission growth and development:

Strategy
a. Maximise income and capital growth on Connexional money and assets;
b. Utilise the Millennium Fund as effectively as possible;
c. Consider vacant church-owned land and buildings in such a way as to formulate strategies to utilise the asset effectively;
d. Contribute to a Church Reserve Account for financing purposes as opportunities arise.
5.1 Administration
5.1.1 Finance Unit Executive Committee:
The Presiding Bishop, the Bishop of the Central District, the Secretary of Conference, the Lay President, the Ministerial and Lay General Treasurers, Director - Human Resources, Revs M Sibeko, F Marumo, C Bell and SG Jones, Mesdames N Hlati, J Simons, R Stoltz, N Mnconywa, C Cronje and Ms A Mpiriane, Messrs L Panya and M Sabelo.

5.1.2 General Treasurers
The 2014 Connexional Executive appointed Mrs T Ngonyama as Lay General Treasurer for a period of five (5) years (2015-2019).

5.2 Financial Statements
The Finance Unit Executive received and adopted the audited Annual Financial Statements of the Methodist Connexional Office and the Millennium Mission Resource Fund as at 31 December 2015.

5.3 Connexional Funds
5.3.1 Connexional Assessment Fund
See paragraph. 9.12 – 9.13.1
5.3.1.1 Circuit Assessments
To maintain the Connexional Funds the levy on all Circuits in 2017 shall remain 20% of the amount paid by Circuits and/or Societies for stipends, bonuses and all allowances (excluding travelling and housing (recommended up to R4 500pm)) of Ministers and all other pastoral agents for the period ended 31 December 2015. The above stipends, bonuses, allowances and payment for Pulpit Supplies and private contributions paid for the support of Evangelists,
and allowances made to theological students for supply work in Circuits are also subject to assessment.

5.3.1.2 **Medical Expenses (previously called Extraordinary Affliction Grants):**
To maintain Medical expenses in 2017 of R28 922 424, (2016 – R26 334 465) the levy on all Circuits remains 19% of the amount paid by Circuits and/or Societies for stipends, bonuses and all allowances (excluding travelling and housing (up to R4 500pm)) of Ministers, Probationers, Supernumeraries, Biblewomen, Deacons and Evangelists for the period ended 31 December 2015.

5.3.1.3 Circuit contributions to the Supernumerary Fund and the Supernumerary Fund Reserve/Church Reserve shall not be a charge against the Circuit Assessment Fund but shall be paid directly to the Finance Unit by Circuits.

5.3.1.4 N.B: Of the total amount of the estimated assessment income for 2017 – R12 410 820 (2016 – R 12 430 216) is to be used directly for the care and maintenance of the ministry. This is made up as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BUDGET 2016</th>
<th>BUDGET 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial Training EMMU/SMMS</td>
<td>8,694,000</td>
<td>8,772,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removals</td>
<td>2,100,000</td>
<td>2,200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Leave Grants</td>
<td>1,458,216</td>
<td>1,250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exigencies of Stations</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>110,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bursaries</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work permits</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>22,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Educational Grants</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**12,430,216** **12,410,820**

5.3.1.5 Administrative expenses make up the balance as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BUDGET 2016</th>
<th>BUDGET 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Africa Council of Churches</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary grants</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishops Admin allowances</td>
<td>195,000</td>
<td>291,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana Council of Churches</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Council of Lesotho</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Council of Moz</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Council of Namibia</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Council of Swaziland</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Unity Commission</td>
<td>58,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Printing</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE &amp; Conference Planning</td>
<td>425,000</td>
<td>435,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connexional Committees</td>
<td>830,000</td>
<td>850,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conn Chaplainy Committee</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connexional Office expenses</td>
<td>6,926,400</td>
<td>6,926,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connexional IT</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connexional Marriage Registrar</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEWCOM</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecumenical Affairs</td>
<td>160,000</td>
<td>165,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connexional Schedules</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept. of Archives</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minutes of Conference</td>
<td>245,000</td>
<td>245,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bursary Fund Assessments</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Grant</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Expenses</td>
<td>850,000</td>
<td>857,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Presiding Bishop</td>
<td>1,099,143</td>
<td>1,099,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presiding Bishop’s Travel Costs</td>
<td>334,400</td>
<td>351,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Lay President</td>
<td>97,500</td>
<td>97,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the GS</td>
<td>917,397</td>
<td>925,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec of Conference Travel Costs</td>
<td>225,000</td>
<td>235,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>450,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth President</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Chaplain</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Desk</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas Conferences</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Meetings</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SACC</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA Institute of Race Relations</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry Funeral Grants</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Council of Churches</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>245,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Methodist Council</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa Methodist Council</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total of all other Connexional expenses</strong></td>
<td>14,458,340</td>
<td>14,601,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td>26,888,556</td>
<td>27,012,483</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.3.1.6 **Without Agency** (paragraph 9.44)

Where a Circuit is without agency the Circuit assessment is one-third of the assessment payable on the stipend of a Probationer Minister and that if no Minister is stationed in the Circuit for more than 5 consecutive years the Circuit be disbanded and attached to a neighboring Circuit.
5.3.1.7 **Assessments of Ministers with Permission to Labour, on Leave of Absence or Seconded** (paragraph 9.45)

Ministers and Deacons who are granted permission to labour or who are on Leave of Absence, appointed to Chaplaincies or Seconded, shall contribute each year the assessed cost of Supernumerary Fund contributions, Supernumerary Fund Reserve, Extraordinary Affliction grants, Furlough allowances, Removal reimbursements, and any other grants, if such benefits apply to them.

Where a Minister or Deacon has contributed the assessed cost to the Extraordinary Affliction Fund for less than 10 years immediately prior to retirement, that Minister or Deacon may, from retirement date, apply for grants from the Extraordinary Affliction Fund, limited to the same number of years for which such assessed cost was made.

5.3.1.8 **Assessments for Non-Stipendiary Personnel**
(paragraph 9.46)

Where a non-stipendiary Minister, Probationer, Supernumerary or Deacon is appointed to a Circuit, the Circuit Assessment is 50% of the stipend assessment payable on the minimum stipend of an ordained Minister. This would apply after the normal two years waiting period.

5.3.1.9 **Assessments of Ministers Stationed in United Churches**
(paragraph 9.47)

Ministers serving in United Churches shall contribute each year, if such benefits apply to them, the assessed cost of Supernumerary Fund contributions, Supernumerary Fund Reserve/Church Reserve contributions, Extraordinary Affliction grants, Furlough allowances and Removal reimbursements, together with an annual amount of approximately 50% of the residual assessment per Minister.

The amount of 50% of the residual assessment per Minister is R12 650 for 2017.

5.4 **Ministers’ Stipend Allowances**

5.4.1 **Stipend Augmentation Fund**

Conference 2009 endorsed the proposal which addressed the issue of ‘parity of stipends’ by implementing a Stipend Augmentation Fund to enhance the stipends of those Ministers who are paid the least in order to bring them up to a minimum overall income package.
The Fund is administrated by the Finance Unit but managed by
Trustees appointed by Conference.

From 2017 this package is R18700 before tax for ordained ministers
and R15 500 before tax for Probationers. Based on a formula, the
SAF is financed by a Stipend Augmentation Assessment levied on
Circuits who pay stipends and allowances higher than R18 700
before tax, based on the 2017 package for ordained ministers.

There is no intention to limit stipends to a maximum but the
requirement is that all income received by Ministers is disclosed to
the MCO. A policy of transparency and trust is the objective of the
proposal.

5.4.2 Voluntary Stipend Fund

In view of the successful implementation of the Stipend Augmentation
Fund, CE approved that the Voluntary Stipend Fund be amalgamated
with the Stipend Augmentation Fund and that the one Fund attends
to both the needs. Where a minister does not receive a stipend,
the District Bishop will be required to send a written application
(including an outline of measures taken to assess the situation) to the
trustees requesting augmentation for the minister. The minister will
be augmented for 3 consecutive months.

The granting of a minimum stipend, or part thereof, to any Minister
who does not receive a stipend is dependent on funds being available.
Thus every Minister who receives more than the minimum stipend
is encouraged to voluntarily contribute to the Stipend Augmentation
Fund and is invited to indicate to the Finance Unit if they want to con-
tribute, subject to a minimum of 1% of Basic and Additional Stipend.

All Organisations are encouraged to contribute to the Fund on a
voluntary basis.

5.4.3 Stipends for 2017

The recommended total Stipend increase for 2017 is 7.5%.

CPI is expected to be approximately 6.5% in January 2017. The
Connexional Executive recommends that:

The Minimum Stipends and stipend assessments for 2017 be
increased by 6.5% to R10 032 for ordained ministers per month and
that Total Stipends increase by not more than 7.5% for 2017. We
request that this be complied with as far as possible.

Minimum stipend allowances for 2017 shall be:
Ministers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Annual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ordained</td>
<td>R10,032.00</td>
<td>R120,384.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probationers</td>
<td>R8,527.00</td>
<td>R102,324.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deacons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Annual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ordained</td>
<td>R7,524.00</td>
<td>R90,288.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probationers</td>
<td>R6,395.00</td>
<td>R76,740.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evangelists and Biblewomen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Annual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commissioned</td>
<td>R4,148.00</td>
<td>R49,776.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probationers</td>
<td>R3,526.00</td>
<td>R42,312.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.4.4 Combining Statements and Payments
All assessments and payments due by circuits shall be reflected on a monthly statement. The circuit shall make a single combined payment to the Finance Unit or pay via monthly debit order by the 15th of each month.

5.4.5 Payment of Stipend Allowances
The amount of stipend paid shall relate to the total amount received by the Finance Unit in respect of the combined charges in terms of par 9.53 and subject to the allocation priority in terms of paragraph 9.54.

5.4.6 Research regarding non-payment of stipends and viability of Circuits:
The Connexional Executive mandates that in regard to stipends:

5.4.6.1 Each District shall be required to appoint a qualified task-group to research and study the problem of some Ministers not receiving stipends, including the costing of options they may seek to recommend;

5.4.6.2 The recommendations of the District task-groups be sent to their own Circuits and Synods for discussion in February annually;

5.4.6.3 The work of Districts be submitted to the Executive Secretary and combined into a definitive discussion document to be considered by the Connexional Executive in September annually.

5.4.7 Travelling Allowance (paragraph 9.58)
The Travelling and Depreciation Allowances have been combined with effect from 2007 in order to conform to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) Travelling Allowance Table. The Travelling Allowance for 2017 is based on the Value of the Vehicle being between R160 000 and R240 000 and calculated on the basis
of travelling 1 400km per month in line with the 2016-2017 SARS tax directive. The recommended Travelling Allowance for 2017 is R8 074.00 per month.

Where the distance travelled exceeds 1 400km per month, the excess mileage may be claimed at R4.00 per km.

5.4.8 **Extraordinary Affliction Grants** (paragraph 9.70)

5.4.8.1 In terms of par 9.70, various benefits and limits are granted under the TopMed Methcare Medical Plan for hospital costs as well as major conditions requiring treatment, subject to pre-authorisation having been obtained and the terms and conditions of the Medical Schemes Act and agreements concluded between TopMed Medical Plan and the Church from time to time.

a. **In-Hospital Benefits**
   - The upper limit is R1000000 per beneficiary per annum;
   - The co-payment required by the member in 2017 is:
     - 50% of the first R4 650, thereafter
     - 10% of the amount over R4 650, up to a maximum of R10 000;
   - Any hospital treatment that forms part of the Prescribed Minimum Benefits at State and Provincial Hospitals is fully paid for by TopMed Medical Plan.

b. **Out-of-Hospital Benefits**

   Ministers and Supernumeraries are required to pay doctors and other out-of-hospital accounts up front and will be refunded 80% thereof by the TopMed Medical Plan. Prescription medicine may be obtained from a pharmacy by paying the 20% co-payment up-front. The pharmacy will submit the balance of the account to TopMed electronically.

5.4.8.2 The conditions and limits referred to in par 9.15.2 are as follows:

   “Members of the Order of Evangelism qualify for extraordinary affliction grants, if they are paid the minimum stipend through the MCO; retired Evangelists and Biblewomen also qualify if they had at least 10 years’ service immediately prior to retirement having been paid the minimum stipend through the MCO. All such grants remain subject to a limit of R4 000 per family per year.”
5.4.8.3. With effect from January 2017 the required contribution from Ministers towards the medical expenses of Ministers, Supernumeraries, Deacons, Evangelists and Biblewomen will be 6% of their Basic plus Additional Stipend with a maximum of R1 127 per month in 2017 (2016: R1072 per month).

Due to pension increases, with effect from January 2017 the required contribution from Supernumeraries who receive a Pension greater than R5500 per month will be R175 per month towards the medical expenses of Ministers, Supernumeraries, Deacons, Evangelists and Biblewomen.

5.5 **Funeral Grants** (paragraph 9.73)
The limit for 2017 remains R2 500.

5.6 **Children’s Education**
5.6.1 School Uniforms (paragraph 9.74.2)
The amount for 2017 is R500.00

5.7 **Supernumerary Fund**
5.7.1 Stipend Groups, Contributions and Basic Benefit Rates
5.7.1.1 The following basic benefit rates of pensionable service are recommended with effect from 1July 2016 being an increase of 6.32%:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Basic Benefit per year being 2% of Annual Pensionable Stipend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>286.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>860.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,529.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2,390.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3,346.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4,302.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>5,258.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>6,214.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>7,170.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>8,126.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>9,082.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>10,038.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>10,994.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11,951.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stipend Range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stipend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>7969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>11951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>15937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>19917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>23905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>27883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>31873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>35851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>39839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>43819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>47807</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.7.1.2 The contribution from the Circuit towards the Supernumerary Fund and Supernumerary Fund Reserve shall be two times the personal contribution and shall be paid directly to the MCO by the Circuit. The distribution of the contribution will be variable as between the Supernumerary Fund, Supernumerary Fund Reserve and the Church Reserve. The estimated contribution for 2017 will be 1 times to the Supernumerary Fund, 1 times to the Supernumerary Fund Reserve and zero times to the Church Reserve.

5.7.1.3 Ministers will receive an annual benefit statement which will indicate their Individual Member Balance in the Supernumerary Fund and also an indication of the Church minimum benefit (at current benefit rates) they will receive from the Supernumerary Fund at retirement and in the event of death, to enable them to arrange their personal finances.

5.7.1.4 Amendments to the rules of the Supernumerary Fund shall be made as and when necessary by the Board of Trustees and submitted to the Registrar of Pension Funds for approval.

5.7.1.5 The Rules of the Supernumerary Fund are available on request from the Methodist Connexional Office.
5.7.1.6 In terms of the rules the Church representatives of the Supernumerary Fund shall include the Ministerial General Treasurer and the Lay General Treasurer ex officio.

5.7.1.7 The 2015 Connexional Executive appointed Rev ZD Siwa and Mrs M Hildyard as Church representatives of the Supernumerary Fund for the term (2016-2020).

5.7.1.8 The 2016 Connexional Executive appointed Ms Candice Pungavanam as Church representative of the Supernumerary Fund for the term (2017-2021).

5.7.1.9 The 2015 Connexional Executive noted the election by members and pensioners of Rev V Nyobole, Rev JP Scholtz, Rev P Oosthuizen, Rev SG Jones and Rev CHS Bell as Elected Trustees of the Supernumerary Fund for the term (2016-2020).

5.8 Lay Staff Pension Fund and Provident Fund Trustees

5.8.1 The 2001 Connexional Executive appointed the Ministerial General Treasurer and the Lay General Treasurer as ex-officio Church representatives of the Lay Staff Pension Fund.

5.8.2 The 2015 Connexional Executive appointed Ms Ankie De Boer as Trustee for the term (2016-2020).

5.8.3 The 2016 Connexional Executive appointed Rev ZD Siwa and Ms Candice Pungavanam as Church representatives of the Lay Staff Pension Fund for the term (2017-2019).

5.8.4 The 2016 Connexional Executive noted the election by members and pensioners of Mesdames HA Fleming, M Hildyard, BE Jubber, B Moyo-Bango and Mr J Gouws as Member-Elected Trustees of the Lay Staff Pension Fund for the year 2017. Elections will be held in 2017 for the years 2018-2020).

5.8.5 The 2001 Connexional Executive appointed the Ministerial General Treasurer and the Lay General Treasurer as ex-officio Church representatives of the Provident Fund.

5.8.6 The 2015 Connexional Executive appointed Ms Ankie De Boer as Trustee for the term (2016-2020).

5.8.7 The 2016 Connexional Executive appointed Rev ZD Siwa and Ms Candice Pungavanam as Church representatives of the Provident Fund for the term (2017-2019).

5.8.8 The 2016 Connexional Executive noted the election by members and pensioners of Mesdames HA Fleming, M Hildyard, BE Jubber, B Moyo-Bango and Mr J Gouws as Member-Elected Trustees of the Lay Staff Pension Fund for the year 2017. Elections will be held in 2017 for the years 2018-2020).
5.9 **Property Protection Fund** (See paragraph 9.79)

5.9.1 Circuits may recover from Ministers the premium on that portion of the Ministers’ furniture which is insured for more than R180 000.

5.9.2 The minimum Sum Insured on any manse building is R600000 and R480000 for any Church building.

5.10 **Ministerial Students’ Fund**

5.10.1 Contributions to the Ministerial Students’ Fund (See paragraph 9.34.2)

5.10.2 Ordained Ministers are invited to contribute a voluntary amount to the Ministerial Students’ Fund for deduction from their stipend payment by the Connexional Office.

5.10.3 Donations from Districts to the Ministerial Students’ Fund

The following donations were received from the Districts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>Actual 2014</th>
<th>Actual 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPE OF GOOD HOPE</td>
<td>142,212.65</td>
<td>231,593.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAHAMSTOWN</td>
<td>84,584.85</td>
<td>87,618.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUEENSTOWN</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>30,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIMBERLEY, NAMIBIA AND BLOEMFONTEIN</td>
<td>36,000.00</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHERN FREE STATE AND LESOTHO</td>
<td>57,833.00</td>
<td>68,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATAL COASTAL</td>
<td>79,894.70</td>
<td>99,614.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATAL WEST</td>
<td>90,685.50</td>
<td>80,504.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CENTRAL</td>
<td>197,189.70</td>
<td>267,351.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGHVELD AND SWAZILAND</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>235,340.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIMPOPO</td>
<td>139,452.89</td>
<td>272,414.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLARKEBURY</td>
<td>30,745.80</td>
<td>45,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISCELLANEOUS</td>
<td>9,430.93</td>
<td>19,865.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTEREST ON BEQUESTS - 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td>64,327.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>868,030.02</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,522,030.48</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.10.4 Ministerial Students’ Fund Cost of Ministerial Training (See Laws and Discipline, paragraph 9.34.3)

The cost of Seminary Training to be met by any Minister or Student who does not complete five (5) years of ordained service to the
Church is R60 400 for the study year 2017.

The cost of In Circuit Training for Probationers to be met by any Minister who does not complete 5 years of ordained service to the Church is R18 000 for the study year 2017.

The cost of Ministerial Training to be paid by Ministers in respect of 2017 is 30% of the Seminary Training Cost per Seminarian for 2017 and for In Circuit Training 30% of the In Circuit Training Cost per Probationer for 2017, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Cost</th>
<th>Minister’s 30%</th>
<th>Portion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prob. at Seminary</td>
<td>R60 400</td>
<td>R18 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prob. In Circuit</td>
<td>R18 000</td>
<td>R5 400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.11 **Removals** (See, paragraph 9.81)

5.11.1 Where travel is by private transport, the reimbursement from 1st June 2016 shall be R4.00 per km upon submission of a claim form by the 30th March of each year.

5.12 **Loans**

5.12.1 **Building Loan Interest Rate** (See Laws and Discipline, paragraph 9.82.1)

The Connexional interest rate on building loans will be an appropriate rate as determined by the General Treasurers from time to time.

5.12.2 **Outside Housing Loans** (See Laws and Discipline, paragraph 9.82.3)

There is no formal agreement with banks to make property housing loans available to Ministers and full-time employees of the Church. The MCO does not stand surety with any of the banks. However, all the banks are willing to assist with housing loans but preferential interest rates and options will be negotiable between the bank and each applicant.

5.13 **Investment of Funds** (See Laws and Discipline, paragraph 9.83)

The interest rate on money invested at call will be an appropriate rate as determined by the General Treasurers from time to time.

5.14 **Banking Accounts** (See Laws and Discipline, paragraph 9.84)

The Finance Unit conducts a number of bank accounts all of which have been approved by the Finance Unit Executive Committee.

5.15 **Bursaries for Tertiary Education for the Children of Ministers and Laity**

An amount of R40 000 is allocated for bursaries for Ministers’ children from the Circuit Assessment Account. Such bursaries are:
School          R2 000
Tertiary       R7 500
per annum tenable for a maximum of 4 years at an approved tertiary educational institution.

5.16 Bursary Fund Levy (See paragraph 9.91.4)
The Bursary Fund levy on Circuits remains R400 per annum per Minister for 2017.

5.17 Connexional Bursary Secretary
Private Bag x11, Gardenview, 2026
Tel : 011- 6151616

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CONNEXIONAL TRUST PROPERTIES (Yearbook, Chapter 14)

The following paragraphs should be read in conjunction with the 12th Edition of the Laws and Discipline- Book of Order, Chapter 10)

1. Vesting and Administration (See paragraph 10.1)

2. All members of the Trust Properties Committees are urged to declare any property interest in so far as it may relate to any property of the church. Refer to paragraph 10.31 of the general regulations.

3. The District Trust Properties Committee must refer all schemes, contracts, purchases and sale agreements etc. in excess of R1 million to the Connexional Trust Properties Committee for approval.

4. No building contract exceeding R250 000 in value may be entered into without the District Trust Properties Committee’s approval.

5. A Registered Architect, or an approved Building Design Consultant, is to be appointed where expenditure is between R70000 and R250000. A Registered Architect and a Registered Engineer must be appointed where expenditure exceeds R250000. When Societies wish to owner-build, the permission of the District Trust Properties Committee must be obtained.

6. At least two tenders are required for schemes where expenditure will exceed R250 000. “Contractors All Risks and Public Liability Insurance” must be arranged for all erections, alterations, additions or renovations to buildings.

7. An organ costing more than R75000 shall require the approval of the Quarterly Meeting and the District Trust Properties Committee before being purchased. Organs costing less than R75000 and other Church furnishings may be purchased without District Trust Properties Committee approval, provided that no debt is incurred.
Appendix 1

POLICY ON EFFECTIVE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE
METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

THIS POLICY IS MANDATED FOR ALL SOCIETIES, CIRCUITS,
DISTRICTS, INSTITUTIONS, ORGANISATIONS, TRUSTS AND
CONNEXIONAL UNITS
(Approved by the Methodist Connexional Executive Committee
– 16 November 2016)

PREAMBLE
1 CORINTHIANS 4:2 states “It is required of stewards that they be found
trustworthy.” We are required to be accountable to God and to each other for the
proper care of money and possessions that God has entrusted to us. No aspect of
Church involvement has greater potential for creating doubt, suspicion or disunity
than money. So we need to be wise in leadership by offering full disclosure to as many
people as possible and comply with standards of good governance and accountability.

Please note the requirement for each Institution, Organisation, Trust and Unit to
also complete annually an Institutional Competency Assessment (to check if viable,
ethical and effectual) and submit such together with the 4D, 4C & 4S Schedules to
Synods, Connexional Executive or the Board of Mission Meeting and the Finance
Unit of the Methodist Connexional Office.

OBJECTIVES
The main objectives are to provide:
1. A clear statement of the financial affairs of the Society, Circuit, District, Unit,
   Organisation, Institution, Trust or Fund;
2. Regular and prompt quarterly and audited Annual Financial Statements;
3. Simple accounting records which can be taken over by new people without
difficulty when Treasurers or Officials move; and
4. Management information to facilitate decision-making by the respective
   Executive Committees as well as the Synod, Methodist Connexional Office
   Finance Unit and the Connexional Executive.

REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO FINANCIAL REPORTING
In accordance with the regulations it is required that the respective Executive
Committees of Societies, Circuits, Districts, Units, Organisations, Institutions and
Trusts adequately manage all their funds, keep proper accounts of income and
expenditure and submit them to their respective Executive Committee.
The Methodist Book of Order, para. 7.21 states that it is the duty of the Circuit Stewards to manage all the Circuit funds on behalf of the Quarterly Meeting, keep proper accounts of income and expenditure and submit them to the Quarterly Meeting. The Circuit Treasurer, where appointed, shall operate under the direction of the Circuit Stewards. Superintendent Ministers must ensure that Circuit Stewards do exercise this management duty.

The Superintendent Minister has the power and duty to ensure that all monies held by organisations or departments in the Circuit are reported to the Quarterly Meeting and the accounts audited before being presented to Synod.” (Para.7.18.13);

It is a crucial requirement therefore that ALL monies received and spent by Circuits, Societies, Organisations and Departments, including ALL Rhona, fundraising and projects, be accounted for and reported to the Quarterly Meeting. No Circuit or Society income or expenditure of whatever nature is exempt from being disclosed and accounted for in this way. To give effect to this requirement, Organisations, departments, projects etc. may continue to produce their own separate audited Financial Statements but such must be submitted to the Society Steward/Treasurer (or Circuit Treasurer if there is one) as the case may be, who will ensure that this information is disclosed in Section 11 and 12 of the 4C or 4S Schedule.

The year-end of all Societies, Circuits, Districts, Units, Organisations, Institutions and Trusts is the 31st December. Financial Statements, Schedules 4D, 4C and 4S shall be audited. Societies with an income of R100000 or less will not be required to have an Audit, but must be reviewed by someone with an accounting qualification.

A registered Accountant or Auditor (registered with the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (IRBA)), South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA) or Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) can both prepare and audit Financial Statements. Connexional and District Financial Statements must be audited by a person registered with the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (IRBA) or South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

Financial Statements prepared for Circuits and Societies by a person other than a registered Accountant must be audited by a person with an accounting qualification, whose qualifications shall be stated in the audited Annual Financial Statements. Circuits and Societies with Income of less than R100000 may be reviewed by someone with an accounting qualification. The qualification must be clearly stated. The MCO reserves the right to query the qualifications.

This Policy Document should be made available to the Auditor to assist him/her with the audit.
Where the services of qualified persons are not available, there should be consultation with the District, Circuit or the Finance Unit of the Methodist Connexional Office so that the accounts are handled by a firm of Accountants.

The audited Annual Financial Statements are submitted, in the case of a Society to the Church Council for approval, and in the case of a Circuit to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting, and thereafter to the Synod, via the District Treasurer (The Methodist Book of Order – L & D 6.28.8). In the case of a District accounts are submitted to the Synod, via the District Treasurer (Book of Order 6.28.5). The District Treasurer will then submit a copy to the Compliance Unit of the Methodist Connexional Office within two weeks of Synod. All income and all expenditure of whatever nature must be accounted for in the books of the District/Circuit/Society and shown in the Annual Financial Statements so that there is proper accountability to our members, Synod and the Connexion. Similarly monies may not be hidden in various bank and other accounts. All account balances must be disclosed in the audited Financial Statements. A serious view will be taken of any attempts to withhold full and honest disclosure of all income and expenditure (including stipends, allowances, honorariums, donations and gifts to Ministers) as well as bank, savings and investment balances at year end. A serious view will be taken of any attempts to withhold full and honest disclosure of all Circuits/Societies that are operating bank accounts and who have not advised the MCO of their existence in order not to submit 4C and 4S Schedules. It is the duty of the Circuit Treasurer and Superintendent to ensure that the MCO is notified of these Circuits and Societies.

The audited Annual Financial Statements of District Units, Organisations, Institutions and Trusts are required to be submitted first to their respective District (Controlling) Executive Committee and then the District Treasurer for reporting to and inclusion in the Synod Blue Book and for consideration by the Synod. Thereafter the District Treasurer will submit all audited Financial Statements to the Methodist Connexional Office Compliance Unit.

The audited Annual Financial Statements of Connexional Units, Organisations, Institutions and Trusts are required to be submitted first to their respective Connexional (Controlling) Executive Committee and then to the Methodist Connexional Office Compliance Unit for consideration by the Connexional Executive Committee. These requirements also apply to special funds collected, invested and expended such as Building, Rhona or Special Effort funds.

The MCSA wishes to retain its Tax Exempt status in terms of the Income Tax Act. In terms of the Tax Act all Public Benefit Organisations (PBOs), (which includes religious organisations) are required annually to submit a consolidated Financial Report to SA Revenue Services reflecting accurate details of all District, Circuit and Society Income and Expenditure. This statutory requirement highlights the crucial and urgent necessity to ensure that Circuits are structured into viable units.
which are effectively managed and comply with good governance in terms of our Laws & Discipline, but also the laws of the Land.

CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF FINANCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH IFRS (INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS) – PREVIOUSLY GAAP (GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES)

1. All money collected is banked immediately or on the next business day. Money held overnight must be locked away in a safe or strong room.
2. Receipts are issued for money collected and handed from one person to another, prior to banking. If it is not feasible to issue receipts, proper records are to be kept to substantiate the source of all money received with at least two persons signing such record.
3. All payments should be made by either cheque or electronic transfer using Business Online Banking and every payment must be authorised by the Unit Leader or relevant responsible person. Salary registers must be authorised by the Unit Leader or relevant person, other than the person responsible for the actual payment thereof.
4. Electronic banking/payments are only permissible where dual control of authorisation on a payment instruction is a requirement of the banking system and separate confidential password codes are used. Authorisation for the use of Internet banking/payments will have to be proposed at the Circuit or Society Financial Meeting and ratified at the Quarterly Meeting.
5. Cheques, payable to any payee for goods or services, must be signed by two authorised signatories, one of which must be the Unit Leader or a relevant responsible person. Cash cheques may NOT BE ISSUED. DO NOT SIGN BLANK CHEQUES. Cheque books must be kept in a safe place to prevent unauthorised access thereto. Unused cheques that are stolen/lost must be reported to the Bank and SAPS immediately and a ‘stop payment’ must be placed on these cheques with the bank.
6. The use of Debit cards in place of cheques or Internet Banking may only be authorised at a Circuit or Society Financial Meeting and ratified at the Quarterly Meeting. The necessary internal controls must be implemented to ensure that the Debit Card system is not abused. The MCO can at any time revoke the use of Debit Cards.
7. Wherever possible invoices must be obtained to substantiate payments made and recorded on a Payment Requisition Form.
8. At year end, all vouchers, receipts, invoices, receipt records, bank deposits, paid cheques and bank statements together with the cash book and other bookkeeping records are given to the auditor.
9. Each expense must be allocated, in the financial records, to the relevant budget item it relates to.
10. For any large items of expenditure, e.g. repairs or maintenance, three quotes
must be obtained prior to going ahead with the work. The most reasonably priced quote must be accepted and authorised by the Unit Leader, Finance Committee or person responsible.

11. Extra staff may not be taken on if not budgeted for.

12. No unbudgeted item of expenditure shall be purchased or commitment made to purchase without the prior approval of the appropriate Finance Committee or Connexional authority. The General Treasurers must be consulted when appropriate.

13. The issue and use of Credit cards is strongly discouraged. In designated instances credit cards may be authorised by the MCO provided their use is only related to budgeted items or emergencies.

14. Accounting data, in respect of Connexional Units must be sent timeously to the Finance Unit of the Methodist Connexional Office according to the agreed deadlines.

15. In accordance with paragraph 7.31 and 9.91.1 of The Methodist Book of Order – L & D, no loan from Circuit or Connexional Funds may be made to any private person or body.

16. It is essential that Lay persons with business and accounting skill and knowledge are represented on Executive Committees or Boards to assist management.

17. It is required that Districts, Circuits and Societies have the necessary accounting software installed on their computers so as to provide the required accounting records in order to produce and complete the 4D, 4C and 4S Schedules.

18. It is essential that elected District, Circuit and Society Treasurers have a financial background to enable them to fulfil their obligations.

19. A compulsory Governance Checklist for Districts, Circuits, Societies and Organisations is to be introduced with effect from 1 January 2017. The completed form will form part of the 4D, 4C and 4S submission from 1 January 2018.

**BUDGETING**

1. Accurate and realistic annual budgets for all income, expenditure and capital expenditure should be compiled. The prior year’s budget, and actual data should be used as a guide to determine what budget is required for the following year. Refrain from simply adding a percentage to the previous year’s actual figures but calculate accurately and be able to justify each budget item.

2. Budgets should be submitted to and approved by the controlling Executive Committee by previously agreed deadline dates.

3. Capital Expenditure must be budgeted for. The purchase of Capital Expenditure items such as vehicles, equipment, furniture and properties where necessary must be regarded as an expense in the annual budget.

4. Any Grants normally received, which are part of the budgeted income, must be confirmed with the relevant sponsor prior to preparation and approval of the budget.
5. Expected Ministerial Stipends and allowances for the budget if relevant, must be verified with the General Treasurers.
6. Student expenses, if relevant, must be calculated on the number of students expected for that year.
7. If students are housed while studying, careful consideration must be given as to whether there is sufficient accommodation for them to avoid unbudgeted for acquisition or renting of properties.
8. Where necessary inflation increases must be budgeted for, i.e. municipal electricity, postage, telephone costs.
9. Travel expenses need to be calculated on the basis of the number and destination of any trips required for the purpose of the administration of the unit or organisation.
10. The budget exercise should result in an excess income or break even situation for the year but definitely not an excess of Expenditure over Income.

COMPARISON OF BUDGET TO ACTUAL INCOME AND EXPENSES
1. A Financial Statement shall be prepared by the relevant Accountant/Treasurer on a quarterly (or monthly) basis, as agreed, by a specified deadline.
2. The Financial Statement shall show the full Budget for the year, the Budget apportioned on a year to date basis for the period involved, the Actual Income/Expenditure on a year to date basis for the period involved and the variance between the Budget and Actual year to date figures.
3. Any details required by the responsible person with regard to this report shall be supplied timeously by the Accountant/Treasurer.
4. Any major variances may be highlighted by the Accountant/Treasurer for the attention of the relevant responsible person.
5. The Financial Statement described above and details of major variances must be referred to the relevant body for discussion and approval.
6. Should a major variance occur, an explanation will be expected from the Unit Leader/responsible person at the Leaders Meeting or relevant Executive Committee.
7. At the year end, 31st December, the Annual Financial Statements including Balance Sheets shall be prepared, audited and approved by the Leaders Meeting or relevant body in accordance with the previously agreed deadline date.

OVERSEAS AND DOMESTIC TRAVEL
1. Any travel on official and authorised MCSA business should be part of the budget and shall not cause annual expenditure to exceed annual income;
2. Overseas trips must be approved by the Presiding Bishop in the case of Connexional Units or the Controlling Executive Committee in all other cases and an itinerary should be handed to him/the Committee;
3. As part of the expenses of the trip an Out of Pocket Allowance should be paid
for incidental expenses. This allowance is intended to cover meals, bus, train and taxi fares, tips and similar incidental costs. It is assumed that the relevant Unit of the MCSA or overseas host would pay for airfares, accommodation, conference registration and related expenses. The Out of Pocket Allowance will depend on circumstances. The maximum Daily Allowance shall be as follows:

- Overseas travel where travel is outside the Connexion as defined in the Book of Order, the allowance shall be **US$140 per day**;
- Where travel is domestic (Within the Borders of South Africa), the allowance shall be **R150 per day**;
- Where travel is within countries inside the Connexion other than South Africa (Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland, the allowance shall be **US$50 per day**.

Prior motivation to and approval by the Presiding Bishop in the case of Connexional Units or the Controlling Executive Committee is required. If this amount is actually exceeded, vouchers need to be provided to account for such expenditure.

As a benchmark, accommodation will be covered at the tariff rate charged by a three-star hotel establishment where this cost is for the Church.

Where domestic travel is by private transport the reimbursement, from 1st June 2016, shall be R4-00 per kilometer. (This rate changes from time to time – see Yearbook).

12,430,216  12,410,820

4. On return from the trip a brief report needs to be presented to the Presiding Bishop or Controlling Executive Committee giving observations and recommendations arising from the trip and giving account of:
   a. Traveller’s cheques, foreign currency and Out of Pocket Allowance issued to the individual for the trip;
   b. Details of expenses actually incurred on the trip together with supporting vouchers where possible;
   c. Unused Travellers cheques and foreign currency not spent. These need to be immediately banked back into the Unit or Organisation’s bank account.

5. A copy of the report specified in 4 above needs to be sent to the Lay General Treasurer.

**CASH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

1. Any surplus funds held by any Society, Circuit, District, Institution, Organisation, Trust or Unit which will not be required in the near future should be either transferred into a Bank Call account or another Investment account.

2. All Bank account balances, be they Call or Current, must be reported to the relevant authority whenever appropriate.

3. Quarterly administration grants to Units need only be paid if cash resources
will not be sufficient for the forthcoming quarter. A partial quarterly grant need only be paid if cash resources are left over from the previous quarter.

4. Continually look for ways of saving on costs and avoiding unnecessary expenses.

5. Carefully monitor all expenses.

6. Ensure where possible that all budgeted income is received.

**CAPITAL INCOME AND EXPENSE MANAGEMENT**

1. Any proceeds from the sale of properties administered by any Society, Circuit, District or Unit may not be used for the normal day to day “running” expenses, unless this had been specifically provided for in the budget and approved by the Connexional Trust Properties Committee.

2. Careful planning is required for the purchase of capital items of equipment, furniture and vehicles in view of the magnitude of such purchases and the possible impact on Circuit Assessments.

3. Careful forward planning needs to be done, where necessary, regarding the acquisition or development of properties.

**CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS**

In terms of Chapter 10 of the Laws and Discipline of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa no contract for the purchase, exchange, lease or disposal of movable or immovable properties may be exercised by anyone other than the Presiding Bishop or Secretary of Conference acting on behalf of the Presiding Bishop.

**BANK OVERDRAFTS**

No bank overdraft may be operated on or applied for without first obtaining permission from the Methodist Connexional Office Finance Unit. Overdrafts will only be approved if the facility is for a short time and there is matching collateral to support the overdraft e.g. 32 days’ notice deposit. Please do not operate overdrafts without approval.

**DONATIONS TO A PUBLIC BENEFIT ORGANISATION**

The Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA) is registered as a Public Benefit Organisation No. 18/11/13/690 with the South African Revenue Service (SARS). The MCSA, although registered as a PBO, is a religious organisation.

The issuing of the section 18A tax deductible receipts by the Church is not permitted as The Church (MCSA) was not approved for exemption under an activity listed under Part II of the Ninth Schedule to the Income Tax Act 58 of 1962.

The MCSA and all Churches and organisations that fall under its constitution thus do not qualify for a tax deduction and **may not under any circumstances issue** Section 18A Certificates for any tithes, offerings and donations for religious activities.
The above changes and amendments to the Policy on Effective Financial Management have been tabled and approved by the Methodist Connexional Executive Committee on 16 November 2016.

Mrs. Thini Ngonyama
Lay General Treasurer
Appendix 2

INSTITUTIONAL COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IS MANDATORY AND IS TO BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED ANNUALLY BY ALL CONNEXIONAL AND DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS, UNITS, TRUSTS, FUNDS, INSTITUTIONS, SCHOOLS, CHILDREN’S HOMES, HOMES FOR THE AGED (REFERRED TO AS “INSTITUTIONS”)
(Approved by the Finance Unit Executive)

PREAMBLE

1. To ensure that the above Institutions are viable, ethical and effectual it is required that the undermentioned assessment be completed by 30 April each year.
2. All “Institutions” are referred to the Methodist Church of Southern Africa Policy on Effective Financial Management which must be adhered to.
3. It is the responsibility of the leader of each “Institution” to ensure that this assessment is completed by the Board or Executive Committee by 30 April each year and submitted together with the audited Annual Financial Statement for the previous year to:
   i. The Connexional Executive (attention Lay General Treasurer) - in the case of all Connexional “Institutions” which are required to report to the Connexional Executive;
   ii. The Connexional Board of Ministries (attention Lay General Treasurer) - in respect of all Connexional Units;
   iii. District Synods (attention District Treasurer) - in the case of all “Institutions” in such District which are required to report to Synod.

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NAME OF ORGANISATION, UNIT, INSTITUTION, HOME

..........................................................
Management
Does the Board/Executive Committee operate under its own constitution?
• If Yes, attach copy of Constitution.
Does the Board/Executive Committee have a sufficient diversity of age, talent, skills, experience, gender, ethnic and racial groups and have geographic representation?
Does the Board/Executive Committee meet at least quarterly with agendas received prior to the meeting and minutes distributed after the meeting?
Do Board/Executive Committee members receive all appropriate information necessary for guidance and decision making?
Does the Board/Executive Committee review the organization’s past performance and future plans annually?
Does the Board/Executive Committee have a formal method of appraising the performance of the executive director?

Plan
Does the Board/Executive Committee have a current strategic plan which includes:
• Values, vision and purpose statement?
• Identification of the internal and external weaknesses?
• 0 day, 1 year and 2 year goals?
Are the 90 days goals reviewed by the board every 90 days and new 90 days goals established?

Financial
Does it have a current 2 year funding plan?
Is there a trustee committee in place that regularly monitors investor performance of funds?
Do we have a yearly independent financial audit?
Are we complying with the Policy on Effective Financial Management for Connexional and District Departments, organisations, institutions, trusts and funds as set out by MCSA?
Are we staying within the SARS requirements?
Are all donations receipted in a timely fashion?
Are accounts being paid within 30 days?

Staff
Are all essential tasks identified and assigned to staff?
Are staff records in place including employment contracts?
Are appropriate disciplinary, grievance procedures in place and are they being observed?  
Do the staff have up-dated job descriptions?  
Do the staff have at least yearly performance evaluations?  
Is the Executive Director, Unit Leader, Chairman, President etc. [still] suited for the job?  
  • Does he/she have a clear vision and enthusiasm for the work of the Organisation?  
  • Is he/she staying on task with strategic thinking/planning; fund development, staff management/development; financial controls; board relations?

**Technology/Systems**
Are there systems in place which assist staff, the Organisation and help to maximize effectiveness?

**Governance**
Have all necessary registration documents been attended to?  
Have the registrations and lodgings been made to ensure incorporation of Section 21 Company?  
Has the constitution been recently reviewed?

**Reporting**
In accordance with Methodist Church of Southern Africa policy for all “Institutions” which are required to report to Synod:  
Are arrangements in place, to ensure the inclusion in the blue book for Synod, the following?  
  • A narrative report, signed by the authorised representative of the institution concerned, indicating the caring, missional and pastoral goals achieved during the past year, how funds were effectively used, plans and needs for the future, the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of the institution, and the names on the management committee, which should include people with management, accounting and other appropriate skills. Is this in place?  
  • In certain instances Government regulations or healthy trading practices require that business plans be drawn up. Where appropriate, are such business plans in place?  
    If so, are they submitted to Synod?  
  • Are audited annual financial statements, reflecting income from all sources, all expenditure, excess income over expenditure and a balance sheet of assets and liabilities and funds at yearend submitted to Synod?
Ethics
Is there at least 75% attendance at each board meeting? 
Does a board member meet with the executive director monthly to review how he/she is doing professionally? 
• Spiritually [Is he/she growing spiritually or pursuing growth]? 
• Financially [Is their salary placing undue pressure/burden on their family]? 
• Maritally [How often is he/she away from home? How does his/her spouse feel about their job?] 
• Physically [Is their life style putting them at risk]? 
• Has the board determined what is unethical, imprudent and immoral and set corresponding policy? 
• Are financial/contractual obligations being met in a timely fashion? 

Risk Areas
Are there any potential or real areas of litigation? 
Are there any other risk areas that need to be noted? 

NAME OF PERSON COMPLETING THIS REPORT
_____________________________________________________________

DESIGNATION OF PERSON COMPLETING THIS REPORT
_____________________________________________________________

TELEPHONE NUMBER
_____________________________________________________________

SIGNATURE OF AUTHOURISED OFFICIAL
_____________________________________________________________

DATE
_____________________________________________________________
Appendix 3

THE STIPEND AUGMENTATION FUND

Introduction
Conference 2009 adopted the following resolution:

- To form a Stipend Augmentation Fund that would aim at increasing the stipends of ministers who receive stipends below the minimum stipend to a predetermined minimum;
- That from 2010 the SAF be subsidised by the Circuits that are already paying ministers’ stipends and other allowances in excess of R13 000 before tax;
- That each of these Circuits contribute to the fund in terms of an agreed formula;
- That the amount applicable to each Circuit will be calculated by the MCO and forwarded to Circuits for inclusions in their 2010 budgets and assessments;
- That the SAF be managed by a Board of Trustees appointed by Conference.

The current Board of Trustees as approved by Conference 2015 is Bishop Gary Rivas (Chairman), Rev Jacob Freemantle, Rev Litaba Mothibi, Mrs Thini Ngonyama (Finance Unit representative), Mrs Lwethu Madi (HR representative) and the General Secretary (ex-Officio).

A Stipend Augmentation Fund Handbook has been developed and distributed to Districts. This handbook was updated in 2015 to incorporate the increased minimum stipend (which includes basic stipend, additional stipend, travelling allowance, various other allowances, annual bonus and any housing allowance above R 4 500) of Ordained Ministers to R17 600 and also the amalgamation of the Voluntary Stipend Fund into the Stipend Augmentation Fund.

The implementation of the SAF is managed by the Methodist Connexional Office Finance Unit. The Finance Unit reports that the SAF is stable with a Balance of R3 122 100 as at the 31st December 2015.

We still continue to struggle with the late submission of stipend authorisation and allowance forms. Without these forms, Ministers who require financial assistance, are overlooked. Due to additional tax implications relating to non-submission of these forms, MCO has reported that forms not submitted by 15 January 2017, will result in Ministers/Deacons/Biblewomen/Evangelists not being paid until such time as the forms are received by the Office. Please ensure that stipend authorisation and allowance forms are submitted timeously.

The Trustees would also like to highlight that all categories of stipend (i.e. Ministers, Deacons, Biblewomen and Evangelists) may benefit from the ‘Voluntary Stipend Fund’.
The maximum period that this Fund will pay benefits is three months, within which a Pastoral Commission report must be submitted to the MCO. The Trustees will decide if an applicant may then continue to receive a stipend through the Fund, but this will only be in exceptional cases. Bishops are requested to make application to The Chairperson of the Board (Bishop Rivas) in writing when requesting assistance from the Voluntary Stipend Fund.

In 2016, the Fund was able to augment ordained ministers in Mozambique with an amount of R1000 per month. The Trustees are happy to report that we are able to set aside R2 000 per month in order to augment stipends of Ordained Mozambique Ministers during 2017.

The Trustees of the Stipend Augmentation Fund and the Voluntary Stipend Fund call on Conference to **reaffirm the importance of these Funds in:**

1. **Ensuring that a minimum stipend is paid to Ordained Ministers;**
2. **Ensuring that a minimum stipend of R15 000 is paid to probationer Ministers until such time that this amount can be reviewed;**
3. **Ensuring that a basic stipend is paid to Ministers, Deacons, Biblewomen and Evangelists, in the event that they are not paid, for a period of up to three months.**
4. **The Trustees request that Ministers, Deacons, Biblewomen and Evangelists remember these Funds and contribute 1% of their stipend to assist these Funds in meeting their objectives.**

The Board of Trustees will be: Bishop Gary Rivas (Chair), Rev Jacob Freemantle, Rev Litaba Mothibi, Mrs Renny Stoltz, Ms Linda Makalima (Finance Unit representative), Mrs Lwethu Madi (HR representative) and the General Secretary and the Lay General Treasurer (ex-Officio).
We are grateful to God for enabling the Unit to continue fulfilling its mandate of education and training for ministry and mission in the MCSA. 2016 started with a new Director who had to hit the ground running as January is a busy month for the Unit. With the help and support of the EMMU General Committee as well as the EMMU Staff she was able to run with the work that needed to be done.

MINISTERIAL FORMATION:
A. CANDIDATURE
As per Conference 2013 Resolution, the candidates who were nominated in 2015 wrote the Theology Examination in November 2015. The January General Committee Meeting reflected on the performance of the candidates which was very poor. What emerged was that there is a general lack of awareness and understanding of the basic Methodist doctrine as well as the vision and mission of the MCSA among those who candidate for the ministry. There is also a general lack of ability to interpret and relate what they read to the present context. It was for these reasons that only a third of those who wrote the exam passed. This raises a big question of what it is that the MCSA members are taught at confirmation, class meetings, cell groups etc., if at the level of candidature, they are not aware of the doctrine, vision and mission of their church. That is something that all the ministers need to reflect on seriously and do something about. What we as a Unit can ask from Superintendents who nominate candidates is that they ensure that they assist or find someone to assist them in preparing for the exam.

The good news with this year’s intake however, is that young people in their twenties have offered for the ministry. This will affect the average age of the ministry in the near future. It is also worth noting that while there has been a shortage of white candidates over the years, seven (7) out of twenty four (24) candidates are white. Eight (8) are women.

B. SCHOOL OF VOCATION
All Districts have established Schools of Vocation with the aim of assisting members to discern and pursue their Christian calling. It is noted that among other factors, it is the School of Vocation that has contributed to attracting young people into the ministry. The District Conveners are commended
for their good work, recognising that so far they had to create their own programmes. The process of developing a Connexional School of Vocation Curriculum has been completed and the conveners will be trained on it in October. The focus of the curriculum is discerning, understanding and learning to articulate one’s call.

C. PROBATIONERS’ INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME
The Probationers met at eMseni from 18-22 January 2016. They were addressed by different speakers on the following topics:

• Theology and Spirituality of Leadership: Rev V. Vilakati.
• Socio-Political Consciousness on Religious Exceptionalism: Rev L. Williams.
• The Presiding Bishop’s Conference Address: Rev L. Mathews.

These were topics of the Internship Projects for the year and the speakers were giving guidance to how the projects need to be approached.

There has been an identified need to review the Internship Programme so that it continues and complements the training done at SMMS. The Programme needed to focus on the development/mastering of the skills for ministry and on Character Formation. There was also a need to standardise what the Districts do when they meet for IST. The General Committee has endorsed the work that has been done by the Committee appointed to do this work. The District IST Conveners and the District Supervisors will be trained on the new Programme before the end of the year in order to implement it in 2017.

D. NON–ITENERANT PROBATIONERS’ TRAINING
The annual Training of these Probationers happened on 13-16 July 2016 at Lumko Retreat Centre. The Programme included a time of learning, retreat and fellowship. As this category of ministry has been discontinued, there are only seven probationers who are non-itinerant.

E. SUPERINTENDENT’S TRAINING PROGRAMME
Due to the Municipal Elections, the Superintendent’s Training had to be moved from the first week of August to the 22nd-26th. The course covered the following topics:

• Effective Church Governance, Superintendents as Mission Leaders, Superintendents and Accounts, Theological and Wesleyan Understanding of the Office of Superintendent, and Selection and Discernment of Prospective Candidates for the Ordained Ministry.

F. ORDINANDS’ RETREAT
The beginning of the year Retreat was held at Lumko Retreat Centre on the 12th-14th January 2016. Rev John Stewe and Deacon Michelle Ingram worked
well as new Chaplains of the Ordinands. The Programme included: Reflection on the theology of Ordination, The Priesthood of all believers, What is the Order of Deacons, and Preparation for the Synod Oral Exam. There was also time spent on Guided Retreat. The last Retreat before Ordination was held in the week of Conference at Lumko.

6.1 RECEIVED INTO FULL CONNEXION
6.1.1 Conference 2016 received the following PROBATIONERS into Full Connexion and resolved that they be ordained:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gana</td>
<td>Nomaroma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghavalas</td>
<td>Yvonne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gqomfa</td>
<td>Luxolo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gumenke</td>
<td>Thobeka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kedama</td>
<td>Dali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khumalo</td>
<td>Bheki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letsoko</td>
<td>Motlatsi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mabusela</td>
<td>Xolisa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madwe</td>
<td>Mfan’Tholakele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mbaza</td>
<td>Ayanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mehlomakulu</td>
<td>Tamnci</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mhali</td>
<td>Nomatyala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mkhonta</td>
<td>Dumisile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mlabo</td>
<td>Mbongeni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mwanda</td>
<td>Manelisi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ndlangamandla</td>
<td>Mduduzi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ntola</td>
<td>Nomvuyo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qengwa</td>
<td>Sisanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralo</td>
<td>Bongani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seitisho</td>
<td>Storia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songo</td>
<td>Vusi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiroyabone</td>
<td>Obusitswe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vergueiro</td>
<td>Nuno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zatu</td>
<td>Getty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.1.2 Conference 2016 received the following DEACON and resolved that he be ordained:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kajane</td>
<td>Abraham</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.1.3 Conference 2016 received the following **ORDAINED MINISTER** into Full Connexion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mngcita</td>
<td>Zandisile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**6.2 PREPARING FOR ORDINATION 2017**

6.2.1 Subject to satisfactory results as indicated in the Handbook for Probation, the following **PROBATIONERS** are to prepare for Ordination in 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breytenbach</td>
<td>Johan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cole</td>
<td>Philippa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diba</td>
<td>Bennet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Du Bazane</td>
<td>Katy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaarekwe</td>
<td>Sethunya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gape</td>
<td>Tshegofatso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lehlongoane</td>
<td>Sechaba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>Lakabane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martins</td>
<td>Linda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masentse</td>
<td>Luvuyo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthews</td>
<td>Bulelani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mhlomi</td>
<td>Nzuzo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mlombi</td>
<td>Zole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mlotana</td>
<td>Monwabisi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosia</td>
<td>Peter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mothupi</td>
<td>Mamsi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ndumela</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nel</td>
<td>Nardus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nombombo</td>
<td>Sylvia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nomxego</td>
<td>Mazwenkosi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ntshinga-Yawa</td>
<td>Vuyelwa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivier</td>
<td>Wesley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qamba</td>
<td>Ndileka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qhampa</td>
<td>Mlungisi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socatscha</td>
<td>Xabiso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thekiso</td>
<td>Mantima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thulo</td>
<td>Sereame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tshangela</td>
<td>Thoko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xulu</td>
<td>Londiwe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.2.2 Subject to satisfactory results as indicated in the Handbook for Probation, the following **DEACONS** are to prepare for Ordination in 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Berrange</td>
<td>Habgood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kgosana</td>
<td>Manie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony</td>
<td>Philip</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.2.3 Subject to satisfactory results as indicated in the Handbook for Probation, the following **ORDAINED MINISTERS** are to prepare for Reception into Full Connexion in 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cita</td>
<td>Magadla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nshimbi</td>
<td>Zolani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nandipha</td>
<td>Alain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.3 **PROBATIONERS**

6.3.1 The following **PROBATIONERS** will continue their ministerial training in circuit in 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buthelezi</td>
<td>Mevana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caluza</td>
<td>Mxo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cele</td>
<td>Nosipho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chibindje</td>
<td>Abel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ciliza</td>
<td>Sakhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cira</td>
<td>Thembeka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dipali</td>
<td>Sam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dlamini</td>
<td>Philani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fumba</td>
<td>Zukisa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaven</td>
<td>Kholeka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gertze</td>
<td>Davy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gertze</td>
<td>Colin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujulwa</td>
<td>Milile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gumede</td>
<td>Muzomuhle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kameya</td>
<td>Evaristo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legodi</td>
<td>Gift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lethale</td>
<td>Solly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilokoe</td>
<td>Thapelo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lubbe</td>
<td>Carol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makgalane</td>
<td>Sonamzi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandla</td>
<td>Siyabong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2017

Mbelebele Lwandiso
Mcinga Thabiso
Mdubeki Sipho
Mngomezulu Thembi
Moloabi Kagiso
Mosiane Rebekka
Mouton Reggie
Msibi Msizi
Mtapani Lesizi
Mthembu Thokozani
Mtiki Xolelwa
Mvinjelwa Siviwe
Mzamo Thomas
Ndlovu Senzo
Ngcayisa Thembani
Nkosi Tshepo
Nokwe Lindela
Ntombela Siyabonga
Pillay Wesley
Quluba Luba
Rose David
Saki Mvusi
Seitshiro Kelebogile
Senakgomo Ramoshodi
Silosini Kunjulwa
Thabethe Theophilus
Thwala Annah
Tongo Liyanda
Windvogel Juliet
Yelverton Ralph
Zitha Shirley

6.3.2 The following **NON-ITINERANT PROBATIONERS** will continue their ministerial training in circuit in 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gobingca</td>
<td>Zobongile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ketshabile</td>
<td>Reginald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neveling</td>
<td>Carol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wernich</td>
<td>Louise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zono</td>
<td>Kholly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.3.3 The following will continue their ministerial training at SMMS in 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Galela</td>
<td>Mihlali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwaxaza</td>
<td>Michael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lukhozi</td>
<td>Sipho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maquena</td>
<td>Noeleen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mbewu</td>
<td>Nombulelo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memeza</td>
<td>Monde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mkhunyana</td>
<td>Viwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moyake</td>
<td>Luzuko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mphatsoe</td>
<td>Dumisani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mtshaulana</td>
<td>Thembelani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngwabeni</td>
<td>Mandisi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngwendu</td>
<td>Madodonke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Njameni</td>
<td>Aviwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nkosi</td>
<td>Noloyiso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qamata</td>
<td>Ntombise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senti</td>
<td>Mohau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songwiqi</td>
<td>Lifa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.3.4 The following **DEACON PROBATIONERS** continue training in 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcock</td>
<td>Pulane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boekhouer</td>
<td>Margaret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dugmore</td>
<td>Wendy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mchunu</td>
<td>Smanga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mdaka</td>
<td>Nonceba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngomane</td>
<td>Simi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.4 **CANDIDATES FOR THE ORDAINED MINISTRY**

6.4.1 **FULL TIME ITINERANT** candidates received on trial who will commence/continue training at SMMS in 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nkwintya</td>
<td>Siseko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Grady</td>
<td>Damian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qotoyi</td>
<td>Simlindele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silolo</td>
<td>Xolisani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerber</td>
<td>Jaco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James</td>
<td>Ludumo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.4.2 FULL TIME ITINERANT candidates received on trial as PROBATIONER MINISTERS who will commence training in circuit in 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lekala</td>
<td>Sibusiso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setshedhi</td>
<td>Eric</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.4.3 Candidates for the ORDER OF DEACONS received on trial who will commence training in 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ndebele</td>
<td>Ntombie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Templeton</td>
<td>Bruce</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.5 CANDIDATING PROCESS

- No candidate aged 50 or beyond in the year of acceptance will be accepted.
- Conference 2015 resolved that the Non-Itinerant category of the ordained ministry be discontinued in its current form and no new candidate will be received.

6.5.1 NOMINATING PROCEDURE

In order to be a CANDIDATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT one needs to:

- Be a practicing Christian, committed to Jesus Christ;
- Feel a clear call to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament;
• Be a member in full standing of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa for at least 2 years;
• BE A FULLY ACCREDITED LOCAL PREACHER in order to be nominated;
• Hold at least a COMPLETED Higher Certificate in Theology or Ministry (120 credits, NQF 5) from TEEC or an MCSA approved Institution with Proclamation as an elective and Wesley Studies with EMMU.
OR
• A COMPLETED Higher Certificate in Theology (120 credits, NQF 5) from SMMS.
OR
• Have completed required credits at Diploma or Degree level from an MCSA approved institution with Proclamation as an elective and Wesley Studies with EMMU;
• Have attended a District School of Vocation for a minimum period of 1 year.

The MCSA requires the following academic courses from TEE College. Please note: Candidates must have completed these courses before being nominated.

DEGREE
• Engaging with people pastorally and ethically (7002)
• Growing spiritually, thinking theologically (7003)
• Interpreting Texts. (7004)
• Exploring our Christian Foundation (7155)
• Proclaiming our Faith (7372)
• Wesley Studies with EMMU.

OR

DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY
• Getting to know the Bible (85100)
• Church History 1 (85130)
• Systematic Theology 1 (85240)
• Spirituality 1 (85250)
• Ethics 1 (85260)
• Practical Theology 1 (85370)
• Proclaiming our Faith (86378)
• Wesley Studies with EMMU.
6.5.2 **ORDAINED MINISTERS WISHING TO TRANSFER FROM OTHER CHURCHES**
- All applicants for transfer must be able to serve the MCSA for **at least ten years**, including their years of training as MINISTERS on TRIAL.
- No application will be considered from people above 65 years of age, who apply to be considered Supernumeraries in the MCSA.
- The applicant’s denomination must be part of the traditional mission churches.
- Bishops send the names of applicants to EMMU **no later than 31st July**.
- The EMMU will send to the applicant the necessary forms to be completed and **submitted to EMMU no later than 31st October**.

All other procedures and requirements are the same as for candidates for Word and Sacrament and Word and Service.

**Successful applicants for transfer** are required to complete a **minimum of two years** but **not more than 4 years** on trial and have to complete and participate in all aspects of probationer training.

6.5.3 **CANDIDATING FOR THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND SERVICE.**
See Chapter 11 in 2017 Yearbook (Methodist Order of Deacons) **for academic requirements.** All other candidating procedures are the same as for Word and Sacrament.

6.6 **CANDIDATE NOMINATION PROCEDURE**
The Circuit Quarterly Meeting recommendation shall be in accordance with the provided Circuit Quarterly Meeting guide AND the Superintendent’s evaluation report (both these documents can be downloaded from www.methodisttraining.co.za) or obtained from EMMU.

“**INTENTION TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE**” (can be downloaded from www.methodisttraining.co.za or obtainable from EMMU) must be submitted by Superintendent Ministers to reach EMMU **before 31 July**.

- **Candidates’ forms**
- Personal information and **ALL** required attachments
- Detailed Self-Evaluation
- Superintendent’s Report
- Doctor’s Evaluation of candidate’s health
- Police Clearance Certificate
- These documents must be submitted to EMMU not later than **31st October. Documents received after this date will not be considered.**
• Theological competency and academic ability will be assessed in the form of a written assignment to be assessed by EMMU.
• Vocational Readiness assessed through screening done by a panel that comprises nominated individuals appointed by the District Bishop. **It is mandatory that a person with experience in the field of Psychology** be present within this panel together with a representative or representatives from the Connexional EMMU.
• Applicants appear before their Synods to give testimony. The Synod recommends acceptance to EMMU General Committee.
• Connexional Executive to approve the acceptance based on the recommendation from the EMMU General Committee.
• Individuals who candidate having completed a period of study at Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary prior to candidature, may be awarded a maximum of one year reduction period from the years of probation. This would result in a candidate serving a minimum period of four years on probation before being received as an ordinand, subject to having completed all EMMU requirements as stipulated in the Yearbook from time to time.
• Individuals who have successfully satisfied the candidature requirements, including screening, with completed academic qualifications from other registered and accredited theological institutions, shall be required to spend the first three years of their training at Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary to satisfy the Spiritual, Character Formation and Skills Development requirements for the ordained ministry.

6.7 STUDENT MINISTERS
6.7.1 DISCIPLINE GUIDE AND RUBRICS FOR MINISTERS-IN-TRAINING

**Basic Disciplinary Scale**
Caution
Warning
Final Warning
Discontinuation

**System Design**
A minister-in-training’s disciplinary record is reflected on two independent scales:
1. Academic/Skills Formation Discipline Scale
2. Character Formation Discipline Scale
Ministers-in-training’s discipline records begin when they enter seminary and continue until ordination. If a Minister-in-training has incurred disciplinary action while at seminary - i.e. he/she has received
a caution or warning - SMMS will report this to the DSS at the end of the seminary semester for reporting to the next EMMU General Committee meeting for noting.

Upon completion of 3 years at SMMS the Minister-in-training’s records continue with EMMU from the point they exit; the SMMS and EMMU discipline systems and scales have been aligned to enable seamless transition:
- The “Academic” discipline record at SMMS aligns with the “Skills” record at EMMU;
- The “Formation and Conduct” record at SMMS aligns with the “Character Formation” record at EMMU.

Note: In cases where a Minister-in-training has completed years at SMMS prior to becoming a Minister-in-training, the disciplinary record continues from the point where it is. In other words, the disciplinary record at seminary prior to the start of training counts as part of the disciplinary record for the training period.

Note: Exclusion from SMMS on any grounds results in automatic discontinuation from training. (Official communication will be sent to the discontinued Minister-in-training from the Church).

Note: A comprehensive document of the disciplinary processes is available on our website www.methodisttraining.co.za and in the yearly updated “Handbook for Probation”.

6.7.2 SYNOD EXAMINATIONS

Required reading
Tim Attwell & Dion Forster, *Exegesis for Preachers and Scholars,* (Four page pamphlet available from your DSS, EMMU or download from www.methodisttraining.co.za.)

Preparation for the Examination
Read the 4 page pamphlet *Exegesis for Preachers and Scholars/ Teachers of the Bible.* Following carefully the exegetical method detailed in the pamphlet, prepare a 500 word exegesis on each of the following two passages:
- Micah 6: 6-8
- John 10:9-11

In each exegesis you must use each one of the three “points of focus” in the pamphlet, and show how these three points work together. Most especially, you must show how the “living word” in the two readings relates to your own context and to the broader context in Southern Africa.
These exegeses must be sent to the District Supervisor of Studies at least 4 weeks before the examination. The examiner will distribute copies to the members of the examining committee. Failure to meet this deadline will be recorded as a failure in the Synod Oral Examination.

The Examination:
This will be in the form of a discussion among a group of Student Ministers and the committee. Student Ministers will be asked to explain how they did their exegesis, and then respond to the positions of others in the group. Marks will be awarded on the basis of:
(i) Preparation for the examination, as evidenced by the exegesis and the oral response.
(ii) The Student Ministers’ understanding of their own position.
(iii) Understanding and flexibility of response to the positions of others.

6.8 GENERAL REGULATIONS
6.8.1 Probationer Mentoring Committee
For consistent support, encouragement, accountability and mentoring, the Superintendent of a Circuit where a Probationer is stationed shall appoint a Probationer Mentoring Committee consisting of five (5) people i.e. Leaders of the Society/Section/Circuit along with a Minister with whom the Probationer works closely.
• Unless there is a reason for change, the same committee is to walk alongside the Probationer until the ordination year or until s/he leaves the station.
• A Minister will be the convener of the meetings and meet with the Probationer at least once a quarter.
• The committee is expected to compile a minimum of two (2) progress reports annually (April and October).
• These reports should be signed by the Superintendent and sent to the District Supervisor of Studies.

Internship:
a. All itinerant Student Ministers in circuit, Ordained Ministers on Trial and Deacon Probationers shall be part of Internship Training. This involves 5 days in January (January Seminar) and 5 or more days during the year.

Trial Services:
It shall be standard practice for the Trial Service Committee to meet with a Student Minister or candidate to give constructive and helpful
comments and for this to take place immediately, or as soon as possible, after the service.

**Oral Exam:**
In the year in which Probationers are recommended for ordination the following year they will do an Oral Examination.

This exam shall be assessed by a Synod Listening Committee appointed by the District Bishop as per EMMU guidelines.

This exam does not replace the Ordinand’s Exam on the floor of Synod in the year of Ordination.

### 6.8.2 TRAINING YEARS REQUIRED PRIOR TO ORDINATION

- **Full Time Itinerant** - a minimum of 5 years.  
  **MAXIMUM 7 YEARS.**
- **Full Time Non Itinerant** - a minimum of 6 years.  
  **MAXIMUM 7 YEARS.**
- **Part Time Non Itinerant** - a minimum of 8 years.  
  **MAXIMUM 10 YEARS.**

### 6.8.3 NON-ITINERANT STUDENT MINISTERS

Please Note: Conference 2009 resolved that should a Non-Itinerant Student Minister wish to change status to Full Time Itinerant, recognition of prior learning will determined by EMMU.

### 6.9 EXIT PROCEDURE FROM PROBATION TO ORDINATION

A Probationer under **FINAL WARNING** may not be advanced to ordination.

Only when a Probationer Minister has **COMPLETED ALL** academic requirements in the previous year and if the Superintendent of a Probationer Minister judges the Probationer
- Of sound moral and religious character,
- As believing and teaching sound Christian doctrine as held by the Methodist Church,
- As observing and enforcing our doctrine,
- As having competent abilities for the work of an Ordained Minister in the MCSA,
- AND the Probationer having served the required minimum years on probation, shall
  1. The PMC conduct an interview with the probationer and make a recommendation to the April Quarterly Meeting.
2. The April CQM receives the reports then forwards them along with their recommendation to Synod and EMMU, through the DSS.

3. The District Supervisor of Studies convenes a District Screening Committee before the District Synod, including members of the District EMMU Committee. This committee will review the Probationer’s Circuit Assessment and CQM recommendation and then interview the probationer to assess personal and spiritual growth of the Probationer.

4. The Synod Listening Committee conducts an Oral Doctrine and Practice Examination of the recommended probationer in committee (not on the floor of the synod). This examination will assess the probationer’s understanding of Methodist doctrine and practice and will be set by EMMU.

5. Synods receive the names of all Probationers whose advancement is recommended by the Circuit Quarterly Meetings for consideration and recommendation of advancement by the District Screening and Listening Committees.

6. **Probationer Ministers submit the required Assessment Documents (content to be determined from time to time) to EMMU, by 1 June of the year in which Synod has recommended their name for advancement to Ordination.**

7. The General Committee of EMMU, having received all the reports from District Synods, shall on the basis of such reports (through its Assessment Committee) make a recommendation to the Connexional Executive, pending satisfactory end of year results.

### 6.10 PREPARATION FOR ORDINATION

- All candidates for Ordination shall write two assignments set by the EMMU in the year of their Ordination, attend a Seminar and prepare a presentation for the January Ordination Retreat.
- Ordinands shall undergo Synod Oral Examinations on the floor of Synod, which are set by the EMMU annually and forwarded to the Bishops prior to Synod.

### 6.11 DISTRICT SUPERVISORS OF STUDIES FOR 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cape of Good Hope</td>
<td>Rev Mervin Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grahamstown</td>
<td>Rev Rod Burton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>Rev Thamsanqa Mdingi</td>
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<tr>
<td>KNB</td>
<td>Rev Ian Wridgway</td>
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<tr>
<td>N. Free State &amp; Lesotho</td>
<td>Rev Trevor Hingle</td>
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<td>Natal Coastal</td>
<td>Rev Brenda Timmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natal West</td>
<td>Rev Zakhele Radebe</td>
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<td>Central</td>
<td>Rev Sva Waqu</td>
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6.12 LAY TRAINING

LAY TRAINING REPORT

Rev Mbuyiselo Stemela
Co-ordinator for the Training of Lay Ministries

1. INTRODUCTION:
The Lay Training portfolio of the Education for Ministry and Mission Unit continues to ensure that training of the Local Preachers and the Order of Evangelism is in line with policies and doctrine of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.

2. LOCAL PREACHERS
The Local Preachers remain an important component in the life of the Church. The portfolio continues to outsource the training of Local Preachers from the Theological Education by Extension College (TEEC) together with Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary (SMMS) for all students who have Grade 12 or equivalent.

3. PROGRESS ON THE LOWER CATEGORIES OF LOCAL PREACHERS STUDIES
The Director of the Unit together with the Lay Training Coordinator held meetings with TEEC to discuss and request the use of TEEC materials in order to address the training needs of Lower Category of Local Preachers, but was unsuccessful. This led the Education for Ministry and Mission Unit (EMMU) to begin conversations with Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary (SMMS) on a way forward in offering the courses for Lower categories of Local Preachers for all Methodist Local Preachers.

In the preliminary engagements, EMMU and SMMS have agreed in principle to explore offering a Foundation Certificate in Ministry (FCM), which will be for people with Grade 0 to grade 7 (Old Std 5), and Certificate of Competency in Ministry (CCM) for people with grade 8 (Old Std 6) to grade 11 (Old Std 9). EMMU together with SMMS are in a process of developing course content for the proposed lower categories and a budget for the proposed courses. This therefore means that Local Preacher training will be based upon an education standard or grade. There will no longer be a mature age category.
There were information sessions that have been given to the District Local Preachers Association Conventions by the Lay Training Coordinator and the Local Preachers Department Connexional Secretary as part of a Stakeholder engagements process.

In view of the above, the EMMU General committee has taken a decision to move forward with the proposals and recommendations, with the hope that the lower category courses will be up and running by January 2017.

4. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
All aspects of the actual implementation of the programme are being thoroughly thought through by EMMU, Local Preachers Department and SMMS.

5. THE ORDER OF EVANGELISM
The training of Bible Women and Evangelists is going smoothly, although numbers have gone down due to the age limit of candidates and the standard of entry to the Order of Evangelism, and the scrapping of the part-time category. We hope the Warden and the Order of Evangelism Committee will look into the matter. There are currently four (4) first year probationers who have since passed and they will be progressing to their 2nd year of training in 2016. We have 9 candidates who will also train in their 1st year in 2016, and as stated above the numbers reflected are very low.

A graduation ceremony for the 16 second year students was held on the 25th June 2016 at the St Thomas Methodist Church in Rocklands, Bloemfontein. We are continuously grateful to the Rev. XJJ Gedezana and his Circuit, who support the event without fail. We thank the EMMU Director, Warden and all District Secretaries of the Order of Evangelism who supported the Graduations.

Below are the 1st and 2nd year training courses and they cover the following aspects:

1st year
- INTRODUCTION METHODIST DOCTRINE; VISION AND MISSION
- INTRODUCTION CHURCH PLANTING
- INTRODUCTION EVANGELISM (NEW WAYS)
- INTRODUCTION SMALL GROUPS
- INTRODUCTION TO PASTORAL COUNSELLING & CRISIS COUNSELLING

2nd year
- PASTORAL COUNSELLING & CRISIS COUNSELLING
- EVANGELISM (FAITH SHARING)
- METHODIST DOCTRINE
- CHURCH PLANTING
- SMALL GROUPS AS TOOLS OF EVANGELISM
Sincere gratitude goes to the facilitators of the above modules who continuously volunteer their time to the work of the Order of Evangelism, namely: Revs. Sello Pelesane, Festus Marumo, Morapedi Diutlwileng, France Mabuza, and Moagi Sekhejane.

6.12.1 LOCAL PREACHERS

It is important to note that a person wishing to apply to become a Local Preacher in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa must be a member of the church in good standing for at least two years.

We strongly urge circuits to appoint Supervisors of Studies to liaise with EMMU and also to initiate learning events for the preachers in the circuits.

EMMU relies on the integrity of the individual and the circuit for preachers to register according to their academic qualifications.

The probation period is at least two years but not, except in very special circumstances, more than three (3) years. Refer Methodist Book of Order p.148, para 12.6.3.

6.12.2 LOCAL PREACHERS ON TRIAL WITH AN EDUCATIONAL STANDARD BELOW GRADE 12 OR MATRIC

- The course material for those who are below Grade 6 or Standard 4 to be prioritised for 2018.

The Certificate Of Competence in Ministry (CCM)

- The Certificate Of Competence in Ministry (CCM) caters for people with Grade 6 - 11 (old Standard 4 - 9).
- The CCM Programme will take 2 years with students registering for 4 courses per year, two courses per semester.
- Only two assessments of 50% per course will apply for the CCM level.

1\textsuperscript{st} Year courses
Introduction to the Bible
Introduction to Homiletics
Introduction to History of the Methodist Church in Southern Africa
Introduction to Community Development

2\textsuperscript{nd} Year courses
Introduction to Theology
Synoptic Gospels
Biblical Interpretation
Wesleyan Studies/Spirituality
Registration Logistics
Application Forms can be obtained from SMMS or be downloaded from the EMMU website www.methodisttraining.co.za.

No individual applications will be accepted by SMMS.
Circuit Superintendents are to register their Local Preachers with SMMS en bloc.
SMMS will then send all course material to District Local Preacher Department
Secretaries, who will in turn distribute the material to Circuit Superintendents.

NB: No course readers will be available to students unless full payment for the course is made.

6.12.3 LOCAL PREACHERS ON TRIAL WITH AN EDUCATIONAL STANDARD OF GRADE 12 OR ABOVE

Higher Certificate with TEEC
1st Year
45000 (Introduction to Theological Study Skills)
45111 (Introduction to the Old Testament)
45121 (Introduction to the New Testament)
45241 (Introduction to Theology)

2nd Year
45251 (Introduction to Spirituality)
45261 (Introduction to Christian Ethics)
45378 (Christian Proclamation: Preaching)

Wesley Studies through EMMU

A HIGHER CERTIFICATE CAN BE OBTAINED BY DISTANCE EDUCATION FROM THE SETH MOKITIMI METHODIST SEMINARY.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS QUALIFICATION MUST BE COMPLETED IN ITS ENTIRETY AND NOT JUST SELECTIVE COURSES.

Diploma Courses with TEEC
1st Year
85260 (Ethics)
85370 (Practical Theology)
86378 (Proclaiming our Faith)
2nd Year
85240 (Systematic Theology 1)
85250 (Spirituality 1)
85100 (Getting to know the Bible)
Wesley Studies through EMMU

Degree Courses with TEEC
1st Year 7002 (Engaging with people pastorally & ethically)
7372 (Proclaiming our faith)
2nd Year 7003 (Growing spiritually, thinking theologically)
7004 (Interpreting texts: Biblical & other sources)
Wesley Studies through EMMU

Wesley Studies registration with EMMU FROM NOVEMBER with a CLOSING DATE of 28 February each year. Registration forms obtainable from EMMU or can be downloaded from our website www.methodisttraining.co.za

6.12.4 LOCAL PREACHERS CERTIFICATES
To be received on Full Plan (Accredited)
The following documents need to be submitted to EMMU by the Circuit Superintendent:

Assessment of preacher to be received onto Full Plan (obtainable from EMMU or download from www.methodisttraining.co.za)

Assessment of Trial Service (obtainable from EMMU or download from www.methodisttraining.co.za)

Copy of ID document
Copies of results for ALL Local Preachers’ studies
There is no cost involved for the first issue of a certificate. Certificates are posted to the Circuit Superintendent. EMMU do not issue certificates on the request of individual preachers.

Long Service Certificate
EMMU only issues certificates of Long Service for 25 years and 40 years. The following information must be submitted to EMMU by the Circuit Superintendent for these certificates to be issued:
• Copy of ID document
• Copy of LP Certificate or a copy of the inscription in the Bible given to a preacher when accepted onto Full Plan.
CHAPTER 7

ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS 2016

Rev Musi Losaba

The purpose of the Ecumenical Affairs Unit is to encourage inter-church cooperation and assist in establishing the unity of the Church for which our Lord prayed. The Unit also has the responsibility for assisting the local church and mission groups within the MCSA, to live out this purpose.

OVERVIEW

The report of the previous Director indicated that there has been growth in ecumenical and inter-faith co-operation in the Connexion. “One notes that Christians and people of other faiths easily come and work together when there is a crisis e.g. service delivery protests, Xenophobic attacks etc. It is however, encouraging to see growth in ecumenical co-operation around mission and ministry that are proactively addressing the needs of communities.” The work still continues as it was reported last year.

The District Secretaries’ Indaba.

The 2016 Secretaries Indaba in its deliberations resolved on the following as focus areas for the Unit in this term:

1. Making Ecumenical Affairs (EA) an agenda item in the life of the church at district, circuit and society level:
   a. By igniting the passion for ecumenical involvement locally.
   b. By encouraging local churches, organisations etc. to invite the ecumenical family to our gatherings.
2. To work with the Church Unity Commission in establishing programmes which will grow the work of the CUC and highlight its significance for the church.
3. To strengthen links with ecumenical bodies throughout the Connexion.
4. To investigate whether there a place for EA in Chaplaincy.
5. To engage our Youth Unit on the need of strengthening relationships with other churches so that there may be partnerships in mission.
6. To encourage SMMS to work on exposing students to Ecumenical work.

CHURCH UNITY COMMISSION

1. Receptive Ecumenism

Professor Paul Murray of Durham University was invited to South Africa by the Catholic Bishops Conference and offered to the CUC to provide input at a Consultation on 14 January in Benoni. The Consultation was attended by a broad
representation of Member and Observer Churches as well as the Coptic Church and the Evangelical Alliance.

Prof. Murray addressed this third stage of ecumenical engagement while remaining realistic that organic unity was still a long way off. This stage seeks to create space for churches to move beyond seeking to show others what it is of value they bring to the common discourse and to begin asking what it is that each can learn from other traditions to develop the strengths that can be drawn into their own way of engaging with the Missio Dei in the present generation and the lived experience.

2. Second Unity and Mission Consultation
The first Unity and Mission Consultation held in 2013 provided an opportunity for representatives of Member and Observer Churches, as well as individual United Churches, to reflect on the work of the Commission at that time and to raise matters that needed to be taken forward. It was also an opportunity for all the Heads of Member and Observer Churches to share together with the CUC EXCO some of the issues that hindered the work of ecumenical engagement at that time.

A second Consultation is planned for August 2016 at which the whole of the second day has been set aside for representatives to consider pressing issues from each of the Trajectories of Unity.
1. Mission and Ministry at a local level.
3. Theological Education and Training.
4. Hearings for Healing and Centres of Hope.
5. Doctrinal Issues.

It is hoped that the Churches will take care to ensure that they are represented at this Consultation by persons who will be able to report back to their decision making bodies, so that the conversations started at the Consultation will continue at all levels of the Churches. We are to send a team of 10 as the MCSA and feedback on the consultation will be given through relevant structures within the church.

3. Hearings for Healing and Centres of Hope
Rev Paul Verryn in conjunction with a number of NGOs has been engaging with communities wracked by conflict and neglect across all of the Provinces of South Africa. The issues raised at these meetings covered the same range as was recorded in the 2015 Report and the only change has been a marked increase in the number of interventions needed, and an acute awareness of the conditions under which so many people are living today.

Rev Paul Verryn has embarked on facilitating a formal and informal NATIONAL HEALING AND RECONCILIATION PROGRAMME which aims to CREATE
SPACES and HEARINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRUTH, JUSTICE, HEALING AND RECONCILIATION for those among us who:

- Previously were unable to tell their stories to the TRC.
- Have been traumatised by current poverty and poor service delivery.
- Have been re-traumatised through Xenophobia.
- Are women who have been affected by Gender Based Violence.
- Children who have been traumatised, through abuse.

Thus far such programmes have begun through interfaith groups, NGOs, churches etc. in almost every Province in SA.

There is an urgent need for support for this work in two distinct ways:

- There is a need for active participation from the Churches in the local situations. While there has been support from individuals in some places, it is imperative it is a united Church that acts together locally and regionally to support initiatives that bring relief where needed.
- There is an urgent need for financial support for the process. The CUC has provided financial support from reserves for this work in an amount of R40 000.00 in 2015 and a further R60 000.00 for 2016. If the Church is to play its proper role in this work, it is vital that the Member Churches meet with the Executive of the CUC to discuss how this ministry can be supported and to release additional funds to the CUC to ensure that the work continues.

4. Appointment of Representatives to CUC Central Committee

Attendance at and participation in the work of the Central Committee of the Commission has been patchy for a number of years. It is seldom that more than 50% of the representatives attend the meetings of the Committee and the discussions and decisions do not appear to be conveyed adequately to the Executive bodies of the Member and Observer Churches. In addition, the decisions are seldom passed down to the regional leadership and so they rarely get down to the leadership in the local situation. It is vital that the Churches, meeting in their national Synods and Assemblies, elect or appoint to the Central Committee a team of people who are able to ensure that the flow of information from the Churches to Central Committee and from Central Committee to the decision making structures at every level of the Member Churches is fully supported at all times.

ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS UNIT:

The Ecumenical Affairs Secretaries agreed to do a SWOT Analysis of the EA work within the MCSA from their respective districts. This work was then sent through to the Director for compilation and engagement at our next Indaba in 2017.

The SWOT Analysis unfortunately was not done by all districts but those who embarked on the process were able to show what seem to be the general trends within our Connexion regarding this work.
The following were identified:

**Strengths**
- Existing ecumenical co-operation and projects in some circuits and districts.
- Willing Bishops - open to the need for the development of ecumenism in their districts.
- Our Connexional involvement in the local and international forums.
- Women’s Work is ahead in ecumenical work.

**Weaknesses**
- Lack of understanding about ecumenism.
- Busyness of ministers leading to lack of initiative to drive ecumenism.
- Lack of willing participation in reporting annual returns for formulation of Synod Reports.
- No allocation of funds in our Budgets.
- No data on ecumenical bodies we are in relations with.
- Lack of controls on people involved in the ecumenical structures within and outside of our Connexion.

**Opportunities**
- Willing Church Leadership.
- Some Circuits requesting more info/ workshops on Ecumenism.
- Many Local ministers are involved in forums/ networks.
- Our rural contexts are fertile ground for ecumenical work.
- Stations without agency due to affordability and other challenges.
- There is agency involved already in the ecumenical world - need to consolidate and monitor.

**Threats**
- Reluctant Gatekeepers Leadership Forum.
- No Money in Budgets.
- Inward focused church behaviour/ unwilling to engage past our walls by clergy and congregation.
- Lack of community interaction.
- Pop-up churches - “stealing members”, creating hostile community environment.
- Some churches not willing to engage, due to suspicion and competition.
- No strong links with other Ecumenical bodies in all the countries forming our Connexion.
- Politicisation of the ecumenical bodies.

These responses indicate a number of very genuine issues and struggles which may be faced by circuits. It is worth considering the priority we place upon working and worshipping with other Christians. Is this an optional extra when time and energy
allow, or is it integral to who we are as Methodist people? Where ecumenical activity takes place, how sustainable is it? Activity that is reliant upon one or two people may struggle to last if those key people are no longer involved. Responses to crises, such as the xenophobic attacks which took place last year, may foster ecumenical working, but do these relationships last beyond the crisis?

Councils of Churches.
It was reported last year that the MCSA is represented in national councils of churches in all the countries of the Connexion. It has been agreed in the unit that the Director will be notified when there are General Conferences of Councils in various countries so she/he or the Chair of the Advisory Committee can visit where possible.

The dates for the General Conferences of countries forming our connexion are as follows:
3. Mozambique - (did not receive) 6. Swaziland - it was held in March 2016.

The Councils of Churches within the Connexion are led by the following:
2. Christian Council of Lesotho - General Secretary: Mr. Khosi Makubakube (+266 223 13639)
3. Christian Council of Mozambique - General Secretary:
4. Council of Churches Namibia - General Secretary: Ms Maria Kapere (+264 6137 4050)
5. South African Council of Churches - General Secretary: Bishop Malusi Mpumilwana (011 241 7800)
6. Council of Swaziland Churches - General Secretary/CEO: Mr. S. Dlamini (+268 2505 3628)

The 2016 report won’t include any report on the councils as the EA Advisory Board is still consolidating the work and forging links with all the councils within MCSA. The 2017 report will deal extensively with this section.

GENERAL INFORMATION

District Secretaries:
Cape of Good Hope District: Rev. Derrick Maragele
Grahamstown District: Rev. Anthony Sutton
Queenstown District: Rev. Mninikhaya Makumsha
Kimberley and Bloemfontein District: Rev. Xolisile Gedezana
Natal Coastal District: Rev. Lucky Mngomezulu
Natal West District: Rev. James Adams
Central District: Rev. Matshidiso Sibi
Highveld and Swaziland District: Rev. Stephen Day
Limpopo District: Rev. Raymond Keet
Mozambique District: Rev. Nelson Pene
Clarkebury District: Rev. Zukile Guzana

**CUC General Committee Methodist Representatives**
1. Rev. Skawu Makubalo
2. Rev. Hilton van Wyk
3. Rev. Paul Verryn
4. Rev. Dr. Donald Cragg

**ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD:**
1. Rev. Charmaine Morgan
2. Bishop Mike Vorster
3. Bishop Dinis Matsolo
4. Rev. ‘Musi Losaba
5. Rev. Skawu Makubalo
6. Rev. Raymond Keet
7. Mr. Mbongiseni Ngwenya
8. ..................................................

**CONCLUSION**

The prayer of Jesus recorded for us in the seventeenth chapter of St John’s Gospel: ‘I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their work, that they may all be one. As you, Father are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me’ (John 17:20-21) is still the basis of the ecumenical movement.

Our ecumenical task is the essential coming together of Christians so that they will have the strength, the wisdom, the knowledge, the power, the courage, the strategies, the structures to convey anew to a secular culture the joy of knowing Christ Jesus. Jesus longs for that far more than we do. Our task is simply to surrender to the longing of his heart so that we will find it within ourselves and together to pray anew and to dialogue anew and collaborate anew with greater commitment that we may be one so that the Connexion, Africa and the world believes that it is the Father who sent him.
COMMUNICATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY: EFFECTIVE OR FLAWED?
Communication in the 21st century comes with numerous challenges especially as most of it does not take place via face to face interaction but rather through short messages, WhatsApp, emails and social media. Communication has therefore been reconfigured, redefined and given new meaning. Hanson Hosein, Director of the Masters of Communication in Digital Media (MCDM) program at the University of Washington, summarises this change: “Effective communication in the 21st century requires us to build relationships by telling our story and providing value-added content to online community platforms.” This statement rings true for our Connexion now more than ever, especially the part about ‘value added content’.

Communication on any platform of our choice can never be without responsibility. As is stated in our Netiquette and Social Media Policy we are all tasked with adhering to the same standards of behaviour online that we would follow in real life. It is important that anyone who posts material online as representing the MCSA, as a member of the MCSA, does so with maximum respect for self and others; with consideration about the potential good or harm the content could produce. As a church we have embraced new technologies and allowed our members to do the same. However, we do encourage decency, modesty, respect and propriety in the knowledge that all that we do represents the church of Christ.

NEW DIMENSION
Since the Conference 2015 resolution that called on the communications unit to send 25 copies of the New Dimension to all circuits we have had a generally good response. Our print run more than doubled from 6000 to over 14000 for a period and then settled at about 12500 as we cleaned up the database. There has been limited resistance from the Circuits with a handful writing to complain about the resolution which they view as an imposition from Conference and others running a silent protest by withholding payment for the papers and sending the papers back to us without opening. We have also received enquiries from some of the Circuits for more copies of the paper to be sent to them which is very positive.

We also face a challenge re the post office- no stamps have been available for the last three months and the processing of the mail is very slow which means that our readers receive their paper very late. We do have a franking machine but we have no control over the processing of the paper once it leaves the MCO.
The Communications Unit mourns the passing of one of our greatest supporters and contributors, Rev Dr Simon Gqubule, whose well researched and written articles inspired many, monthly, over the last 7 years. Soft spoken and ever courteous, Doc was an inspiration, never missed a deadline and always looked forward to receiving a copy of his paper. He will be sorely missed. We also, this year have missed the writings of Rev John van de Laar whose passion and love of worship is renowned. We hope that once he has settled into his new role at Northfield we will be able to lure him back.

We extend our call to every minister and lay person in our Connexion to try their hand at writing regularly for the Church mouthpiece. It’s a huge commitment but it is well worth the time spent. Help us at the New Dimension to keep Rev Dr Gqubule’s legacy alive.

WEBSITE
Our website is in the process of being refurbished with the aim of increasing the information in it as well as merging all existing unit web sites into one main responsive site. The new website is now also linked to a broader database of all our ministers and societies although a lot of this information will be password locked and only accessible to specific individuals.

BRANDING
We continue our clarion call for all of us to uphold and protect the name and brand of the MCSA. A draft copy of the Branding Policy is included in this report and the form necessary for application to use any of our logos for all commercial purposes including fundraising, will be made available at all district and circuit offices. We trust that you will make the time to go through the two draft policies included with this report: the Netiquette and Social media policy and the Branding policy.

PROPHETIC VOICE
The Office of the Presiding Bishop continues to speak out against socio-economic ills in the steadfast belief that all societies on the ground are doing their bit to act against any such happenings in their local contexts.

CONCLUSION
It’s pleasing to see citizen journalism taking place in the church with a lot of our members taking to social media and WhatsApp to share whatever is happening in their Society, Circuit or District. We need to write down and share our stories so as to play a part in creating a self-sustaining knowledge management system that will benefit many in years to come.
Appendix 1

MCSA SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES AND ETIQUETTE

Blogs, social networks and websites such as Wikipedia, Facebook, Flickr, Second Life, Twitter and YouTube are exciting new channels for you to share knowledge, express your creativity and connect with others who share your interests. The MCSA supports your participation in these online communities.

Because social media channels are fairly new to many members and employees of the MCSA, we’ve assembled “best practice” guidelines from respected online and industry sources to help us use these forums effectively, protect our personal and professional reputation, and follow Church policies.

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. When you enter any new culture -- and cyberspace has its own culture -- you’re liable to commit a few social blunders. You might offend people without meaning to. Or you might misunderstand what others say and take offense when it’s not intended. To make matters worse, something about cyberspace makes it easy to forget that you’re interacting with other real people.

So, partly as a result of forgetting that people online are still real, and partly because they don’t know the conventions, well-meaning cyberspace users, especially new ones, make all kinds of mistakes

**General recommendations**

The keys to success in social media are being honest about who you are, being thoughtful before you post, and respecting the purpose of the community where you are posting.

**Be transparent.** Be honest about your identity.

**Be accurate.** Make sure that you have all the facts before you post. It’s better to verify information with a source first than to have to post a correction or retraction later. Cite and link to your sources whenever possible; after all, that’s how you build community.

If you make an error, correct it quickly and visibly. This will earn you respect in the online community.

**Be respectful.** You are more likely to achieve your goals or sway others to your beliefs if you are constructive and respectful while discussing a bad experience or disagreeing with a concept or person.
**Be a valued member.** If you join a social network like a Facebook group or comment on someone’s blog, make sure you are contributing valuable insights. Self-promoting behaviour is viewed negatively and can lead to you being banned from Web sites or groups.

**Think before you post.** There’s no such thing as a “private” social media site. Search engines can turn up posts years after the publication date. Comments can be forwarded or copied. Archival systems save information even if you delete a post. If you feel angry or passionate about a subject, it’s wise to delay posting until you are calm and clear-headed.

**Maintain confidentiality.** Do not post confidential or proprietary information about the MCSA, Ministers or any other leaders or lay persons. Use good ethical judgment. If you discuss a situation involving individuals on a social media site, be sure that they cannot be identified. As a guideline, don’t post anything that you would not present at a Conference or say to the person’s face.

**If you post on behalf of the MCSA**

**Be transparent.** If you participate in or maintain a social media site on behalf of the Church, clearly state your role and goals. Discuss with your supervisor when you are empowered to respond directly to users and when you may need approval.

**Be respectful.** As a member of the MCSA, you must remember the Church’s commitment to respect for the dignity of others and to the civil and thoughtful discussion of opposing ideas. Some online communities can be volatile, tempting users to behave in ways they otherwise wouldn’t. Your reputation, and the Church’s, is best served when you remain above the fray.

**Be thoughtful.** If you have any questions about whether it is appropriate to write about certain kinds of material in your role as a communications officer ask your supervisor before you post.

**Be aware of liability.**

You are legally liable for what you post on your own site and on the sites of others. Individual bloggers have been held liable for commentary deemed to be proprietary, copyrighted, defamatory, libellous or obscene (as defined by the courts). Employers are increasingly conducting Web searches on job candidates before extending offers. Be sure that what you post today will not come back to haunt you. In the same way, anyone who claims any association to the MCSA as a lay member or clergy should be careful what they do or say on social media platforms. If any such communication is deemed offensive and or libelous or brings the church’s name into disrepute they will be disciplined in accordance with our Book of Order.

**Don’t use the MCSA logo or make endorsements.** Do not use the MCSA logo, or any organisational logo or any other MCSA related marks or images on your personal online sites.
Do not use the MCSA’s name to promote or endorse any product, cause or political party or candidate.

**Protect your identity.** While you want to be honest about yourself, don’t provide personal information that scam artists or identity thieves could use against you. Don’t list your home address or telephone number or your work telephone or e-mail address. It is a good idea to create a separate e-mail address that is used only with your social media site.

**Follow a code of ethics.** There are numerous codes of ethics for bloggers and other active participants in social media, all of which will help you participate responsibly in online communities.

**Monitor comments.** Most people who maintain social media sites welcome comments—it builds credibility and community. However, you can set your site so that you can review and approve comments before they appear. This allows you to respond in a timely way to comments. It also allows you to delete spam comments and to block any individuals who repeatedly post offensive or frivolous comments.

**Remember the human.** The golden rule your parents and your kindergarten teacher taught you was pretty simple: Do unto others as you’d have others do unto you. Imagine how you’d feel if you were in the other person’s shoes. Stand up for yourself, but try not to hurt people’s feelings. Use your network connections to express yourself freely, explore strange new worlds, and boldly go where you’ve never gone before. But remember the Prime Directive of Netiquette: Those are real people out there.

*Would you say it to the person’s face?*
When you communicate through cyberspace -- via email or on discussion groups -- your words are written. And chances are they’re stored somewhere where you have no control over them. In other words, there’s a good chance they can come back to haunt you.

*Another reason not to be offensive online*

**Adhere to the same standards of behaviour online that you follow in real life.** In real life, most people are fairly law-abiding, either by disposition or because we’re afraid of getting caught. In cyberspace, the chances of getting caught sometimes seem slim. And, perhaps because people sometimes forget that there’s a human being on the other side of the computer, some people think that a lower standard of ethics or personal behaviour is acceptable in cyberspace.

The confusion may be understandable, but these people are mistaken. Standards of behaviour may be different in some areas of cyberspace, but they are not lower than in real life.

*Be ethical*
Appendix 2

MCSA BRAND POLICY

The Methodist Church of Southern Africa brand is our unique promise to all our stakeholders. It defines the relationship we have with them and signals a consistent image and promise, shaped by our experience and our vision to be ‘a Christ healed Africa for the healing of nations’ that Proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ for healing and transformation.” Our brand captures our values as an organisation that respects diversity; embraces the poor; encourages innovation and the preservation of our heritage. Our brand represents our identity, our work, our distinctiveness and our competitive advantage.

Remaining a strong member of the Body of Christ, with what we believe is an approach vital to a healthy Doctrine and Ministry and unique whilst displaying considerable growth, requires consistent and coherent custodianship of our most important asset, our brand.

Our brand consists of all the identifying symbols, words or marks that distinguish the Methodist Church of Southern Africa Brand and all its related services and offerings across the world.

The image of the church and how it is portrayed by and to all our stakeholders is paramount as it is a representation of who we are and what we stand for and has a direct impact on perceptions that develop about the MCSA brand.

PURPOSE
The purpose of the Branding Policy therefore is

- To ensure that members and staff of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa who use the MCSA brand and its various expressions throughout the church, including but not limited to the organisations, the units, the departments and ministers do so consistently and coherently, in order to maintain the integrity of, and build the MCSA brand
- To protect the intellectual property of the MCSA.

SCOPE
This policy applies to all members of the MCSA and any third parties who have been granted permission to use the MCSA brands.

OBJECTIVES
The objective of this policy is to ensure clear and consistent presentation of the MCSA brand by:
• Standardising the presentation of communications and key messages to all stakeholders.
• Controlling the use of all church insignia/logos to ensure high quality standards are applied at all times when these are used.
• Controlling the use of the church insignia/logos/identity in all marketing, communication, publications and any for-sale items.
• Providing for regular monitoring and evaluation/review of the MCSA brand/identity.

BRAND IDENTITY
The brand identity of the MCSA includes all identifying symbols (logos, badges, uniforms,) words, and or marks that distinguish the church’s brand and its related products, services and programmes in the market place.

MCSA is distinguished firstly by the Shell logo and the wording that accompanies it “The Methodist Church of Southern Africa”. All organisations and units are entities that fall under the MCSA and so their emblems etc. are subordinate to the main logo.

These insignia include but are not limited to:
• The shell logo with the wording “The Methodist Church of Southern Africa”, and the colours should always be red, black and white.
• The Local Preachers Association, their badge and their uniform.
• The Women’s Manyano badge and their uniform and related colours.
• The Young Women’s Manyano badge and their uniform and related colours.
• The Young Men’s Guild badge and their uniform and related colours.

The trademarks of the organisations above have all been registered and the MCSA is the sole proprietor of these trademarks in terms of the Trademarks ACT 194 of 1993. Consequently, no person or entity may use any trademarks of the MCSA or anything similar to them without the express permission in writing from an authorised officer of the MCSA.

Violation of a trademark of the MCSA may result in legal action in terms of the laws of the republic of South Africa or some other corrective measures established by the church.

Application of the Identity
The identity/ies shall be used on all the official MCSA materials. The Shell logo should be prominently placed on the left hand corner of any document, with organisational logos on the right or below. The proportion and integrity of the shell logo and the colours has to be maintained - a high resolution logo will be made available on the website for those who will be granted permission to use it.

The proportion and integrity of all other insignia including organisational badges also have to be maintained. Our trademarks distinguish us from others such as the
Anglicans or the Catholics and should also serve as an indication of consistent quality.

Managing and protecting the MCSA brand constitutes a specific responsibility for all stakeholders who call themselves Methodists. It is within this responsibility that any Methodist found slandering the church on any media platform can be put under church discipline.

The MCO and District Offices will ensure that all internal stakeholders are educated and fully aware of the MCSA Brand Protection Policy and Guidelines. The MCO and District Offices will have the right to enforce compliance.

**Procedures**

More than ever before, brands drive businesses and organisations, making the brand one of the most valuable assets an organisation can own. With the advent of the digital world, it is more important and more challenging than ever to protect them. The MCSA shell logo and related trademarks are our invaluable assets; they are protected by trademark and other relevant intellectual property laws.

Procedures to be followed when making products for re-sale:

- **Within District**: A request form with the District Bishop’s Office will be filled out; once permission is granted, sample of product to be sold shall be made available for quality checks; a commitment to pay the district 10% of all money made from the sale of products carrying organisational or church insignias.

- **Within Circuit**: A request form with the Superintendent will be filled out; once permission is granted, sample of product to be sold shall be made available for quality checks; a commitment to pay the district 10% of all money made from the sale of products carrying organisational or church insignias.

- **Connexional Events**: A request form with the MCO will be filled out; once permission is granted, sample of product to be sold shall be made available for quality checks; a commitment to pay THE CONNEXIONAL COMMUNICATION UNIT 10% of all money made from the sale of products carrying organisational or church insignias.

- We also encourage all products for resale to be obtained through negotiations with the MPH.

The use of the brand must conform to the dictates of the Brand Protection Policy to ensure that the church is branded appropriately, consistently and coherently. The brand identity must always be used to promote the general interests of the MCSA.

**Monitoring and Application**

Compliance with all these new rules will be problematic at first because we have had a free-for-all for so long. Protecting our logos will be the duty of everyone who calls themselves Methodist and identifies with the brand. It will be our job to call out anyone producing and selling inferior products in the name of the Methodist Church.
We ourselves should not be found wanting when we produce any promotional material for our Conferences or similar gatherings. Because our logos have been registered, we are well within our rights to call out any company or organisation infringing on our territory by using any of our insignia and related symbols such as our uniforms.

Because the logos and badges have been registered, whenever they are used an encircled R® or “TM” if the registration is pending, should be indicated so that whoever sees it knows that it is protected and cannot just be used willy-nilly. To maintain quality, uniformity in terms of colour, shape, font, and design are essential.

**Corporate Identity**

Corporate identity in terms of the MCSA refers not just to our logos and symbols but our colours as well. These can also be termed our visual identity.

The power of how people perceive us as a church is in *our* hands. The emotional and psychological relationship the church will share with her stakeholders solely depends on how we handle and present our brand.

**Brand image**

Brand image is the character and image of the MCSA. It is the total impression of the church in an individuals’ mind and what it means to them.

**Misuse/Abuse of the MCSA Identity**

- The identity may not be used to promote political, ethnic, sectarian or any issues that distinctly go against or flout the dictates of the Bible and the Book of Order.
- The identity may not be used to promote commercial undertakings unless a contract has been signed which will ensure that the MCSA derives some benefits from such use or that the use is for the greater good of the MCSA.
- The Office of the General Secretary in conjunction with the Communications Unit is the custodian of the brand and is responsible for training, coordinating and advising in this regard. It will also deal with requests, clarifications and deviations.
- Only Conference-recognised organisations may use the logo and insignia of the MCSA.
INTRODUCTION
The Mission Unit team continues to endeavour to fulfil the mandate given to it by Conference - to facilitate, coordinate and support mission efforts around the Connexion, amongst other responsibilities. This involvement happens with the conviction that mission belongs to God - Mission Dei. We thank God that as the Unit works alongside the rest of the Connexion at all levels of the MCSA, there is evidence that more of the people called Methodist continue to grow in the understanding that mission is of God. Therefore, the next few pages (as do other reports in this yearbook) share some of the stories or acts of responses to God’s invitation to all of us to be in mission with Godself through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit in the different contexts, and regardless of our weaknesses and frailties.

It is generally accepted that Methodist work in Southern Africa (which has come to be known as the Methodist Church of Southern Africa) formally began in 1816, marking the year 2016 as the 200th year of Methodist witness in Southern Africa. We not only celebrate this milestone in our mission history but also give thanks to God for the work that God continues to do amongst us and the dedication of our forebears (men and women) who dared to proclaim the Gospel with vigour and conviction.

As part of our mission journey, we also thank God for the ministry of Methodist women, especially for the 40 years of the ministry of women in the ordained ministry of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.

MISSION CONGRESS
Following Conference’s 2015 mandate that a Mission Congress be convened from 24 to 27 November 2016, preparations for this event are on track. We wish to convey a word of thanks to the Circuits and Districts that worked hard to provide the required information towards forming the content of the Congress. Members of the Mission Congress Planning Team also deserve a word of thanks for their commitment to the task. Districts are urged to do all in their power to ensure that delegates devote their time to the business of the Mission Congress when it meets on the said dates and to commit to reporting back to their Districts.
ACTIVITIES OF THE DESKS:

HEALTH AND HIV AND AIDS DESK
Conference 2015 endorsed the change of the name of the Desk from its limited scope of simply being the HIV&AIDS desk to be named the Health and HIV&AIDS Desk. Since the last Conference we have endeavoured to introduce the new name and its rationale across the Connexion. We are grateful to Districts which have done more in different ways to facilitate the introduction of the renaming of the Desk.

The observance of World AIDS Day is gradually growing around the Connexion. It takes place globally on 1 December annually. The year 2015 ended on a high note as the following Districts held multi-stakeholder World AIDS Day (WAD) events: Natal Coastal District at E.Z. Sikhakane-Circuit at Mlazi; Clarkebury District at Mnceba; Queenstown District at the Sports Centre at Queenstown & Lesseyton Circuit; Central District at Jabavu Methodist Church in Soweto; in Botswana at Gaborone; in Mozambique at Maputo; at Ayliff in the Grahamstown District and at Ficksburg in the Northern Free State and Lesotho District.

The common nature of all these events was the demonstration of the possibilities and the potential for solid fruits of partnerships with various role-players in response to the disease burden and poverty in our contexts. In most places, WAD district events take place in partnership with a number of Government departments. The stake-holders either brought services on site or had speakers in the programme as well as contributing towards the success of the day in different ways. In the case of South Africa, local & district municipalities also participated as willing partners into the future.

We commend the Clarkebury District for having already made a banner which highlights the 90:90:90 targets for 2020. This is a sign that some Districts are committed and moving with the times. Support by MCSA District leadership as demonstrated by the bishops of the hosting Districts is usually a determining factor for success. Therefore, we continue to urge District bishops to continue to play a leading role in supporting the Districts Coordinators in organising these activities. The ability of the church to work with and be recognised for her role by other NGOs in their context was displayed. WAD activities were also an opportunity to present the MCSA strategy for the HIV 90:90:90 targets for 2020 to other role-players. In this regard, the MCSA is found to be running ahead of the pack. The church displays good positioning in relation to trust and confidence building within the communities and cooperation demonstrated by the Organisations giving towards those in need. A total of 320 food parcels were donated by Boxer Stores Head Office towards these events.

World Aids Conference: The Conference was held in Durban from 18 to 22 July, with pre-Conferences being held on 16 and 17 July. The coordinator of the Desk attended to represent the MCSA. She also presented at the Faith Based Organisations Session on work done by MCSA in the six countries of the MCSA Connexion. Across the five days of AIDS 2016 we heard about:
• Advances in HIV prevention, including new data on access to and use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP); HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) 702, the study that could lead to the first approved vaccine for HIV; and new research advancing the search for microbicides, long-acting prevention, and multi-purpose prevention technologies.

• Successes in treatment scale-up, and new efforts to close the treatment gap and move towards the global 90-90-90 targets for testing, access to treatment and viral suppression.

• The extraordinary impact of HIV on young people, especially on adolescent girls and young women, and the vital contributions of young people to the AIDS response.

• The detrimental impact of laws and policies that stigmatise or criminalise sexuality, sex work, transgender identity, drug use, and living with HIV.

• And hundreds of other topics related to every aspect of the global epidemic and response.

In all the above, the role of Faith Based Communities was emphasised as invaluable on issues of prevention, treatment and care, behaviour change and influencing just laws and policies which will bring about ‘the attainment of life to the fullest by all’, as our Lord Jesus came for that purpose. Outside and inside the Conference venue, marches and demonstrations led by South African and global activists helped to focus the Conference, the city, and the world on the need to redouble our efforts to meet global prevention and treatment targets, accelerate research, fully fund the AIDS response, and honour and respect the human rights of all people living with or affected by HIV.

Global Fund Programme Exit: The programme reached its end as of the end of March 2016 after a journey of six years with the MCSA. The auditing of the grant funds by independent auditors took place from May, while the audit report and final wrap-up took place at the end of July 2016.

Impact of the GF programme on MCSA response to HIV & AIDS: Over the six years the programme has enabled the MCSA to implement the AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria Programme (ATM) in the five inland provinces of South Africa and through it we have realised a multi-faceted impact in the areas where it was implemented and left the communities strengthened at different levels in a variety of skills, such as:

• Improved adherence culture amongst people on treatment resulting in 11 158 adherent clients on ARVs;

• Care-givers received accredited training in a number of competencies, such as screening and Counselling and Testing which resulted in 23 389 people reached with testing since October 2015;

• Care-givers were trained in the establishment and running of support groups and adherence clubs, resulting in 92 support groups operating in our Connexion;
• Professional data-collection and reporting skills using standardised tools has resulted in 14 583 recorded HBC & OVC clients being reached with quality home-based services while 3 278 households were reached with nutritional support which resulted in household and community vegetable gardens being established;
• Health-care skills including how to:

During 2015, seventy-two care-givers from different Districts received accredited training in looking after bed-ridden patients including skills on how to take and record the vital signs of a patient;
Referral procedure using referral forms;
Education on and management of TB.
The MCSA is grateful to the Global Fund programme for the assistance towards the fight against HIV&AIDS.

**Global Fund Programme Skills Dissemination:** A plan is in place aimed at disseminating the skills gained from the GF experience across the MCSA Connexion prioritising the MCSA Districts which fell outside the Global Fund-targeted provinces. This will take place through training workshops which will cluster neighbouring Districts for cost effectiveness. The first such training is planned for the third quarter of the current year for the Grahamstown, Clarkebury and Queenstown Districts. This is aimed at the training of trainers in all the targeted Districts.

There is a need for Districts, in partnership with the Connexional Desk, to support and strengthen and support the work of Health & HIV Coordinators in Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Swaziland. The need to have country representatives for these countries cannot be overemphasized while the absence of such people compromises the work that should be done in those countries.

We thank Districts who submitted their reports thus enabling the Desk to compile this report. We urge all circuits, societies and organisations to have this component for the smooth running of the ministry. Government departments are finding it helpful to work in partnership with the MCSA especially where there are passionate circuit ministers who interact with local stakeholders. We are thankful to all our partners and all the foot soldiers at local church level that touch the lives of their communities in many positive ways.

**JUSTICE AND SERVICE DESK**

During the period under review, the Desk executed the following:

**The District J & S Coordinators Conversation:** The Connexional Conversation of the Justice and Service Desk which took place from 2 to 4 March 2016 was representative of all the Districts. The Purpose of this Conversation was, inter alia, to allow those appointed to champion the MCSA’s justice and service mandate; to critically discern God’s wisdom and guidance in addressing justice and service challenges, programmes and opportunities; to develop a Connexional understanding
of the overall mandate of the MCSA’s mission directive regarding Justice & Service; to critically reflect on matters relating to justice and service in church and society, throughout our Connexion; and to discern the essential/critical mission priorities and programmes for the MCSA over the period 2016 to 2019.

The Conversation drafted a map of internal and external challenges within the Southern African context as well as the MCSA. An action plan is being developed to address these challenges during the ensuing three year period. The report has been circulated to all bishops and District coordinators and copies are available from the Mission Unit office.

**Gender Justice and MCSA responses:** To strengthen our initiatives against sexual and gender based violence, we partner with other organisations, among them Sonke Gender Justice, We Will Speak Out South Africa, Tear Fund/Zoe Life, as well as Side by Side. We will continue to update Conference on collaborative initiatives on the ground with some of these organisations.

We are inspired by Methodists who make time at Conventions, Synods and Conferences to give expression to issues of gender justice. While these are important, Districts and Circuits need to play an active role in advocacy, educating, lobbying and networking with organs of society to ensure that sexual and gender based violence is eradicated. Reports and research indicate increased levels of such incidents in all countries of the Connexion. The challenge for local churches is to create healing spaces for victims.

A partnership with Tear Fund & Zoe Life called The Amplify Change project has been initiated. The aims of the intervention are to:

- Build a Sexual and Gender Based Violence Survivor Movement in Southern Africa;
- Support the development of WWSOSA coalition in its vision of ending SGBV;
- Work with faith communities to create safe spaces for SGBV survivors;
- Activate men and boys to spearhead the ending of SGBV.

Four projects in the Gauteng Province have been identified to begin the initial phase.

The MCSA wishes to express its gratitude to all NGO/NPO and ecumenical partners for working together with us for the sake of those who suffer injustice, especially sexual and gender based violence.

**Human Trafficking** is a modern day form of slavery affecting all countries and is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights. Every year thousands of people fall into the hands of traffickers in their own country and abroad. This injustice is a lucrative and highly organised business generating billions of US dollars each year. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, human trafficking is the fastest means
by which people are enslaved, the fastest growing international crime and one of the largest sources of income for organised crime. It is a growing global crisis.

In seeking to address this, a Southern African Regional Wesleyan/Methodist Church Leaders Collaborative Initiative to Combat Human Trafficking has been initiated. The MCSA played a key role in planning and facilitating a meeting between representatives of the United Methodist Church, the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, the Salvation Army, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries and the MCSA. This gathering became responsible for the drafting of a regional strategy and implementation plan to be presented to heads of churches in the region later this year.

In August 2015 the Magnify programme was launched under the leadership of Rev Jane Day. This is a new initiative within the Methodist Church of Southern Africa that seeks to:

“create space to equip, encourage and empower women to serve God wherever they are in God’s mission.”

The launch took place at the Northfield Methodist Church in the Highveld & Swaziland District where women from five denominations participated. One of the strengths of Magnify is the rich diversity and mix of generations, culture, denomination, theology and ethnicity. A second phase was launched in July 2016 at Noordheuwel Methodist Church in the Central District and will be followed by the launch in the Limpopo District in January 2017. It is envisaged that by 2020 the programme will have been launched in all Districts.

**Response to 2015 conference resolutions:**

**40 Years of Women in Ministry:** Conference 2015 undertook to celebrate 40 years of ordaining women and requested Districts to give meaningful expression to mark this event. We applaud Districts that set aside time to celebrate the 40 years of Women in Ministry. Having read some of the experiences of women in ministry on social media and participated in some of the events to mark the 40 years of Women in Ministry, it has been evident that there needs to be an intentional and continuous willingness by the whole church to listen to the stories and cries of women in the ministry and to be intentional about breaking and transforming attitudes, structures and policies that are discriminatory, exclusive and patriarchal. The witness of the church is stronger and credible where justice is sought for all, but remains impoverished and dishonest where injustices become the norm.

**Combating Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance:**

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development has spearheaded the development of a draft National Action Plan to combat racism, racial discrimination,
xenophobia and related intolerance. The J & S Desk has circulated the draft Plan to bishops and District Coordinators for discussion and comment.

**Labour and the Mining Sector Conflict:** The MCSA notes with grave concern the recent murders of mine workers at Northam Platinum (Limpopo District). A meeting was held with the members of the MCSA at this mine in which a number of concerns were raised regarding the unfolding events. A number of reported cases not being investigated by the SAPS have been brought to the attention of IPID and the Ministers of Safety and Security. The role and assistance provided by the local ministers in this circuit is applauded.

**Courageous Conversations:** This is an interfaith engagement on the future of the mining sector hosted by the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town. Representatives of the South African Mining sector, civil society and faith communities met at the invitation of Archbishop Thabo Makgoba on 9th October 2015 to discuss the future of the mining industry in South Africa.

**The South Africa We Pray For:** This is an initiative of the South African Council of Churches to pray for reconciliation. The prayer booklet was circulated to all bishops and J&S District coordinators and Methodists were encouraged to participate in this initiative. The forty days of prayer concluded with a national day of prayer at Orlando Stadium on 11th June 2016.

The socio-political and military situation in Mozambique is deteriorating. However, talks have been resumed after the previous series of dialogues between the Government (FRELIMO) and RENAMO failed because of a lack of trust. As a way of moving forward, church leaders have started a journey of working towards building trust. A new “Talks Committee” has been formed to work on preparations for a “High Level” meeting between the President of the Republic and the RENAMO leader. The role of the MCSA through the leadership and ecumenical participation of Bishop Dinis Matsolo is commendable.

With regards to Lesotho, we remain hopeful that SADC will help find a lasting resolution to the unhealthy political differences in Lesotho. We remind all Methodist people to keep praying for peace and stability in Africa and around the world.

**Fracking and Uranium Mining:** The threat of fracking seems to have receded in the Karoo and the danger of uranium mining has arisen - it is more frightening and dangerous than shale gas extraction. Noting the long term effects of such practices and the lack of consultation and education of the affected communities, J&S is seeking to partner with Benchmarks and several NGOs to lobby against the implementation of such mining.

**Presiding Bishop Office visits to countries of the Connexion:** In March the Presiding Bishop, together with the General Secretary of the MCSA, Mission and Communication Unit Directors, conducted a mission week in Mozambique. Many
stories of the growth of the church and visible evidence of aspects of this growth were evident. The Presiding Bishop dedicated three church buildings to the service of God. The Connexional team listened to the efforts as well as the challenges faced in the areas of economic empowerment, and health - especially affecting children, youth and the elderly. They met with church leaders of the Free Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church which led to the need for a Southern African Wesleyan Church leaders Consultation on human trafficking referred to above.

Local Government Elections in South Africa: We commend the South African people for the peaceful manner in which the elections were carried out. The work of the IEC in ensuring a successful and free and fair election is applauded.

Engaging communities for change: Qwa Qwa: SAHRC and MCSA continue to work together in addressing and supporting the Bakamusso Community in their quest for justice. The Municipality failed to implement the interventions recommended by SAHRC resulting in the case being referred to the High Court.

CHILDCARE DESK
The rationale of the existence of the Childcare Desk is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ for healing and transformation for a “Christ Healed Africa for the Healing of Nations” by becoming a child and youth friendly church. In 2004 the Connexion Youth Council Representatives at the Umtata Mission Congress made a significant contribution. They stated areas of concern and need that required to be fulfilled by the childcare desk in order to strengthen the vision of moving children from the periphery to the centre of the Church.

Why children: Many children face multiple challenges which make them vulnerable and at risk. They are trafficked, displaced, victims of war, deprived, have no access to food, clean water, sanitation, are affected by poverty and unemployment and many other forms of abuse and injustice. Secondly, as a church, we have to comply with the legal requirements of the countries of the Connexion and world instruments such as the Constitution, Children’s Act, Sexual Offences Act, Children’s Rights Charter and the African Charter on the Rights of Children. There is no way we can get away with doing what is not right.

Our Mission Pillars
With regards to the mission pillars, as shown below, they are in line with the convention of the rights of children.

Spirituality - Care and Support - Survival
Evangelism and Church Growth - Participation
Justice and Service - Protection
Education and Christian Transformation - Educate
Human and Economic Development and Empowerment - Development

Implementing these strands will ensure that every child can access their human rights
and dignity as mandated by Jesus Christ when he demands that we ensure children are centred in all our ministries of sacrament, word and service.

The Connexional Childcare Desk is also guided by the Mission Unit expectation of childcare work and services throughout the Connexion.

• Training and empowerment;
• Vision and lead operations;
• Direct the implementation of Conference resolutions;
• Support the Districts whilst creating Connexionality;
• Guide structures to develop strategies of response on identified focus areas.

Presentations conscientise and raise awareness and expose Methodist members to mission of ministry performed by members and organisations who attend Conferences, conventions or at local circuit levels. Since Conference 2015, platforms of engagement and communication of God’s work in action has included programmes in places such as:

• East London Guild region: The participants wanted to learn more about childcare issues and to understand the synergy between Sunday School Practitioners and other practitioners offering childcare in the church space. They also wanted to learn how they can make adults sensitive to children’s needs, rights and to child participation.

• Central District: The Women’s Manyano President invited the Childcare Desk to partner with them as they wished to extend their reach to children at risk. The Global Fund ATM programme availed this opportunity and together we journeyed to assist the OVC programme in Potchefstroom and Carletonville, in particular Rysmierbult. Progress on the Joint OVC Program at Rysmierbult has been remarkable. The CCD secretary was key to identifying this programme and to date seven caregivers have been trained. The Central District Women’s Manyano were made aware of the challenges in sustaining programmes such as these.

• Limpopo District: As a result of sharing with the District Women’s Manyano President, the District has decided to implement an Early Childhood Development project which will attend to the children’s holistic needs. The 2016 presentation was to share ECD governance guidelines, norms and standards and policy issues to enable the District women’s project committee to plan for an ECD project of excellence from its inception.

• Highveld and Swaziland: Over a five year period the Highveld and Swaziland District has focused on becoming a child friendly and sensitive District through the enabling work done through the Women’s Manyano. The District has distributed equipment, school shoes, painted classrooms, adopted children, impacted on children deprived and displaced and donated property for the care of orphaned boys and girls. This District has also been one of the recipients of the Global Fund HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria programme, enjoying benefits in more projects than the other five inland Districts. In addition, both Child and Youth
Care Centres in Kempton Park and Germiston are constantly on the radar of the Mission Unit when there are challenges. Through presentations the Connexion is made aware of the extent and depth of mission ministry driven by the Methodist people. Whilst there are challenges for capacity building, there are CYC caregivers in Swaziland as well as the programmes.

- Northern Free State and Lesotho: The General Connexion of the Women’s Manyano heard about the milestones realised in partnership for creating a sure future for children. A selection of replicable models was shared to excite women about the ministry of mission especially among women of the Connexion. The message was also meant to awaken women to the need to be vigilant and zealous in the care and nurturing of children. This affirms that the foundation of change rests on the ability of how each woman raises, cares for and nurtures children as prescribed in the notion of “Ubuntu”: “It takes the village to raise a child, because my child is your child”. It also became clear that Connexionally we are all at different levels at understanding and implementing child protection and safe-guarding policies. It is what we do for and with our children today that will inform the state of their freedom for generations to come.

The Connexional Childcare Desk and the Youth Unit continue to work towards advancing the Mission Congress objective of becoming a child and youth friendly church. Annually the Youth Unit hosts a children’s indaba. In 2016 the Connexional Children’s indaba was held in the Highveld and Swaziland District. The Sunday School teachers and superintendents needed clarity about the Childcare Desk and also needed answers about screening and background checks of people working with children at District and circuit levels. Clarity was also given on the Childcare Desk and other Mission Unit desks and their functions. During the presentation at the Ebeneza Youth Centre, 33 youth leaders and ministers were screened.

The Childcare Desk Coordinator further encouraged members to be alert around young people as they model behaviour and attitude. It was encouraging to note that some of the superintendents also served as District Childcare Desk co-ordinators and demonstrated the understanding of the enormous challenge of changing our youth’s mind-sets with regards to nurturing children biblically and spiritually, and ensuring that what we do today informs the child’s character in future. All heard of how we as a church must be deliberate in imparting information and exposing children to attitudes, values and skills that will influence and change the children’s moral outlook. We raise children in an upside world to become people who are “right side up.” Therefore, whatever we do, teach and model onto the lives of our children will be magnified.

Training and Capacity building: Critical to the continued awareness raising on child protection, safeguarding, care and support is consistent training and capacity building at all levels of leadership and implementation of the church. The church needs to adopt the art of scaffolding knowledge and skills. Learning and a yearning
to know and be exposed should be a key ingredient of our mission of ministering good news. Childcare training and Child and Youth Care skills are required to ensure quality care and support. In addition, we require redress in terms of what is the norm and what is abnormal. In the context of the history of our country, there are those who require information gaps to be filled with regards to compassion for each other as people and human beings with dignity. In most spaces this principle still needs to be taught from the oldest to the youngest. Let us all teach each other, and be willing to learn and relearn all over again from each other. Training for the Childcare workers in the Children’s Homes is still outstanding. A budget of R40 000 per District will be required in order to meet the training requirement of the Children’s Homes under the MCSA by the year 2017.

Screening: From training to practice. Do you work with our children? Get screened! Get your clearance certificate now! “Be safe for all our Children”. Child Protection is our Business. A Safety and Security checklist “pamphlet” is to be drawn up and circulated to all Organisations, District superintendents and children’s ministry practitioners as well as the Trust Property Secretaries by 2017. Please ensure that all churches have toilets that are safe for children and user friendly for the elderly.

Advocacy church calendar - towards child friendly churches: Dates for church events and advocacy were established throughout the year to be celebrated. These dates were adopted by the team of passionate District Childcare Coordinators who have accepted their calling to heal and transform children for a better future. I am so proud to work with such passionate people from the Connexion. The dates will clarify where God’s Faith is emphasised and our calling to our civil duties. I encourage all countries of the Connexion to share their dates with the Connexional office and anticipate that all Districts will share the highlights and stories of events held on these dates.

Sustainability: The childcare Desk continues to draft proposals for advancing childcare work. We seek to work in collaboration with Districts to guarantee future sustainability of children’s ministry at all levels of community needs, e.g. institutional, home based, church based and family based. Some of the programmes require imparting of knowledge and information through seminars and workshops as a strategy of ensuring children’s wellbeing. This will include standard tools already developed to inform and grow parents, lay leaders and childcare practitioners on parenting skills, discipline, child protection and policy matters.

Partnerships: The German partnership is still strong. The Thembalihle shelter at Kilbarchen, a shelter for 40 boys in Newcastle, is currently hosting a young volunteer from Germany. Through the German Government Weltwerts programme, which sends volunteers to learn and experience cross cultural exposure, two volunteers have now been approved to assist at Epworth for the 2016/2017 period. The Methodist Church in Britain Seed Corn Fund, continues to support the Kavango ministry of mission for the pre-schools in Namibia. The Youth Unit and Childcare Desk will
have a joint training for Sunday School teachers and pre-school practitioners in Namibia in August/September 2016.

EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION DESK
The Education of our children is one of the most important liberating experiences which we seek to guard and cherish as part of the development agenda for the six countries of the Connexion. To that effect the prophetic witness of the MCSA has been sounded loud and clear through the leadership of the Presiding Bishop and through sterling education initiatives and the work of the Districts led by the Bishops. The untiring efforts of the Superintendents and the support provided by the Ministers in Circuits and Societies underpinned by the District Education Desk Coordinators continue to show commitment to the education of our children. Further, we commend government Departments of Education that allocate sizable budgets from the fiscus towards Education.

The Presiding Bishop has called upon every Methodist Church to be an After School Care Centre and we thank the Districts where such already exist and encourage others to work towards this goal, bearing in mind that many of our children still stand “last” in the queue for quality education. There is a need for Methodists to heed the desire of these children for the best education and to give support and encouragement to committed teachers and principals.

Reports given at the Mini Mission Congress in Swaziland on work in Methodist schools in this region are commendable. However, these schools need continued support in many areas of their work in order to impact local communities and sustain their academic excellence, something the communities of Swaziland are yearning for. We are also encouraged by the work of our schools in Lesotho despite all the challenges they face. We acknowledge with gratitude the selection of a student from the Methodist High School in Maseru to be among the ten students to receive the Prime Minister’s double sponsorship for educational purposes. Mozambique District has appointed a District Education Coordinator and we ask for your support as they chart the way forward and seek to support the efforts of government to bring education to every child of the country. There are a number of Methodist churches from South Africa that continue to give assistance towards education work in Mozambique. Their partnership with the District is valued. Botswana has several excellent models of education initiatives which we hope can be shared with the people called Methodists across the Connexion. The Desk will work closely with the Limpopo District Coordinator to facilitate that process.

The Northern Free State & Lesotho District’s initiative to expand pre-school programmes is underway. This is a commendable initiative and a platform which has the potential to reinforce the education needs of the child. We appreciate all the support provided thus far by stakeholders in the District towards achieving the goals of the initiative. The Cape of Good Hope District has several wonderful education
initiatives. Among these initiatives is pursuing the restructuring of the old Wesley Methodist College and converting it into an Early Childhood Development Centre.

In South Africa, there have been several burning issues related to schools. In particular, the burning of about twenty-two school in Vuwani, Limpopo Province, has been a very sad occurrence which already has impacted negatively on the education of children and the lives of their communities. We continue to pray for calmness and sanity and for the Bishop of that District, the Education Desk Coordinator and all those involved in seeking a lasting solution to the impasse.

We have been working closely with MethSoc structures and we salute the endeavours of our Young Methodists and ask that the MCSA at large support their initiatives.

A new development in the Structure of the Education and Spiritual Formation Desk is that we have under the leadership of the Presiding Bishop separated the Education Portfolio into a High level Strategic Policy Advisory Committee and the Education Operational Desk will continue to function like all other Mission Unit Desks.

We thank God always for the opportunity to serve Him through the MCSA Education Portfolio. We trust that the work of this Desk, under the leadership of the Presiding Bishop, and working together with the Bishops, Circuit Superintendents and Ministers as well as the Methodist Leadership among the laity, we will continue to make the education of the child a top priority. We express a word of thank you to all who continue to drive education initiatives in the Districts and circuits.

PARTNERS IN MISSION

Were it not for the continued accompaniment that the MCSA receives from our Partners, it would be difficult and even impossible to have achieved some of the mission activities and support programmes mentioned in this and in previous reports. We are sincerely grateful for financial support from the Methodist Church in Britain, the Evangelical Methodist Church in Germany, the General Board of the Global Board of Ministries of the UMC, the Church of the Resurrection and Motsepe Foundation.

The relationship with our Partners in Mission goes beyond financial support and the MCSA continues to play its part by providing opportunities for learning, exposure and engagement for global Christian cross-cultural experiences. In that regard, the MCSA continues to avail placement opportunities for Christians from other Methodist families from other parts of the world, and to pursue pastoral exchanges of ministers - to mention a few. Our partners continue to receive the required feedback and information sharing on the work that we do together with them.

Our local and regional partners also play a critical part in enabling our mission engagements. Many NGOs and government agencies across the Connexion have made it possible for the church to achieve some of our mission objectives across the spectrum of our existence. Some of our partners challenge us to continue on the
journey of experiencing and reflecting on the mission challenges and opportunities present in our immediate and broader context. We thank them all!

**APPRECIATION:**
The Advisory Board of the Mission Unit and the Staff wish to express a word of thank you to the leadership of the MCSA, from the Presiding Bishop, to a committed leader at local society level, and to all Methodist people for the prayers and support in a variety of ways which enable mission to happen.

**The Mission Unit Advisory Board** for 2017 is to consist of:
Bishop Themba Mntambo (Chairman), Bishop Mike Vorster, Deacon Dr Vernon van Wyk, Rev. Faith Whitby, Ms Yolisa Tashe, Mr. Mbongeni Magagula, Mr. John Schorn, Rev Musi Losaba (Director - Ecumenical Affairs), Rev. Dr Kenaleone Ketshabile.

Shalom.
## Appendix 1

### MISSION AND EXTENSION FUND

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Appendix 2

PULA FUND

Income: 1 206 284

Grants Paid: 1 195 100

Grants to Units: Mission Unit: 150 000
Communication Unit 50 000
Christian Education Unit 30 000
Ecumenical Affairs 15 000
Youth Unit 15 000
Order of Evangelists 50 000

Presiding Bishop’s Contingency Fund 81 000

Mission Area Grants: Lesotho 93 600
Mozambique 100 000
Angola & Malawi 40 000
Namibia 76 000

Projects: Mohau Children’s Centre 40 000
Feed-A Friend 26 500
Big Hearts Children Outreach 28 000
Siyanakakela Workshop 40 000
Siyakhula Sonke Trust 40 000
St Paul’s Methodist - Manzini 40 000
Lutsandvo Lwa Krestu 40 000
Indawo Yosizo 40 000
Moshupa Boy’s Prison Project 40 000
Bana ba Hlokang 40 000
Namaqualand Circuit 40 000
Siyakhula Projects 40 000
Greenfields Retirement centre 40 000

Surplus: 11 584

1 South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG), Hexorstudy 2015.
2 UCT 2012
CHAPTER 10

HUMAN RESOURCE UNIT 2016 CONFERENCE REPORT

Rev Dr Vukile Mehana

1. INTRODUCTION
The Human Resources Unit continues to administer and implement all Human Resources interventions in the Connexion as mandated, and participates fully in the broader mission of the Church and extension of God’s Kingdom. The Unit also plays an essential role in the formulation and administration of Church policies, also ensuring that the Methodist ethos is adhered to.

This report therefore gives an overview of the work of the Unit, also taking into consideration the following strategic focus areas, including the following:

• Selection and Discernment
• Alignment
• Retention

2. SELECTION AND DISCERNMENT
With the implementation of the new stationing of Ministers process as adopted by Conference 2015 and as stated in 7.15 of the Methodist Book of Order, the Unit has a mandate to regularly prepare and maintain profiles of all Ministers which shall be retained by the Unit. To this end, a proposed draft template for the profiles of Ministers and that of Circuits and or Societies was developed and sent to all Bishops for comment, and the responses were quite positive. The Unit will therefore send the profiles template to all Ministers and Circuits for comments, to be returned before the end of December 2016.

3. ALIGNMENT
The Methodist Church is enriched with talented Members who serve in the various Church structures on a voluntary basis. The Unit is therefore working closely with EMMU in emphasising that these Methodists should be properly aligned to the ethos, theology, doctrines and strategic direction of the church and its mission. To this end, the Unit is working on guidelines for the appointment of Lay Leaders in the different structures of the Church to ensure alignment of these Leaders to Methodist ethos and as such will assist in ensuring readiness in taking up leadership positions within the Church.

4. RETENTION
The Unit strongly holds the view that talent management is a strategic initiative aimed at ensuring that talent within the Church is properly managed. To this
end, with the help of HR Committee Members, the Unit is working on a talent management framework that will also look at succession planning for future leadership within the Church.

It is worth noting that the EMMU has done a lot of work with regards to selection and discernment processes, specifically with regards to candidature. With all the tremendous work being done it is imperative that the Church manages such talent and also puts in place retention strategies.

The wellness of Ministers within MCSA has been of great concern to the Unit and the MCSA at large. The Unit has therefore prepared a concept paper on the wellness of Ministers. The main purpose of the said concept paper is to ensure that the Church cares for all the people who work in the delivery of its mission and ensuring that the Church cares for its Ministers for the work they do. The Paper also seeks to establish a Wellness programme that will assist with work-life balance and addressing some of the challenges that are faced by the Ministers. In developing the programme the HR Unit has involved Members of Church who are specialists in the subject of wellness, including a medical doctor, psychologist and other Members of the committee with vast experience of wellness programmes.

The Wellness programme will also assist in addressing the root causes and provide coping tools for our Ministers. This programme will deal with the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing and will be achieved through a wellness campaign for the entire Connexion. The wellness programme is directly a responsive action to be taken by the caring and healing Church.

The concept paper to be presented fully at Conference.

5. CONFERENCE 2015 RESOLUTIONS:
Training for Alignment on Polity and Discipline matters: Conference 2015 resolution 2.1 states:
“Conference notes the growing anxiety in the understanding and application of our polity as it relates to discipline, arbitration, mediation and the nature of pastoral commissions .... Conference directs the HR Unit to set up Connexional training for Members of the Connexional Discipline Committee, District Discipline Committee, Arbitration panel and Mediation panel”.

In response to the resolution a meeting has been organised with all the said Conveners of the panels and the main purpose of the meeting is to look into the discipline, arbitration and mediation processes of the Church and also look at possible changes to these processes. Training of the Committees will therefore precede these deliberations.

Addressing inequalities between the Orders of Deacons and Evangelists: Conference resolution 2.41 states
“Conference notes the imbalances and the need for training on the differences between Diaconate and the Order of Evangelism and directs the HR Unit and the Orders to investigate all issues including relationships and imbalances...”

This is a work in progress and discussions are ongoing between the Orders.

**Age of Candidature and Retirement:** 2015 Conference resolution 2.46 states: “Conference refers the issues of Candidature age and retirement age of Deacons alongside of those of Ministers to the Human Resources Unit and General Secretary, with the help of EMMU, Lay General Treasurer and Mission Unit, together with conversations with the Orders”.

To this end, in response to the Conference resolution regarding age of candidature and retirement of the Order of Deacons (Yearbook 2016; 2.46, p.105-106) the Convocation of the Order made proposals to the Revisions Committee for amendment of Clause 13.10 of the Methodist Book of Order. Such proposals to be deliberated upon at Conference 2016.

**6. OTHER ACTIVITIES**

During the period under review, the HR Unit has been intensely involved in consultations with the Leadership of all Connexional Organisations assisting them with the process of reviewing and or amending their constitutions. These consultations are still ongoing and all this work will be completed in 2017.

Through its involvement in the Revision Committee, the Unit has been involved with the Methodist Youth Unit with regards to governance issues. To this end, a proposed governance structure has been formulated and is still being discussed.

The Unit continues to assist in quite a number of legal matters, dispute resolution activities and governance related matters. The Unit also services all the Units at the MCO on operational Human Resources matters including representing the church in arbitrations and CCMA matters.

**7. CONCLUSION**

We thank God for all the work done as a Unit and we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Presiding Bishop, General Secretary, Bishops and all colleagues at MCO and the Church in general for your prayerful support as we discharge the responsibilities given to us by the Methodist people.

To God be the Glory.
CONCEPT DOCUMENT: WORKLIFE BALANCE IN THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
“A Church is only as healthy as its congregation and its employees”

Executive Summary
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa currently has over 700 Covenantal Staff across the Connexion. The rate at which psychosocial illness and challenges present themselves within the Church has increased at an alarming rate over the past few years. These are also reflected in Medical Aid Reports (TopMed, 30 April Review), which shows an increase in the number of admissions. Topmed has 1047 active Members with an average of 171 to 176 overall admissions on a monthly basis (January to April 2016). The review also shows a high number of both Members and Dependents on Mental Wellness Care programme, with a high number of beneficiaries suffering from depression.

Furthermore, the HR unit has seen an increase in the Church’s exposure to legal matters, in particular labour related matters.

As a Church, this is worrisome and a call to action is needed to address the root causes as well as provide coping tools to our members in the form of an end-to-end Wellness Programme. To this end, the HR Director Reverend Dr. Vukile Mehana and his subcommittee on Wellness developed a six (6)-phase programme to address the challenge faced by the MCSA. Figure 1 below provides the 4pillars that the programme is built upon:
It should be noted that the Wellness programme will fit within the 4 pillars of the HR strategy namely: Procurement, Alignment, Development and Retention. In the main, the Wellness programme is located within the Development pillar and as a direct outcome will strengthen the “Retention” pillar. What follows is a concept paper that we wish to present to Conference 2016 for its consideration.

**Programme Rationale**

Psychosocial illness, as an example, was the most commonly cited reason for unplanned absences from the workplace and “*presenteeism*” (which occurs when people report for work ill or with diminished capacity to perform on the job) diminishes worker productivity by about 2.5 billion days each year, according to one estimate.

The causes of health problems vary widely, from occupational hazards to disease to lifestyle-based concerns. Especially costly, and traditionally beyond the control of employers, are health issues such as obesity, heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, HIV/Aids and related opportunistic diseases, chronic pain and depression.

In recent years, employers have become both more aware of the costs of health problems and more proactive in trying to reduce them. A growing percentage of businesses have invested in some type of employee health, fitness, wellness and/or disease management programme, from smoking cessation to simple walking programmes. The goals of such programmes are not only to lower healthcare costs but to boost workplace morale, performance and attendance.

The alarming health statistics in South Africa at present give rise to a unique medical management challenge.

- South Africa is no 2 out of 74 most stressed country in the world.
- 1 in 6 South Africans suffer from anxiety, depression, and substance abuse problems.
- 1 in 4 South Africans are diagnosed with depression yet 80% go to work each day.
- Over 40% of people living with HIV have a diagnosable mental disorder.
- R30 billion annual cost in lost earnings for mental disorders.

If Wellbeing can be managed properly, significant savings may be achieved for the Church, employers, medical schemes and individuals by, among other things, delaying the onset of expensive treatments. Conversely, if not managed properly, individuals become vulnerable which has a negative impact on the Church, our ability to grow, the labour market and the ability for the Church to deliver a healing service.

One of the crucial components of a well-designed Wellbeing programme is a widely supported Wellness campaign. A Wellness Campaign is the major goal of any Wellbeing programme and all future intervention depends on its successful
execution. The benefit of a Wellness campaign is heightened awareness and the probable prevention of new or sustained psychosocial stressors.

**Key Challenges facing the Church:**

**Burnout**
- Testing the Calling…
- Relationship issues: Balance between work and home life
- Addiction
- Familial issues
- Divorce
- Health matters: e.g. diet, glucose, cholesterol etc…
- Vocational schools – to screen “the calling”….  
- Stress management
- Migration – stationing of Ministers and the “wife is left behind”…
- Mental health
- Men’s Health
- Women’s Health

**What is Work-life Balance?**

The work-leisure dichotomy was invented in the mid-1800s. Paul Krassner remarked that anthropologists, use a definition of **happiness** that is to have as little separation as possible “between your work and your play”.

The expression “work–life balance” was first used in the United Kingdom n the late 1970s to describe the balance between an individual’s work and personal life. In the United States, this phrase was first used in 1986. Most recently, there has been a shift in the workplace as a result of advances in technology. As Bowswell and Olson-Buchanan stated, “increasingly sophisticated and affordable technologies have made it more feasible for employees to keep contact with work”.

Employees have many methods, such as emails, computers, and cell phones, which enable them to accomplish their work beyond the physical boundaries of their office. Employees may respond to an email or a voice mail after-hours or during the weekend, typically while not officially “on the job”. Researchers have found that employees who consider their work roles to be an important component of their identities will be more likely to apply these communication technologies to work while in their non-work domain. This blurred boundary of work and life is a result of technological control. **Technological control** “emerges from the physical technology of an organization”. E.g: companies use email and distribute smartphones to enable and encourage their employees to stay connected to the business even when they are not in the office. We often refer to this as the **“always on”** generation. This type of control, replaces the more direct, authoritarian control, or simple control, such as managers and bosses. As a result, communication technologies in the temporal
and structural aspects of work have changed, defining a “new workplace” in which employees are more connected to the jobs beyond the boundaries of the traditional workday and workplace. The more this boundary is blurred, the higher work-to-life conflict is self-reported by employees.

Many authors believe that parents being affected by work-life conflict will either reduce the number of hour’s one works where other authors suggest that a parent may run away from family life or work more hours at a workplace. This implies that each individual views work-life conflict differently.

Employee assistance professionals say there are many causes for this situation ranging from personal ambition and the pressure of family obligations to the accelerating pace of technology. According to a recent study for the Center for Work-Life Policy, 1.7 million people consider their jobs and their work hours excessive because of globalization.

**Overarching Objective**
The objective to be achieved through implementing a Wellness Programme is to achieve the following:

- Behaviour Change,
- Reduce psychosocial incidences;
- Ensure high voluntary participation and
- Happy and satisfied identified members of the Church: Covenantal; employees and volunteers.

High participation is achieved if:

- Members perceive value in knowing their Wellbeing status (thus communication is important);
- Reward wellness achievements (e.g. Swedish organisations reward staff by cashing out a percentage of their unused sick leave if untaken);
- Assured Confidentiality (thus choosing a service provider with a good reputation as well as having a qualified specialist employed to manage the programme in-house - is important); and
- The Wellness Programme is easily accessible to employees and offered on a sustained basis (therefore arrangements for on-going access to Wellness should be made).

**Scope Objectives**
Although the capabilities of an in-house Methodist Wellness Programme must be broad and all encompassing, this concept paper focuses on:

> “The provision of a holistic Wellbeing and or Worklife balance Programme to improve overall health, change behaviour, reduce costs of absenteeism, and to add positive value to the Church in reduced health costs and savings”.
This concept paper takes into account the diverse geographical spread of Methodist Covenental, Church membership and its employees. The solution proposed to Conference 2016 is a combination of an In-house professional service (deployed via training all the volunteers); telephonic, on-site and off-site Employee Wellbeing Services using a team of skilled Registered Practitioners in each province and or State.

The in-house Human Capital Wellness team will be led by a qualified wellness specialist employed by the Church. He/she will ensure that a training programme is rolled out for all volunteers, lay preachers, bible women and other identified groups via the EMMU unit and will ensure that a “fit for purpose” (well-designed) Wellbeing programme is adhered to.

This programme once approved and adopted at Conference 2016 will be for all MCSA Covenental, Church members and the MCSA employees.

**Specific Objectives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
<th>RESULTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Health Outcomes</td>
<td>• Adherence to recommended medical screenings and treatments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Behaviour change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Risk reduction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Improved Health</td>
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<td>2 Humanistic and Productivity Outcomes</td>
<td>• Improvement in quality of life and relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Healthy lifestyle behaviours at home and at work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Improved functioning and productivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Financial Outcomes</td>
<td>• Cost savings in terms of medical costs, absenteeism (sick leave rates), short-term disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Return on Investment (ROI)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Reduced “presenteeism”</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Benefits of the Wellness Programme to the MCSA
There are significant advantages in attempting to custom design a solution that works for the MCSA. Based on this, we propose the following benefits:

- MCSA’s existing infrastructure ensures that regardless of where the Wellness campaign is performed, the quality and service standards remain the same.
- The MCSA will have to employ professional resources such as an occupational health therapist, psychologist and psychometrist.
- The programme should be flexible to accommodate MCSA’s diverse needs. MCSA will be able to manage a confidential in-house Wellness data collection and management process capability to ensure that annually a detailed and accurate statistical Wellness report is submitted to Conference.
- Clinical quality is assured and will be measured as well as member satisfaction.
- Reflect MCSA’s caring and committed attitude to its members.
- Facilitate early intervention and help address the psychosocial stresses that confront MCSA’s members.
- Decrease the unwanted impact of psychosocial illnesses on productivity, absenteeism and turnover.
- Encourage loyalty and improve communications between MCSA’s Covenental, employees and volunteers.

Phased in Implementation Plan
The Wellness programme will comprise 6 steps across the three sectors as outlined below:

Methodology
The methodology adopted in the Wellness programme design is based upon a robust results-based design which is responsive as well as preventative as outlined below:

1. Situational Analysis:
   a. Conducted through surveys and data collection, the HR team will analyse both macro and micro issues.
   b. Assess feasibility to implement the Wellness Programme
   c. Identify all psychosocial risks.

2. Design an end-to end toolkit.
   a. Design programme that is tailor made for the MCSA
   b. Develop a Wellness policy to be adopted by Conference
   c. Design an MCSA Wellness app to be deployed and used to measure a range of key indicators
   d. Design a training course delivered to all volunteers through the EMMU
   e. Institutionalise Wellness in the Ministers Retreat as well as through wellness healing Ministries.
   f. Toolkit will comprise templates e.g. for referral etc.
3. **Monitor and Evaluation: Process, Impact and Outcome**
   a. Design and put in place tracking mechanisms – to track **Participation, Awareness, Satisfaction and Behaviour change**.
   b. Develop measurement metrics
   c. Assess the MCSA’s ROI and how well it is working.

4. **Reporting:**
   a. Report on data outcomes on a quarterly basis, as well as
   b. An overarching annual report to be prepared for Conference.
   c. Report on results to create a feedback loop into programme modification.

**Programme Management**
The overall Programme management will be vested in a team leader, preferably a Wellness specialist with the appropriate competencies.

**Institutional Arrangements**
It is strongly recommended that the MCSA employs a permanent qualified Wellness Programme Manager. He/she shall report to the HR Director. That a Wellness sub-committee of REMCO be established comprising:

- Reverend Dr Vukile Mehana
- Dr Zolela Ngewabe – Highveld Circuit Steward
- Ms Thobile Dlamini – Swaziland Circuit Steward
- Ms Less – REMCO member
- Mr Anele Siswane – registered clinical psychologist
- Ms LWethu Madi – HR Administrator MCO
- Ms Lumka Funani – REMCO member

**Resource Requirements**
Implementing this programme will come at a cost to the Church: the cost to employ a Wellness specialist and an administrator for support. The cost to train and deploy the programme throughout the Church and to mainstream “Healing” through all our ministries. The cost to procure the services of an external professional EAP programme/referral system which is approximately R39.00 per employee per month.
Conclusion
In conclusion, the development of a Wellness programme is directly a responsiveness action taken by a caring and “healing” Church. The Church recognises that although it is underpinned by the strong religious and philosophical foundation of Methodism it is a microcosm of what happens in the material world. The problems and challenges faced by its members find themselves resonating within the Church and playing themselves out in various psychosocial ways.

During a 2012 Conference, a key message to all Methodist people clearly contextualized the crisis and period of “great pain” within which the Southern African region was operating …. ranging from the Marikana strikes, the educational crisis, world natural disasters etc….

What is significant is echoed in the words of the speaker, “…Our prayer is that the Church may once again mesmerize the world, drawing darkness to the light of Christ, offering the balm of Gilead to a world crying out for healing, harmony and wholeness. As we hear the cry, “is there no physician there?” We respond as the Methodist Church of Southern Africa: “Here we are. Send us!”

In closing, we ask 4 years later that Conference may “SEND US”…
CHAPTER 11

METHODIST ORDER OF DEACONS

Deacon Dr Vernon Van Wyk (Warden)

“I am in the midst of you as one who serves.” (Luke 22:27 GNB)
“That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not to be served ....”
(Mark 10:45 MSG)

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

In the Year 2016 the Methodist Church of Southern Africa celebrates 40 years since the ordination of the first woman as a presbyter in 1976. The Methodist Order of Deacons played a significant role in this regard. It was a member of the Methodist Order of Deacons who pioneered this transformation in the Church. Deacon Constance Oosthuizen, Ordained as a Deacon in 1957, became the first woman to be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the MCSA in 1976. (She was Warden of the Order of Deacons 1977-2003.) It is her ordination we are celebrating this year.

We however also humbly remember the Rev Dr Unez Smuts, who became a member of the Methodist Order of Deacons and was ordained in the Ministry of Word and Service in Great Britain in 1949. In 1959 she however resigned and joined the Congregational Church where she pursued her calling and became the first woman ever to be ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in South Africa!

The Order of Deacons also contributed to the first Black South African woman to be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Rev Mavis Mbilini was Ordained as a Deacon in 1980, whereafter she was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the MCSA in 1985.

Other Deacons who were later ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament were Rev Dorothy Spink, Rev Cathy de Boer, Rev Marjory Denner, Rev Angie Pickard and Rev Soraya Douglas.

STATUS OF DEACONS

The Vision of the Methodist Order of Deacons is “To share Christ's love through service and to help the Church respond to the needs of the wider community.” (Methodist Book of Order 13.1) “Deacons are recognised by the Church as called of God, and trained and Ordained for service of the Church.” (Methodist Book of Order 13.30.1)

A Deacon is thus a minister in the Methodist Church in Southern Africa ordained for Word and Service.
ON BECOMING A METHODIST DEACON
With respect to the nominating procedure, candidating procedure, probationer’s internship and ordination, please refer to Chapter 11 in the Yearbook 2016 (pp 205-208).

DEACONS IN MINISTRY
Deacons are recognised by the MCSA as called of God, and trained and Ordained for service in the Church. They are colleagues on the staff of the Circuit to which they are appointed, responsible to the Superintendent, and thus share in the work of the Circuit. (MBO: 13.30)

Two (2) Deacons were ordained in 2015, and the Convocation has recommended one (1) Deacon for ordination in 2016. No Probationer Deacons are recommended for ordination in 2017, but the Order is considering recommending three Probationer Deacons for ordination in 2018. Two (2) Candidates (1 female and 1 male) will be admitted to the Order in 2017. One (1) Ordained Deacon and one (1) Probationer Deacon resigned in 2016. One Ordained Deacon will be sitting down at the end of 2016. Two Ordained Deacons passed on to higher service in 2015. The profile of the 39 members of the Diaconal Order are as follows:

- Eighteen (18) ordained Deacons (11 females and 7 males.) (whose names appear in the Church Directory)
- Ten (10) Supernumeries (8 females and 2 males) (whose names appear in the Church Directory)
- One (1) Ordinand (1 male) (whose name appears in Chapter 6: EMMU)
- Ten (10) Probationer Deacons (6 females and 4 males) (whose names appear in Chapter 6: EMMU)
- Two (2) Candidates (1 female and 1 male) (whose names appear in Chapter 6: EMMU)

ANNUAL CONVOCATION
The Convocation remains the highlight of the year for Deacons. Deacons function as a dispersed religious community and the time spent together in fellowship, study and training at Convocation is invaluable and affords members an opportunity for celebrating the successes and sharing the heartaches of ministry. Deacons meet at Convocation to, as an Order, foster and develop their calling as servant-ministers and to receive training relevant to their ministry.

The Convocation was held from Monday 25 April 2016 to Friday 29 April 2016 at eMseni Christian Conference Centre. On Monday 25 April 2015, Convocation transacted the business of the Order (MBO Appendix 7). On Tuesday 26 April 2016 one Ordinand of the Order was examined by Bishop Rev Andrew Motswenyane and the main business of the day was a discussion on the Conference resolutions and proposed amendments to Chapter 13 of the Methodist Book of Order with regards to the Order. On Wednesday 27 April 2016 the Warden and Warden-elect from the
British Order of Deacons made presentations on their Order and later in the day a visit was paid to the John Wesley Children’s Home in Kempton park with supper hosted by the Women’s Auxiliary. On Thursday 28 April 2016 Rev Brenda Timmer conducted a Workshop on “Women in Ministry” and Convocation adjourned on Friday 29 April 2016.

FINANCES
Most of the expenses incurred for the Convocation are covered by Circuits contributing to the accommodation of their Deacons (See Conference Resolution on page 90 of Yearbook 2014). The Warden’s travelling costs, Conference fees, etc. is largely covered by donations received from the District Women’s Auxiliaries. The Connexional Cash Management Scheme has contributed to the Order’s funds for 2013 and 2014, but was unable to do so in 2015 and 2016. Tuition fees for Probationer Deacons (under 55 years of age) have been taken over by EMMU. However in view of the decline in funding and increase in membership of the Order, additional sources of funding need to be found to administer the Order. We have requested that the Connexion budget for funds for the administration of the Order.

CONNEXIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
The Methodist Order of Deacons is managed by a Connexional Committee. The following persons are recommended to Conference to serve on this Committee in 2015:

Bishop: Bishop Andrew Motswenyane - Northern Free State and Lesotho District

Warden: Dcn Dr Vernon van Wyk - Alberton Mission Circuit (Highveld and Swaziland District)

Ministers: Rev Fred Celliers - Alberton Mission Circuit (Highveld and Swaziland District)

Rev Ina Guy - Alberton Mission Circuit (Highveld and Swaziland District)

Deacons: Deacon Douw Grobler - Magalies Circuit (Limpopo District)

Deacon Fozia Madjoe - Moreleta Circuit (Limpopo District)

Lay Members: Mr. Percy Howroyd - Alberton Mission Circuit (Highveld and Swaziland District)

Mrs. Mary Ellerbeck - Representing Women’s Auxiliary (Highveld and Swaziland District)

Mrs. Teresa John - President of Women’s Auxiliary: Central District

RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION
Understanding the Methodist Order of Deacons
Conference in 2013 made a resolution regarding the “UNDERSTANDING OF THE DEACONS ORDER (2014 Yearbook, par.2.16, pg. 90) “Conference notes the challenges as outlined in the Order of Deacons’ Report (2012 Yearbook, pg. 184) and
instructs DEWCOM to consider the matters raised, develop an appropriate response in consultation with the Order and advise Conference accordingly.”

Approaches were made to DEWCOM to discuss these matters, but it appears that with the re-structuring of DEWCOM, this could not take place. The Order however wishes to make certain recommendations in this regard.

The matters highlighted for discussion in 2012 were as follows and we recommend:

1. **THE STRUCTURES THAT PLACE ONE FORM OF MINISTRY ABOVE ANOTHER**
   In a Paper “ORDAINED DEACONS AND THE SACRAMENTS IN THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA” (www.spirituality.org.za) the DEWCOM in 2007 already gave clarity on this subject when it stated “As a principle of governance and practice the Methodist Church has affirmed the ‘Priesthood of all believers’”. Further DEWCOM indicated that “The MCSA upholds the co-equal and mutually dependent role of lay and ordained ministers, yet accords a special responsibility to those who are called and set aside to the ordained ministries.” Thus, according to DEWCOM, “…the only context in which the ministries of ordained deacons and presbyters can be rightly understood is that of the calling of all people, lay and ordained, to participate equally, yet distinctly, in God’s mission in the world. The distinct ministries of deacons and presbyters thus serve to express, enable, and focus the ministry of the whole people of God.”

   DEWCOM further indicates that “Within the ambit of the ordained ministries the MCSA recognises and ordains presbyters (persons called to the ministry of word and sacrament), and deacons (persons called to the ministry of word and service). With regards to the ministry of the laity the MCSA recognises and affirms the various, and important, ministries of lay Christians with particular clauses in its Methodist Book of Order relating to Local Preachers, the order of Bible Women, and the order of Evangelists.”

   The Order recommends that Conference note the clarity given by DEWCOM, that no ministry is ‘above another’, for it would not be in line with the MCSA belief in the priesthood of all believers. See also proposed amendment to Clause 13.2 of the Methodist Book of Order hereunder.

2. **THE PERCEIVED RELUCTANCE OF CIRCUITS/SOCIETIES TO APPOINT DEACONS**
   The Order is of the opinion that this is a structural issue and not doctrinal in nature, hence DEWCOM would have very little to offer. The Order appeals to Circuits to seriously consider appointing Deacons for Ministries of Service. The Order recommends that Conference note this proposal.
3. DIFFERENCES IN STIPENDS AND OTHER ALLOWANCES
The Order is of the opinion that this is a structural issue and not doctrinal in nature, hence DEWCOM would have very little to offer. The Order appeals to MCO to give serious consideration to parity between the Ordained Ministries (Presbyters and Deacons) as well as the Commissioned Ministries (Evangelists and Bible Women). The Order recommends that Conference note this proposal.

4. PROMOTING THE APPOINTMENT OF THOSE CALLED TO A SPECIFICALLY MISSIONAL MINISTRY
The Order is of the opinion that this is a structural issue and not doctrinal in nature, hence DEWCOM would have very little to offer. The Order recommends that EMMU in consultation with the Mission Unit give consideration to including Deacons in their deliberations of Conference Resolution 2.44, page 105 of Yearbook 2016. The Order recommends that Conference note this recommendation.

5. ENCOURAGING A MOVE TOWARDS ITINERANT MINISTRY IN PREFERENCE TO THE LARGELY NON-ITINERANT MODEL THAT CURRENTLY PREVAILS.
The Order is of the opinion that this is a structural issue and not doctrinal in nature, hence DEWCOM would have very little to offer. The Order recommends that Conference Resolution 2.43, page 105 of Yearbook 2016 should apply to the Order as well, but that there should be a Full-time Stipendiary and a Part-time Non-stipendiary category for Deacons and that Deacons be invited to serve as provided for in par 13.20 of the Methodist Book of Order. The Order recommends that Conference support this recommendation.

6. AGE OF CANDIDATURE AND RETIREMENT
The Order of Deacons is small in number and brings unique skills and qualifications to the MCSA. The majority of Deacons are covenanted in the non-stipendiary category and pose no threat to the finances of the Church. However, should a Minister in this category be in the stipendiary category, the Order is of the opinion that the same rules should apply as for Presbyters.

In response to the Conference resolution regarding age of candidature and retirement of the Order of Deacons (Yearbook 2016; 2.46, p. 105 -106) the Convocation of the Order recommends that Conference accept the amendment of Clause 13.10 of the Methodist Book of Order to read:

“With regard to the age of candidature and retirement the system applicable to Presbyters shall apply to Candidates who apply for the stipendiary category. No age limit is laid down for candidates for the non-stipendiary category, with the understanding that the rules of the pensions fund and
medical aid shall apply should such a candidate wish to change category at any point of time.”

7. ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES BETWEEN THE ORDERS OF DEACONS AND EVANGELISTS
Conference (Yearbook 2016; 2.41, p 105) notes the imbalances and the need for training on the differences between the Diaconate and the Order of Evangelism and directs the Human Resources Unit and Orders to investigate all issues including relationships and imbalances as well as the retirement age for members of these orders and report to Conference 2016. The Human Resources Unit has not approached the Order. The Order has however made an approach to the Order of Evangelists to initiate discussion on the resolution. At the writing of this report there has been no response.

The Order recommends that Conference note that this process is ongoing.

8. STIPEND AUGMENTATION FUND
It has occurred that a Circuit was not able to pay their assessments and subsequently ordained staff did not receive their stipends. Ordained Presbyters received assistance from the Stipend Augmentation Fund, but not the Ordained Deacon. This is not a just practice. The Order recommends that Deacons who are paid a stipend through the Finance Unit also participate in the Stipend Augmentation Fund on the same basis as Presbyters.

9. WARDEN
Methodist Book of Order, Appendix 7 - Question 16: “Whom do we nominate to the Connexional Executive for appointment as Warden of the Order?”

The Convocation nominates Deacon Douw Grobler to become the Warden of the Order for the term 2018-2022.

10. The Convocation of the Order of Deacons recommended to EMMU that the minimum qualification for ordination of Deacons be a Diploma in Theology. The minimum of a Higher Certificate in Theology should be done away with. The meeting of EMMU on 21 June 2016 noted this recommendation and recommends that the recommendation be put to Conference.

11. Revisions to Chapter 13 of the Methodist Book of Order.

APPRECIATION
The Order is grateful for the many acts of selfless service and ministry offered by God’s servants and thanks all who support this work in prayer or in kind.

The Deacons are grateful to God for His call upon their lives and for the many and varied opportunities of ministry and service that have been afforded to them.
CHAPTER 12
METHODIST ORDER OF EVANGELISM

Rev Jacob Freemantle

PREAMBLE
The Order of Evangelism sends congratulations and prayers to our Presiding Bishop Rev Z. D. Siwa for re-election as our Presiding Bishop. We pray that he will be strengthened and blessed as he responds yet again to the calling of leading our Church in times like these.

Secondly the Biblewomen and Evangelists, the humble agents of our vanguard mission in the MCSA, are thankful to you, Sir, for your passion towards the Order of Evangelism. It is truly our singular honour to see you coming to grace and pastorally affirm, pray and support the Biblewomen and Evangelists Conventions in the way you do.

By almost any measure, the Methodist Church has its origin in evangelism. Our ethos of evangelism is ecclesiastically claimed from the patterns in the early church where “every day the Lord added to them those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47). We are not a dying but a growing Church. What reduces the membership of the church is apathy in evangelism, where sometimes the church lays more emphasis on certain difficulties than remembering what it exists for. Evangelism is not about meeting personal needs but rather about caring and reaching out to the lost in love. Such is our core evangelistic discipleship task of building the Kingdom of God.

STATISTICS
At the Conference of 2012 we reported that we have 534 Evangelists and Biblewomen in the MCSA. Though this number has reduced to 387, we are happy to report that 50% of them have been registered with the MCO. Before that Conference, we were struggling to get many of our Biblewomen and Evangelists to be properly registered with MCO. We must now extend our gratitude to those Circuits who have heeded the appeal to register them.

SUPPORT FROM CONNEXIONAL ORGANISATIONS
We thank the Women’s Manyano, Women’s Auxiliary, Women’s Association and Missionary Unit for their continued support of the Order.

CANDIDATES FOR THE ORDER OF EVANGELISM
The Procedure of Candidating (14.4) and The Process of Candidating (14.5) in the Order of Evangelism are clearly spelt out. These have to be adhered to.
Training
The training is conducted by EMMU under the guidance of the Connexional Coordinator Rev Mbuyiselo Stemela. Such training will be conducted at eMseni. The syllabus for the Order of Evangelism is as follows;

1st Year
• Introduction Methodist Doctrine; Vision And Mission
• Introduction Church Planting
• Introduction to Evangelism (New Ways)
• Introduction Small Groups
• Introduction To Pastoral Counselling & Crisis Counselling

2nd Year
• Pastoral Counselling & Crisis Counselling
• Evangelism (Faith Sharing)
• Methodist Doctrine
• Church Planting
• Small Groups

CANDIDATES

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<tr>
<th>Circuit</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>First Names</th>
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<tr>
<td>0214</td>
<td>Mkhosana</td>
<td>Siphiwo John</td>
</tr>
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<td>0215</td>
<td>Blaauw</td>
<td>Veronica *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0216</td>
<td>Rooibaart</td>
<td>Mandilakhe</td>
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<td>0216</td>
<td>Zitho</td>
<td>Nomthandazo Rina*</td>
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<tr>
<td>0319</td>
<td>Bobelo</td>
<td>Siviwe</td>
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<td>0339</td>
<td>Matanda</td>
<td>Sanuse</td>
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<td>Khustafalo Cecilia*</td>
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<td>Noziphiwo Virginia*</td>
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<tr>
<td>1352</td>
<td>Dlagqibe</td>
<td>Cynthia Thenjiswa*</td>
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NB: Asterisk next to the name indicates that the Candidate has not been accepted due to age being above 50 years.

2nd Years
Tom Nocawe
Velebhayi Vilakazi Patricia
Modise Gouta
Ngundze Lungile Hardier

2016 GRADUATES

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<td>Xoliswa Sybil</td>
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<td>Molaolwa</td>
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<td>Bantsi Evelyn Aria</td>
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<td>Sidudhla Norah</td>
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<td>Sibongile Bettie</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Matshoba</td>
<td>Siyabonga Templeton</td>
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THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

The General Committee (Clause 14.1) of 2015 decided not to change the venue and dates of its meetings. Such venue will be Natal Coastal District on the 1st Tuesday of every June.

Developments in the Order

The General Committee that met in June 2016 strongly recommended the following:

i. To encourage discussions between the Orders of Evangelism and the Order of Deacons.

ii. To ask the Circuits to note the age restrictions and the moratorium on Part Time category. The General Committee discourages attempts to ignore this Conference decision.

iii. The new Warden will be appointed by the 2016 Conference and inducted at the Biennial Convention of 2018.

iv. The General Committee thanked the following for the success of the Biennial Convention held from 19-22 May in the Queenstown District: Bishop M. Matyumza, outgoing Biennial President Rev F. Makananda and his Executive, Circuit Superintendent Rev Makula, all delegates and the hospitality of 313 Circuit.

v. The Biennial Convention will be changed to a Triennial Convention after the Free State and Lesotho Biennial Convention in 2018.
vi. The General Committee endorsed the election of the Biennial Convention Executive as: President - Rev Tshidisho Sibi, Vice President - Msisitheki Cyrus Selima, General Secretary - Miranda Patricia Moss, Treasurer - Philile Rayili Mjongile, Recording Secretary - Cynthia Jabulisile Moalisi.

vii. The Biennial Convention will be held in the Northern Free State and Lesotho District in 2018.

viii. The roster of ensuing Triennial Conventions is: Kimberly Namibia and Bloemfontein - 2021; Central District - 2024; Limpopo - 2027; Grahamstown - 2030; Natal West - 2033; Highveld and Swaziland - 2036; Natal Coastal - 2039; Cape of Good Hope - 2042; Clarkebury - 2045; Queenstown - 2048.

Except for Medical assistance, the Stipend and Traveling for 2017 will be increased by 6.5% as follows:
The stipend for Commissioned R4148-00
The stipend for Probationers R3526-00
Travelling R1500-00
Medical Assistance R4000-00

Circuits should note the following directive of Conference:
As soon as Biblewomen and Evangelists begin to work in the Circuit, they must be paid through MCO. To be paid this way enables MCO to register them with pension and medical assistance. Furthermore, all registered Biblewomen and Evangelists do qualify for extra-ordinary grant (a portion of claim for spectacles) if they are paid minimum stipends through the Methodist Connexional Office (MCO). Similarly, the retired Biblewomen and Evangelists who were full time, qualify for the above mentioned grant provided that they had at least 10 years service and were paid the minimum stipend through MCO. These extra-ordinary grants and medical assistance are subject to the limit of R4000-00 per family per year. The 2007 Conference further decided that 6% from their Basic plus additional stipend would be their contribution towards this grant. So the Circuit which does not pay through MCO is grossly disadvantaging our Biblewomen and Evangelists. Conference appreciates with gratitude the Circuits who continue to remain faithful in remunerating our Biblewomen and Evangelists accordingly.

Honouring those who have been called to Higher Service.
“Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?” (Revelation 7:13). The Conference honoured the following Biblewomen and Evangelists who have since passed on and prayed for their families. May their souls rest in peace and rise in glory!

(a) Cape of Good Hope
Murel Noveve Noma Africa Ngxalaba Liberforce Dungelo

2017 Diary
21 February: Secretarys Consultation at eMseni
06 June: General Committee in Durban at Old MCO
08 July: Graduation in Bloemfontein
05 October: Warden’s visit to SMMS

DISTRICT SECRETARIES OF THE ORDER OF EVANGELISM

Cape of Good Hope  Rev N. A. Nomqolo
Grahamstown  Rev T. Klaas
Queenstown  Rev L. Mdoda
Northern Free State & Lesotho  Rev Mohitli
Kimberly, Namibia & Bloemfontein  Rev A. Mokoena

APPOINTMENT OF WARDEN
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Rev</th>
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<td>Rev T. S. Sibi</td>
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<td>Highveld and Swaziland</td>
<td>Rev B. M. Manne</td>
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<td>Rev R. Massango</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clarkebury</td>
<td>Rev T. H. Ntuli</td>
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CHAPTER 13
CONNEXIONAL COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAINCY

Bishop Themba Mntambo

INTRODUCTION
A Chaplain is a member of the Clergy who provides spiritual and religious services to an Organisation or an individual, usually appointed by the church to which the member of clergy belongs and is accountable for his or her ministry. Such people remain members of the church, and are not necessarily members of the Organisation to which they are appointed. Their work is largely limited to what the church determines, except for some administrative matters peculiar to the Organisation they are appointed to serve. In the case of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, the church appoints chaplains to the Department of Correctional Services, the South African National Defence Force and the South African Police Services. All ministers appointed to these chaplaincies understand that they conduct ministry on behalf of the church, and that they are expected to represent the church and maintain the ethos and values the church holds.

LOCAL CHURCH INVOLVEMENT
All our chaplains are expected to be involved in the local church, especially in worship and other areas where their ministry may be exercised. We are happy to report that all our chaplains are indeed involved and have been well received in the Circuits to which they belong. Most of them have made themselves available to assist local ministers, and where they have been requested to do so they have been a great asset to the church.

CHAPLAINCY TO OTHER SECURITY SERVICES
We have not been successful in our attempts to include ministers who offer spiritual services to other security services such as Metro Police and Emergency Services within the Connexional Committee on Chaplaincy. We continue to seek to open discussions with these Organisations. At the moment such ministers fall under the category of seconded ministers.

PASTORAL COMMITTEES AFTER 10 YEARS OF SERVICE
A number of chaplains are due for Pastoral Committees to review their work and recommend whether they should continue in chaplaincy in the next year. These will be arranged with the Bishops of the District in which they reside (see Book of Order p. 161, par. 15.4).
APPLICATIONS FOR CHAPLAINCY

In the year under review the Committee received 6 requests for and enquiries about permission to apply for posts available in the chaplaincy. Four of the six withdrew their requests, one is still in process, and one has been appointed to the Department of Correctional Services. There continues to be a number of inquiries from ministers wishing to explore chaplaincy and it has come to the notice of the Committee that many of these inquiries come at a time when ministers are not sure whether they will have a station in the following year. It is a concern for the committee that such ministers wish to enter chaplaincy not out of a call to this ministry but as an attempt to secure some employment in the event that they are not stationed. We have at all times referred to the Pastoral Committees who screen applicants to ensure that the applicant evidences a clear call to the ministry of chaplain.

IRREGULAR APPOINTMENT OF A CHAPLAIN

The Committee has had to deal with a case of one of our ministers who took up an appointment to the Department of Correctional Services without following proper procedure. The matter has now been resolved after a Pastoral Commission in the District in which the minister resides, followed by a meeting with some members of the Connexional Committee on Chaplaincy. Due to the fact that the minister had initially resigned from Connexion with the MCSA, and then later applied to be reinstated, this matter also had to be considered by the Synod. Synod then recommended her reinstatement and her continued employment with Correctional Services. The Committee agrees with the recommendation and has no objection to her continued work with Correctional Services. In order to fulfil the requirements for the appointment of chaplains, the minister will have to go through the procedure of application as all others do.

AGE LIMIT FOR APPLICANTS

Clarity has not been received from one Security Service whether the age limit for the appointment of chaplains has been relaxed. So we continue to implement the provisions of the Book of Order page 162, paragraph 15.5.2. The committee requested Conference last year to allow ministers over the age of forty to apply for chaplaincy after having followed the church process for application. We confirm that the committee will continue to give such permission and leave it to the security service concerned to decide whether they may employ such ministers.

RESERVE CHAPLAINS

The Committee has received a number of inquiries from ministers wishing to apply for appointment as Reserve Chaplains, particularly in those command areas where the full time chaplain cannot service the area meaningfully. Thus far the church has not had any regulations to govern the appointment of Reserve Chaplains. Guidelines for the appointment of such chaplains have now been drafted and have been presented to the Revision Committee for consideration.
LETTERS OF GOOD STANDING
All Methodist Chaplains receive letters of good standing from the church annually. This is specifically required by the South African Police Service but letters are given to all chaplains in every service as a matter of course. All our chaplains have had these letters submitted to the Human Resources Departments of their respective security service.

THE COMMITTEE
The following are members of the Connexional Committee on Chaplaincy in terms of The Methodist Book of Order (Laws and Discipline) page 161, paragraph 15.2 for the time being: The Presiding Bishop (Rev. Zipho Siwa), the General Secretary (Rev. Charmaine Morgan), the Bishops of three Districts (Revs. Themba Mntambo, Jonathan Anderson and Gary Rivas of whom Rev. Mntambo is the chairman), the Principal Chaplain (Rev. Nzingo Noto), the Liaison Chaplains of the three Security Services (Rev. Molefi Matsane - Correctional Services, Rev. Morake Finger - Police Services), three ministers who are not chaplains (Revs. Lentikile Phokontsi, Raymond Keet), and three lay persons (Mesdames Ans Grobler, Matsie Morolo and Colonel Simon Shabangu). One more minister still needs to be appointed and the committee requests Conference to allow us to continue to search for a suitable person. The Committee proposes that the persons named above continue to serve in this capacity.

PRINCIPAL CHAPLAIN AND LIAISON CHAPLAINS
The Rev. Nzingo Noto continues to serve as Principal Chaplain. He has served in this capacity since 2014 and the Committee proposes that he continue to do so. The Revs. Molefi Matsane and Morake Finger serve as Liaison Chaplains for the Department of Correctional Services and the South African Police Service respectively. The Committee proposes that they too continue to serve in this capacity.

RETIREMENT AND PROMOTION
The Rev. Bana Setshedhi retired as chaplain in the South Africa Police Services at the end of 2015, having reached the mandatory retirement age as per regulations of the SAPS. Conference 2015 stationed him in Maseru, Lesotho and he has settled in and adjusted well to Circuit work after more than 20 years in the chaplaincy. This is one of the success stories of reintegration back to Circuit. We have observed over the years that some chaplains find it difficult to readjust after they have been appointed to Circuits.

We congratulate the Rev. Thsidiso Moerane, one of our chaplains in the Police Services, who has been promoted two ranks, from Captain to Colonel. This is due to the fact that our chaplains have evidenced a commitment and competence for their work.
RETREAT
All chaplains are required to attend a Chaplains’ Retreat usually planned for November of every year. It has been a pleasure to see the chaplains take this part of their discipline seriously, and over the past two years we have seen an increasing number attending the retreat. The theme for last year’s retreat was about integrity of call and proved to be helpful and encouraging to all who attended. Plans for the 2016 retreat are already at an advanced stage and will be led by the Rev. Stephen Barry at the Kilnerton Centre.

CONCLUSION
It is the Committee’s belief that this is significant ministry the church offers to the world, and that our ministers should be encouraged to consider the call to chaplaincy, not as the place to go when they do not have a station but a place of specialised long-term ministry to which they need to commit themselves. We continue to receive very good reports about our present chaplains who are able to perform well above those of other denominations. We believe this is due to our training for ministry and our insistence on chaplains being called to this work and the fact that we do not simply appoint those whom we cannot station or we regard as surplus to our requirements. The committee will continually endeavour to identify the most suitable candidates for this work and challenge them to hear the call and accept the church’s sending them to chaplaincy.

Shalom, Grace and Peace
CHAPTER 14

CONNEXIONAL TRUST PROPERTIES

The following paragraphs should be read in conjunction with the 12th Edition of the Laws and Discipline - Book of order, Chapter 10)

1. Vesting and Administration (See paragraph 10.1)

2. All members of the Trust Properties Committees are urged to declare any property interest in so far as it may relate to any property of the church. Refer to paragraph 10.31 of the general regulations.

3. The District Trust Properties Committee must refer all schemes, contracts, purchases and sale agreements etc. in excess of R1 million to the Connexional Trust Properties Committee for approval.

4. No building contract exceeding R250 000 in value may be entered into without the District Trust Properties Committee’s approval.

5. A Registered Architect, or an approved Building Design Consultant, is to be appointed where expenditure is between R70000 and R250000. A Registered Architect and a Registered Engineer must be appointed where expenditure exceeds R250000. When Societies wish to owner-build, the permission of the District Trust Properties Committee must be obtained.

6. At least two tenders are required for schemes where expenditure will exceed R250 000. “Contractors All Risks and Public Liability Insurance” must be arranged for all erections, alterations, additions or renovations to buildings.

7. An organ costing more than R75000 shall require the approval of the Quarterly Meeting and the District Trust Properties Committee before being purchased. Organs costing less than R75000 and other Church furnishings may be purchased without District Trust Properties Committee approval, provided that no debt is incurred.
BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

The financial year under review has not been an easy one. The economic growth rate, the weakening of the Rand against the USA Dollar and the British Pound have impacted South African retail in general, and even more so our business. We, like the rest of the world, are experiencing the global economic crisis, and this has affected economic growth in South Africa over the last four years, with the last 6 months being especially difficult.

With an economic growth rate of just over 0.5%, we have been in a difficult position to balance gross profit margins with customer expectations. Disposable income has declined and we are in the speciality retail sector which made it even more challenging. Growth in the retail sector has in fact been negative at -0.6%, with the GDP at -1.2%.

Many of our existing retail stores, Christian Connexion, are poorly located, and we would ideally want to relocate them as soon as possible. Capital expenditure on new sites however is high, and the relocations have thus been postponed.

Our primary function remains to share in the mission of the church, to spread the Gospel. We will continue to do so, and by doing so we have to ensure quality products and excellent books at reasonable prices whilst continuing to grow market share.

Unfortunately we had to close our store in Benoni as it was not economically viable to keep trading from the location. This has left a gap in the market which needs to be filled as soon as possible.

OBJECTIVES

- Fully implement a balanced scorecard for staff (Performance Appraisal System).
- Reduce gross profit margins to between 50% and 52%.
- Find new suppliers and source new products.
- Reduce stock holding.
- Increase stock turn.
- Enhance replenishment.
- Training of all staff.
• Implement a merchandising policy.
• Re-establish and reposition the publishing division.
• Create a sense of pride and passion amongst all staff.
• Set realistic, achievable and measurable goals.
• If at all possible open one new store.
• Open “Franchise” stores or agencies.

We are grateful to announce that our total turnover for the period under review has only slightly decreased from R18 663 160 to R18 616 408, and our net profit from R2.4m to R1.8m. (Figures quoted are not yet finally Audited). The reduction in the net profit is mainly as a result of decreasing the gross profit margin in an effort to remain competitive. Our strict adherence to a healthy gross profit margin as well as the passion and hard work of our whole team, in the stores and at head office, as well as the opening of two new Stores, has assisted in the reduction in sales not being more substantial.

Looking forward, we would look at relocating both our Johannesburg CBD store as well as our Bloemfontein store. Opening new stores as agencies will be our main focus in enlarging our footprint.

We will also actively investigate locating in neighbouring countries like Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland, and Mozambique.

ACHIEVEMENTS
We have opened two new Stores: BT Ngebs Mall in Mthatha and Maponya Mall in Soweto.

The publishing division has secured rights to print, translate and publish books from two major publishing houses in Europe and the United States of America. This will strengthen our sales to the trade in general.

The following works were published during the period under review;
• 2016 MCSA Year Book
• Live and Learn
• Indodana - Thembekile Gqwaka
• Without Apology - John de Gruchy
• The Volmoed Journey - John and Isobel de Gruchy
• Between Heaven and Earth - Isobel de Gruchy
• Izono zethu zalahllela eKalvari - Rev Ndzamela
• Leer en Lewe (‘Know and Grow’ in Afrikaans)

We have secured the distribution rights for the new NIV God’s Justice Bible.

Although the wholesale division has been under pressure, this was largely due to poor decision making and the selection of whom we supply to, as well as the closure of our distribution and warehouse company, On the Dot. We have entered into an
agreement with a new distribution company and we are confident that we will be
able to offer a far better service to our customers and our stores.

Our new corporate look has made an impact on the market and we are pleased
that more and more people are looking at Christian Connexion as their Christian
bookstore of choice. We will continue to create awareness of our brand, expand
our publishing division and keep looking for new business opportunities. We want,
however, to appeal to our Clergy to support our stores. Yes, we cater for all believers
but we are Methodists and we are part of the church. We cannot operate a successful
retail division if we do not have the support of all our Clergy and all our members.
In the last 24 months more than one appeal has been made and we unfortunately
have seen very little change in support from not only our Clergy but all the other
Units in the church. It is evident that there is a proliferation of suppliers of copyright
protected material, from books to Bible bags bearing our logo, and this is a matter
that needs to be addressed by Conference.

The Methodist Publishing House and Christian Connexion most certainly do not want
total control but we have to protect our brand, the churches’ name and insignia, and
urge Conference to make a decision regarding the unauthorised production of shirts,
blankets, jackets and the like, without consultation with the Publishing House.
CHAPTER 16
WOMEN’S WORK

METHODIST WOMEN’S PRAYER AND SERVICE UNION
WOMEN’S MANYANO

Mrs Sebina Sonia Tlhakanye

PREAMBLE
As the focus of the Connexional Women’s Manyano is Education, we decry the recent rampant burning of educational facilities, especially the twenty-nine (29) schools destroyed at Vuwani Village in Limpopo. The children are once more deprived of their right to quality education. We condemn all forms of protest, no matter how justified, that compromises the future of the children.

The Women’s Manyano, as an agent of change, commits to nurturing the children and equipping educational institutions in all the member countries of our Connexion.

OVERVIEW OF THE WOMEN’S MANYANO WORK

SPIRITUALITY:
The Connexional Women rallying theme is: “Stretch your arm”. Their vision is goal orientated. Thursday, Saturday and Sunday remain the main days for Women’s Manyano Prayer days. Women conduct Bible studies, retreats, Prayers cells and conventions to look deeply into discipleship. In pursuing a Connexional vision, parenting and co-parenting, women are committed to taking full responsibility of doing exactly that. House to house pastoral visits are done for the bereaved, the elderly, destitute and sick, not forgetting their families, church, structure, leaders, congregants, communities, country citizens and community structures.

The Connexional Executive during their term of office, visited the following Districts during their conventions: Limpopo, Clarkebury, KNB, Queenstown, Highveld & Swaziland, NFS&L, and Mozambique.

EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH:
- The organisation has members who are Bible Women, Local Preachers and Evangelists and they spread the word of God through revival services, door-to-door campaigns, calling on people to follow Jesus, rather than backsliding which brings about declining membership.
- World Prayer Services with interdenominational churches are conducted.
• Fundraising of some kind and mission campaigns are organised by all women to fulfil our “weekend of Women of Witness” event.

JUSTICE, SERVICE AND RECONCILIATION:
• Women’s Manyano conscientised and motivated members to observe the “Thursdays in Black” campaign to fight against gender based violence on Women and children.
• During the triennial in 2014, the Women’s Manyano marched in the town of Matlosana against women and children abuse.
• Highveld and Swaziland Women’s Manyano and the Connexional Executive gave the Presiding Bishop support during the tragedy in Reiger Park, where a child was killed during a car hijacking.
• Inmates in prisons were visited to give them hope and support.
• Districts donated to orphanages, ECDs and primary schools.
• Venues of Connexional meetings and CCS workshops (KNB, Natal Coastal, NFS&L, and Central) were given educational toys, food parcels etc. during outreach programmes.
• KNB District “stretched their arm” beyond, by building two houses for disadvantaged families.
• Workshops on HIV/AIDS were conducted and “16 days of activism” against abuse of women and children was observed.
• Protest marches were held against rape, women and children abuse and xenophobia.
• Women help with bereavement costs for those who cannot afford and organise IDs and birth certificates for those who do not have them.
• Women are concerned about “Justice and Fairness” especially as they in most cases carry the burden of discrimination at home, church, workplace and in the community.
• The Women’s Manyano in the Districts (Queenstown, Central, Cape of Good Hope) were involved in supporting and caring for the students during the #feesmustfall campaign.
• Mothers visit children in schools to impart knowledge based on Life Skills.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT:
Poverty and unemployment is the order of the day in our countries. Mothers share their skills to alleviate hunger and poverty. Mothers make beautiful articles which they exchange in return for food on their tables.
• Gala dinners are organised by almost all District to fundraise for the organisation.
• ECD Centres are visited and parents taught how to engage in the learning of their children.
• Women are encouraged to produce vegetable gardens and do catering for their financial upliftment.
• Mozambique District has just established a catering project to fundraise towards the church needs.
• They are encouraged to do handwork and beadwork, as well as sewing garments and to open their own business in order to become entrepreneurs.
• Women touch lives by observing 67 minutes of Madiba’s birthday on the 18th of July annually.
• Workshops are organised by CCS on marriage problems and single parenting.
• We empower treasurers on financial matters and how to manage funds.

EDUCATION:
Our Church is passionate about education; our call is to make sure that learners are taken care of in different ways. During our triennial convention in 2014, Grade 7 learners were taken out on career guidance at the following places: SAPS, Correctional Services and the Hospital.
• Women give support to children in schools by participating in School Governing Bodies.
• Day Care Centres are taken care of by these women.
• Active and retired teachers assist learners in Foundation Phase until Grade 12 during holidays and on Saturdays.
• They offer Bursaries to learners for tertiary education throughout the Connexion.
• Educational toys are bought for Early Childhood Development Centres throughout the country.
• A student, Patrick Sifundza, benefited from contributions made at the February Connexional Extended Meeting 2016 in Lesotho towards his tuition.
• During October and November months, Circuits hold prayers for learners and their educators, especially the Grade 12 group.
• Cape of Good Hope District launched a Back to School Project. Uniforms and stationery are handed over to Heatherdale Children’s Home.

HIGHLIGHTS:
• Our first beneficiaries of bursaries have graduated and we thank our Women for a job well done. The next group have started this year.
• Most of the Mothers are attending the World Federation in Texas (USA) this year.
• A donation will be given to Women in Ministry for celebrating 40 years, and a letter to congratulate them has also been written and sent to different Districts during Synods.
• Districts are busy with Amendments to the constitution.
• The Queenstown District changed the vestry into an ECD Centre, bought educational toys, furniture and jungle gyms for the kids.
• The Limpopo District was given a site for an ECD Centre.
• Kimberley, Namibia & Bloemfontein District cares for the well-being of children.
They have established a sanitary project in all circuits. Their focus is also drawn to physically challenged children so that they feel important in the community.

- Highveld & Swaziland District- Ekujabuleni Day Centre was the proud recipient of educational toys. The parents were trained on how to use the toys in order to assist their children with homework. They also celebrated Women in Ministry during their gala dinner at the convention.
- Northern Free State & Lesotho, Natal West and other Districts donated educational toys and offered training for parents to identified Day Care Centres.
- A delegation was sent to SMMS on the 24th July 2016 for presentation of a donation.
- The Organisation is continuing with their mission to these beneficiaries’: Youth Unit, Mission Unit (Needy Fund), Seth Mokitimi Seminary Fund, Relief Fund and Neighbouring Countries Fund (voluntary Stipend Fund).

FUTURE PLANS:
The Connexional CCS workshop shall be held in Clarkebury from the 28th September to the 1st October 2016, where we will be launching the CCS Guidelines Booklet.

The Cluster CCS retreat (Grahamstown, Clarkebury and Queenstown) will be on the 29th to the 31st of July 2016 in Cape Town.

We are going to hold our Triennial Convention on the 11th – 16th July 2017 in the Queenstown District.

During the Triennial we will be celebrating our Manyano History and our Legends.

CHALLENGES:
Members who cease to meet.
High rate of unemployment and poverty.

Conclusion:
The Connexional Women’s Manyano Executive wishes to express its sincere gratitude to:
- All Mothers and Organisations for their overwhelming support, dedication and hard work during the period under review.
- The Presiding Bishop and all the Connexional officials, the Mission Unit, for the support they have given to us the past three years.
- To the incoming General President, Mrs Gretta Makhwenkwe, we wish you well during your term of office, as you will be continuing with God’s work.
- We wish the Presiding Bishop, his Office and Delegates a safe and sound journey to the World Conference.
INTRODUCTION:
“Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation.” Hebrews 1:14. The angels of God will assist the people of God as they do the work of God.

2014-2016 THEME:
The theme for the 2014-2016 term has been “A transforming Discipleship Movement: Drinking Deep from the Fountain of Living Water.”

The theme has been so appropriate in this time of uncertainty, where there are so many empty hands, empty arms, empty hopes and empty hearts. The theme lends itself to Micah 6:8 of what the Lord requires us to do: to walk justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God.

All Districts and Branches are going about their mission work with much passion, empathy and compassion towards those in need of “Tender Loving Care.”

We are definitely a transforming discipleship movement seeking to transform the plight of our communities by assisting them to drink deep from the fountain of living water.

SPIRITUALITY
A passion for souls, disciplining and teaching our sisters are some of the fundamental doctrines of Methodism to which we must be true and constantly revisit. Reports from Districts indicate that members are called to a deepened spirituality, which means establishing methods which give spiritual order. Prayer groups, bible studies, spiritual and evangelism camps were held where ladies received tools to enhance their prayer lives, and seminars were conducted in Districts.

EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH
Throughout the Districts, Women have participated actively in the life of the church. Special care and attention is given to the downtrodden, the bereaved and the bedridden.

Women have started to evangelise among the young ladies of the church to encourage them to join the WA. As drug addiction is a challenge in all districts, women are involved in counselling and guiding the youth through outreach programmes which are relevant to the youth.
JUSTICE AND SERVICE
Districts are linking with schools and contributing to the buying of schools uniforms and stationery for under-privileged children. Street kids are being fed and one kid has been adopted and is living in the home of a WA sister. In our Grahamstown District a Women’s Association sister bequeathed her house for neglected and abused children. It is known as the Mary Coetzee Children’s Home - “Jerusalem my Happy Home”.

The Chrissie Charles Cancer fund was established by the Grahamstown District Women’s Association. The purpose is to provide support and counselling to cancer sufferers and survivors, to promote awareness of the disease and to provide training to care workers.

A project emanating from a donation received at the previous Biennial Convention from the Women’s Auxiliary led us to continue a blanket making project. A hand knitted blanket is a viable and affordable option. These knitted blankets were then handed out to teenage pregnant girls and reported to the Joint Meeting much to the delight of the Presiding Bishop.

In our bigger cities such as Cape Town, Johannesburg, Bloemfontein and Kimberley, sisters assist families from rural areas who have to be hospitalised for extensive periods. Accommodation, transport and meals are provided to such needy families.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT
Districts are committed to programmes that are enabling our Women to be economically independent. Workshops like baking, coconut ice making, beading etc. were held for the unemployed with the aim of generating funds. Efforts at going back to crop farming to create food gardens were encouraged as this is a means of survival in the tough economic conditions we live in. Women are encouraged to teach young girls to knit and sew as this skill is not part of the school curriculum.

Across Districts Women are knitting blankets, which will be part of the Mandela Day Campaign and will be handed over to our Presiding Bishop’s office to deliver on our behalf.

EDUCATION
When the women celebrated Women’s World Day of Prayer, it was celebrated with a particular school and interaction at this service afforded the Women the opportunity to identify urgent needs of the school.

Women are also involved in the day-care and aftercare of our centres at various churches across the Districts; through this a safe learning environment for children is created.

Unemployed WA women avail themselves to assist at schools where teachers are absent, even if only for supervision purposes.
The absenteeism rate in schools for the girl child is reported to be exceptionally high due to her menstrual cycle. Women are part of the Campaign to keep our girl children in school by donating sanitary pads to schools in their Communities.

APPRECIATION
We thank God that He does not call the equipped, but who equips the called. During the past two years, God’s grace was sufficient and God’s grace led us. Thank you Lord, that You stayed with us……. (Luke 24:29).

The Connexional Executive of the Women’s Association would like to thank Kimberley, Namibia and Bloemfontein District Executive and all Women’s Association branches across the country for their unfailing love and support during our term of office.

Our sincere appreciation to Presiding Bishop Siwa and Rev Charmaine Morgan, General Secretary, for your patience with the Women’s Association.
WOMEN’S AUXILIARY

Mrs Linda Gerrand

No of Branches and Membership

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In this our Centenary year we celebrate a momentous milestone, but records have been uncovered showing that women have been meeting since 1896, (John Street, Uitenhage) so unofficially we celebrate 120 years of service to the Methodist Church and the community, and so we echo the words of the hymn:

Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom His world rejoices.

The theme for the Connexional Executive during these past two years has been “Our Father’s Love” which has been our strength and guide. Much has been achieved in extending His Kingdom by willing hands and hearts. Members have stepped out in faith, often in difficult circumstances to continue in service to friend and neighbour. And thus we can say with grateful hearts

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns with Them in highest heaven.

CONNEXIONAL MEETINGS

Connexional Meetings held at the Methodist Conference Centre eMseni in Gauteng from 11-14 August 2015 was an ideal setting for this annual event. The theme for Connexional Meetings was “Our Father’s transforming love - Holy and Righteous”. The then District Bishop, Peter Witbooi and Rev Serame Thulo from Randfontein opened the proceedings. Guest Speaker Ann Goodfellow, author of Devotional books and prayer guides, led the three Devotional Sessions. Rev Jane Day brought insight to the workings at the Methodist Gender Desk. The times spent in fellowship, getting to know one another and sharing of ideas with delegates from each District was very informative. It was a pleasure to see some new faces at Connexional Meetings, but faithful delegates were there to support and guide.

SPIRITUALITY

The foundation of our Organisation is built on our motto which is “To Know Christ and Make Him Known,” and to that end Devotions are a priority before meetings. Ministers have been instrumental in providing guidance and leadership in areas of spirituality. Novel ways have been uncovered in using the Scriptures not only for
quizzes, but verses are used as a theme for Branch Meetings. Christian Books too were used to grow members in their daily walk with Christ. Seeking the Saviour’s hand on those suffering bodily and emotionally has been achieved through prayer. Members have prayed for the lonely and frail in hospital or at home, as well as members facing some crisis or other, either on visits or at meetings.

**EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH**
Members have done much in reaching across denominational barriers. They have participated in the Women’s World Day of Prayer, as well as reaching out to all women during Church Unity Week, and the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women services. Prisons have been visited, sharing God’s Word. Bible-women have been given food and clothing as they continue to be agents of God’s love reaching out to members in their communities. Fun days have been organised, involving members of congregations, as well as high teas and spring teas. Sadly we need to report that more branches have closed during the year, mainly due to the age of members. Some members joined a fellowship group others have become County & Postal Branch members.

**JUSTICE AND SERVICE**
Justice and Service is really what the Women’s Auxiliary is all about. So many projects have been undertaken during the year that it leaves one speechless that so much has been achieved by so few, as Sir Winston Churchill once said. Projects have included providing for Soup Kitchens, Stop Hunger Campaign, blanket and tracksuit projects, catering for babies in maternity wards or behind bars, toys collected for a Motor Cycle Club for distribution at Christmas time. More projects in providing stationery for schools and crèches, food, blankets, jerseys, and it still isn’t the end of outreach, as so much more has been achieved for those in need. A novel idea has been placing a Christmas tree in the foyer of a Church and asking members of the congregation to pin an envelope containing money on the tree. The money collected in this way was sufficient to buy new shoes for all the children at a local Children’s Home.

**HUMAN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT AND EDUCATION**
Much has been done to lighten the burden of older members of the poorer communities and others such as:

- Speakers advising the needy on Social Pensions, who qualifies and how to apply;
- Bee-keeping, making cheese at home, assisting people in growing their own vegetables;
- Alpha course presented in prison;
- Education projects to enhance the skill of women, enabling them to earn extra income including how to sew, knit and crochet;
- A church in need was shown how to fundraise;
• Providing a minister with furnishings for her home;
• Helping a destitute mother with items for her house;
• Making puppets to help with story telling;
• A District had a first in experiencing a cultural event called ‘Marriage of Cultures’, noting the differences between Indian, Zulu and European marriages. The sharing of food highlighted their similarities and differences.

COUNTRY AND POSTAL MEMBERS
The Country & Postal Branch is a vital arm of the Women’s Auxiliary. District and Branch Secretaries have kept in regular contact with members, providing them with food for thought in their monthly newsletters. They are informed of what is happening in Branches, and are acknowledged on their birthdays. This service however, comes at a cost, so Country & Postal secretaries wish to express their gratitude for donations of cash and stamps received to support this ministry.

FINANCE
To do any fundraising, time and effort are crucial to help those in need. This has been achieved by holding cake sales, and cake-less sales, revamping Birthday and other cards, having Curry & Rice sales as well jumble sales. All this ensures that we are able to support so many Methodist outreaches. A total of R2100000 was generated this year of which R1750000 went to help Methodist Church communities, orphanages and Old age Homes.

JUBILEE FUND
Interest from the Investment held at Methodist Connexional Office was used to give two widows of minister’s with dependent children a grant of R3500 each. These ladies were from the Kimberley Namibia & Bloemfontein District, who expressed their gratitude to the ladies of the Women’s Auxiliary in receiving this generous gift.

THANKS
District Executives have expressed their appreciation to Branch Executives in finding novel ways in making Branch Meetings interesting and meaningful. They have appreciated too, opportunity given them by Ministers of local Churches to advertise the outreach of the Women’s Auxiliary during Church Services and Women’s Auxiliary Services. hanks and appreciation was expressed by District Executives for the General President’s visit to their Districts and Branches. Members with 50 or more years of service to the Women’s Auxiliary were each given a certificate in acknowledgement of their dedication and commitment.

In closing we express our thanks to our Almighty Father who has given us the opportunity to serve Him by serving His people:

_The One Eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,_
_For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore!_
PREAMBLE:
We, as the Young Women’s Manyano members acknowledge as our sole head, Jesus Christ, the Son of God – our Lord, Saviour and Redeemer. We look to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and Power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper his creative and redemptive work in the World even though we seem to have entered a period where our young children, especially girls, are indulging in drugs and adults are burning schools and other Government Institution buildings. We claim as our own the faith of our Church, our responsibility within the Church to make this faith our own in the reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God.

OVERVIEW OF THE YOUNG WOMEN’S MANYANO WORK:

Spirituality:
As the Districts we have activities that we participate in to make sure that we grow spiritually, which includes the following:
• Retreats, Chain prayers, prayer clusters and the Washing of Blouses.
• Candle-lighting Memorial services, Revivals, Thanks-giving services, as well as Weekend camps for some Districts and Circuits.
• Praise, Worship, Reading and Sharing the Word of God in our weekly, circuit, Districts and General Connexional meetings.
• Organised prayers, where we visit hospitals and hospices giving them hope to trust in God.
• Visiting prisons to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Evangelism and Church Growth:
• Ecumenism is already taking place in some Districts where inter-denominational Young Women’s gatherings, Revivals, Retreats and Bible Studies are taking place.
• We have a growing number of young women who are joining the Local Preachers, Evangelists and Ministry.
• Equipping and empowering Junior Manyano through our rallies and Conventions on how to conduct themselves. We also engage them in our outreach programme so that they can also be exposed to what is happening within our churches.
• As Young Women in the church we join other Organisations and participate in church projects such as Street Revivals and Hospital visits, and inviting people to Christ. We also reach out to bereaved families both in the church and in
our communities. This is our method of us giving hope to the broken and the vulnerable by showing them God’s unending Glory.

Justice, Service and Reconciliation:
• We take care and nurture the members of the Junior Manyano.
• Members from different Circuits/Districts visit mission houses and assist with renovations, replace old furniture where possible.
• Mandela day observations and peace marching.
• Members go out to the communities and schools to donate clothes, uniform, toiletries especially to young girls and food parcels to needy children and visiting the adopted Homes, children, crèches and families.
• Thursdays-in-Black and peaceful marches are still continuing in highlighting our fight against women and children abuse.

Human & Economic Development and Empowerment:
• Workshops at Circuit, Regional and District levels are a source of development to our members. The high unemployment rate has remained a big challenge to our members and this has resulted in a lack on the economic aspect that tends to demoralise some of our members and affects their participation in the growth of our Organisation. Our prayer and hope is seeing all young women being able to do things for themselves.
• We encourage members to have vegetable gardens; through the sales of vegetables they are able to contribute to pledge, membership and other church activities.
• Skills empowerment workshops are held where our members are taught how to do beadwork in order to better their lives as well as of their families.

Education:
• Reading corners are still continuing in all Districts.
• When having our regional and district conventions, we invite guest speakers within our church who remind us of who we are and how should a young woman in a church live and behave.
• We encourage learners within our church to read by supplying them with various kinds of reading materials e.g. books, magazines etc.
• Our members take care of Junior Manyano and educate them about our Church and human values.
• We organise guest speakers to do educational workshops on how to empower ourselves as young women in our District and Connexional Conventions.
• HIV/AIDS infected and affected are taken care of by educating them on how to live and deal with the disease.
• KNB District took time and showed solidarity when they were praying at the gates of the University of Free State - condemning the vandalism of institutional structures around the country, praying for one body, one spirit and one faith to restore hope.
CHALLENGES:
• Slow increase/decrease of Young Women’s Manyano numbers due to natural attrition (death), young women getting married or changing their membership to the Women’s Manyano.
• Unemployment and poverty are other challenges facing our members.
• HIV/AIDS is still a huge challenge facing our church at large.
• Starting and maintaining long-term projects within our Districts. Lack of commitment from some of our members.
• Not all District reports are received in time.
• Triennial magazine (Tri-Mag) has not been printed yet for 2016 due to some Districts not paying.

HIGHLIGHTS:
• Young Women’s Manyano Triennial for 2016 was held in Welkom, Northern Free State and Lesotho District. Both the Presiding Bishop and the General President in their addresses highlighted for us that this is the time that we as the Young Women’s Manyano need to “Get up”. “Young Woman – Arise, Vuka Ntombazana, Tsoha Morwetsana”.
• “Something inside so strong” – during the Memorial Service we were also reminded that it really does not matter what we are going through, as long as there is something that keeps us going, with Jesus the Lord and Saviour living inside us, urging us to carry on continuing in life.
• We were also reminded to walk in ways that make God smile upon us and for the Kingdom of God to open up. Also that Praise and Worship is not about coming to church every Sunday; it is done anywhere that you feel you are in God’s Presence. As Young Women we are reminded of our Vision and Mission Statement “to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ for healing and transformation” and our Vision of “A Christ healed Africa for the healing of nations”.
• The presence of the Mozambique delegation to the 2016 Triennial after a long time made us to realise how great it becomes to do things together and for one another. It was really touching and emotional when the Young Women’s Manyano District President from Mozambique highlighted for us how some of them were coming to the Triennial of the Young Women as well as coming to South Africa for the first time. We would like to thank our entire Young Women’s Manyano Districts for making sure that our sisters together with the District President from Mozambique were able to join us, by seeing to their travelling to and from Mozambique as well as the Conference accommodation and benefits in becoming part of our 2016 Triennial. We hope and pray to God that this relationship that has been started with them continues.

ACHIEVEMENTS:
• Natal Coastal District has seen the weddings of 7 Young Women’s Manyano members. Even though this can be seen as a decrease on our statistics, this is also
seen as God’s blessing and an increase to the Women’s Manyano. The Kunene Housing Project done by the Natal Coastal District has been completed and awaits the invitation of the General Executive for the official hand-over.

- One District, KNB, has the Young Women’s Manyano magazine, Young Women’s Manyano Facebook page as well as the Young Women’s Manyano website.
- Increase in the membership of the Junior Manyano and won the prize of R3000 for the best church garden in the Lejweleputswa District, Free State. The prize included garden tools. A walker was bought for one member who can no longer walk on her own.
- The Lesang Boroko Multi-purpose Primary Co-operative has been registered by three (3) members of the KNB District and has been offered tenders to supply three schools around Thaba ‘Nchu with groceries for lunch.
- The first Young Women’s Manyano District President who is a Young Women’s Manyano member - Limpopo District.
- Central District adopted institutions:
  - Chaucer Home in Alexandra.
  - A Bekkersdal crèche.
  - Mzwabantu Orphanage Home.
  - Mofolo Home based care Centre that cares for the HIV/AIDS with financial assistance.
  - Mmatsie Tutu is a 5 year old who has been adopted by the Johannesburg North Circuit. The future plan of the Circuit is to look after her until she finished her studies.
  - In Mathole informal settlement, one Young Women’s Manyano member and her siblings has been adopted and is being assisted financially together with her siblings.

**Objectives of the Implementation plan:**
- To empower members of the Young Women’s Manyano.
- To support and empower Young Women who head families in a holistic manner.
- To empower Young women and men with life skills. We were provided with information on the Government departments that we can approach.

**What happens at the end of three years?**
- Every district to showcase what they have done - Mission Cameos and exhibition stalls.
- Financial statement and plans.
- Thorough audits that will done.

**Vision: “Self-actualisation of Young Women”. Focus Areas are:**
- Development of self.
- Socialisation of me and others.
• Socialisation in Church.
• Spiritualisation.

• **Envisaged Outcomes:** one or two Young Women’s Manyano projects that can be done on a continuous basis to empower Young Women’s Manyano Members with necessary Skills for Effective Leadership as well as the Growth of the Organisation.
• Implementation Plan has been sent to all the Districts for discussion and will be continued during the coming General Meeting that will be held in the Cape of Good Hope next February 2017.

**FUTURE PLANS:**
• The design of the Pin for the Junior Manyano and the Guidelines.
• Finalise the review of the Young Women’s Manyano Constitution that the Task Team is busy with.
• To have joint sustainable and continuous Projects with other Organisations within the Church.

**CONCLUSION:**
Thanksgiving, Honour and Praise always goes to our Lord, Saviour and Redeemer Jesus Christ for calling us, enabling us, empowering us in doing the Discipleship work that we are doing. Thanks too to each and every member of our Organisation for the support and prayers. As the Young Women’s Manyano we would like to take this opportunity to wish our Presiding Bishop and the Executive of the Church a blessed and spirit filled 2016 Conference.
WORLD FEDERATION OF METHODIST
AND UNITING CHURCH WOMEN

SOUTHERN AND EAST AFRICA AREA REPORT

2011-2016 - “BAMBELELA, CHRIST IS OUR HOPE”

Mrs Gretta Xoliswa Makhwenkwe

INTRODUCTION
The quinquennium 2011-2016 under the theme, ‘Bambelela, Christ Is Our Hope’ has been an enriching journey. The sisterhood has been a vehicle for awakening women to challenges facing women in various countries of the continent. It also endeavoured to strengthen faith as women became agents of change in their communities through making the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) a success. Women realised they are strong in relation to their dependence on God and their active participation with His transforming purposes in their lives.

WEAVING TOGETHER PROGRAMME:
The World President, Ann Connan, had very empowering teachings on how to strengthen an organisation. Growth of the Federation and hindrances to growth were extensively analysed and discussed. What drives the organisation and what is the passion of the members are questions that were interrogated.

AREA SEMINAR:
The seminar was held in Cape Town where it was a joy to have various units from the following countries in attendance: South Africa, Zimbabwe, Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Uganda. Though in the case of some countries it was just one or two members, but the unit was represented. Members went into commissions that were divided according to the MDGs allocated to the Area. Deliberations gave direction to the agenda of the area and a programme of action to be followed by the units.

A protest march against child and women abuse was led by Bishop Hansrod of the MCSA in the Cape of Good Hope. Thursdays-in-Black was observed by the women. The Area President, Mrs Gretta Makhwenkwe, handed over the memorandum at the police station after a speech that highlighted the plight of women as victims of abuse.

Outreach to the community was embarked upon. The Rape Crisis Centre trains women to go and do advocacy work, educates young girls and women who have been raped, runs support groups and gives the necessary support to victims and their
families. The Area donated a much needed data projector to the centre to enable the training of trainers. Toiletries and some educational consumables were donated to an orphanage in Cape Town. Lastly, the home of an elderly lady in Worcester was furnished with some essentials.

WORK ON THE MDGs:
MDGs 1 and 6 always form the basis of the mission work done by the Area. The lifestyle of women is encouraged to embrace and promote achievement of these MDGs at all times.

MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education. The following are some of the activities done to promote this MDG:
• Building and partnering with early childhood development centres (ECDCs);
• Ensuring quality education by providing educational toys and upskilling the teachers.

MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women. Activities done are:
• Teenage mothers provided with baby clothing and taught to knit and crochet;
• Sanitary towels provided to rural schools to restore the dignity of girl-children;
• Bursaries to girls to access tertiary education;
• Meaningful and intentional conversations with teenage mothers to help them realise their self-worth;
• Encourage re-use, recycle and renew to ensure environmental sustainability.

NEW LEADERSHIP:
Area President: 2016-2021 - Mrs Sipiwe Chisvo (Zimbabwe)
Vice-President: 2016-2021 - Mrs Patricia Mapani (Zimbabwe)

CONCLUSION:
As women of this Area we are strengthened by Galatians 6:9 - “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” As pillars of strength in our families - whether married or unmarried - we get strength from sharing our stories with other women. Promoting sound families anchored in Christian values is core to our calling in “Knowing Christ and Making Him Known.”
WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Rev JE Nomvuyo Mpuqa

“Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked”. (Psalm 82:3-4)

SHE WAS FOR FORTY YEARS!!!

It was on the morning of the 4th July 2016 that the Methodist Church woke up to the sad news of the passing away of the woman who dared to fan into flame the vision God put in her heart as God was weaving her together in her mother’s womb - the vision to “bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery to the blind, to set free the oppressed and to announce that the time has come when the Lord will save God’s people”.

If it was not for her refusing to let the vision die, and instead heeding God’s call to full time Ministry of Word and Service, and later Word and Sacrament, women in this church would be rocking the swing chair of regret and waving a white handkerchief to the music of “if only …….”. But thanks to Reverend Constance Oosthuizen, this year the MCSA is celebrating forty years of ordaining Women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament! We give God all the glory and honour for her life which was well lived as a true ambassador of Christ! May her soul rest in peace and rise up in glory!

WORK OVERVIEW

This year we are celebrating forty years of ordaining Women into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in our church. What are we celebrating as Women in the ordained Ministry?

We are celebrating the fact that God chose us, called us and anointed us, to journey with all those who are marginalised by society with a heart that understands what they are going through and remain a beacon of hope to them as we come across to them as wounded healers! We celebrate the church that afforded us the limited space to offer that much needed Ministry to those who need it most!

ACHIEVEMENTS

It was only ten years ago that we celebrated thirty years of ordaining Women in the MCSA at Natal Coastal District. We celebrated on our own; not many people in the Connexion were even aware of the event, but in 2015 Conference made the following resolutions:

• To recognise and celebrate the ordination of Women Ministers for 40 years, and affirm the work already done by the Presiding Bishop, especially by establishing...
a Task Team to lead these celebrations in 2016. As part of the celebration, Conference directs the Task Team in consultation with SMMS to develop a booklet on the history and stories of Women in Ministry. The Finance Unit is requested to make provision for the cost involved.

- Noting that 2016 marks the 40th anniversary of the Ordination of Women, and the low number of Women Ministers in leadership within the Connexion, Conference refers all issues relating to the involvement of women at all levels of leadership in the church to the Mission Unit for consideration during the reflective sessions planned for 2016. Conference further instructs Districts, Circuits and Organisations to be intentional about the inclusion of Women in leadership and leadership development pipelines, such as leading conversations, Bible studies or as Guest Speakers in all the 40th celebrations in 2016.

- Conference requests the Connexional Executive to be intentional about the appointment of Women Ministers as Circuit Superintendents as a means of enabling gender equality and inclusion in senior leadership in the church (italics mine).

- Conference directs EMMU in consultation with DEWCOM to develop guidelines and reflection tools as well as convene reflective sessions on the persistence of patriarchal attitudes at all levels of our church and report on progress at Conference 2016.

**CHALLENGES**

Despite the above 2015 Conference Resolutions, Synod 2016 still elected male bishops even in Districts where there was a female candidate. What is even more sad is that this very Conference will ratify the elections. Women Superintendents are just tokenism. Most of these women’s voices are silenced. Males, even those that are not in active Ministry, remain “The Voice” in all matters affecting the Circuit where the Superintendent is, according to our Book of Order, the official head of the Church in the Circuit …. (BOO:78)The question we need to ask is “How many people in leadership are even aware of these resolutions? Do these cascade to the grass roots? Who is the watchdog of Conference Resolutions?”

**CONCLUSION**

I would like to conclude by thanking all the Districts, Circuits and Societies for acknowledging and affirming Women Ministers in 2016 by creating spaces for them in their celebration events where they have asked them to be guest speakers or conduct Bible studies. May God continue to bless you all! To Districts who have elected women to top leadership positions e.g. Vice-chairperson, Secretary of Synod etc, we salute you!

Let us all continue in our respective spaces to convene reflective sessions on the persistence of patriarchal attitudes in our Circuits. May the Holy Spirit guide us!

Shalom!
CHAPTER 17

YOUNG MENS’ GUILD

Rev M Samson Nhlapo

INTRODUCTION
The Connexional Young Men’s Guild had during the week of 1-5 June 2016 held its 27th Triennial Conference at Saulsville Society, Pretoria Central Circuit, Limpopo District. The theme for the Triennial Conference was “Mission Shaped Disciples for Transformation and Healing.” It was during that Convention that the new Young Mens’ Guild Connexional Executive Committee was inducted. The new Connexional EXCO comprised of the following members:

General President: Rev. Mphengwa Samson Nhlapo
General Vice President: Bro. Mthuthuzeli Buyeye
General Secretary: Bro. Malesela John Mokoele
General Recording Secretary: Bro. Crosby Thanduxolo Manase Breakfast
General Treasurer: Bro. Jimmy Matsho
General DDSR Secretary: Bro. Abner Motlogeloa Mathabe
General Committee Members: Bro. Keikanetswe Conrad Taukobong
Bro. Choene Albert Mokobane
Rev. Mthuthuzeli Izeman Puleni (Posthumously)

This Connexional Young Mens’ Guild EXCO is taking over from and following in the footsteps of the past committee that was led by the late General President Reverend Motlalepule Petrus Leseba who met his untimely death on the 29th February 2016 at Welkom and was buried on the 10th March 2016 at Klerksdorp. May his soul rest in peace.

The report captures ten elements that are: introduction, visits to districts, finance, mission imperatives, GDDSR, Young Mens’ Guild Constitution, membership of the Young Mens’ Guild, 27th Triennial Conference, tribute to General President - Reverend Motlalepule Petrus Leseba and Conclusion.

VISITS TO DISTRICTS
As per roster, the following Districts were visited and supported in 2015 by the Connexional Executive Committee: Cape of Good Hope, Highveld and Swaziland, Natal West and Northern Free State and Lesotho. The roster for 2016 District visits was successfully concluded as follows: Natal Coastal, Central, Clarkebury and Queenstown. The past Connexional Executive Committee has completed all District visits and support during their term for the Connexion at large. It must be
noted as well that, not only the Young Mens’ Guild was visited and supported, but
the following Connexional sister organisations were visited during their respective
Conferences and Conventions: Women’s Manyano, Young Woman’s Manyano,
Order of Evangelism and Bible Women, Music Organisation and Local Preachers
Association.

FINANCE
The Connexional Young Mens’ Guild continues to do reasonably well with its
finances. They are audited annually and tabled at the Connexional General Executive
Committee meetings for approval. We are still trying to improve on fundraising
activities to complement our cash-flow and ability to support the various projects
identified by the Young Mens’ Guild and sometimes the church.

MISSION IMPERATIVES
The mission imperatives aspects are fully captured and successfully addressed in all
Districts. The following are but a summary of all the past three years report:

Spirituality
Most of the Districts still engage in Bible studies and prayer meetings to keep
spirituality mission alive. It is also of interest to note in Grahamstown District that
100% of the males within the Local Preachers Association are Young Mens’ Guild
members.

Evangelism and Church Growth
Night-vigils and street revivals are still prominent mechanisms of spreading the
Gospel. Door to door strategy is applied in Limpopo District while an evangelical
campaign was conducted in White Mount Circuit of Clarkebury District. Cluster
revivals feature prominently in both NFSL and KNB Districts. Hospital and prison
visits for prayers happen generally in all districts.

Human Empowerment and Economic Development
A majority of Districts invited motivational speakers on issues such as “Men’s
Health”, “Financial Stewardship” and “Adopt a Boy-child” campaigns and embark
on outreach with sister-organisations.

Justice and service
Some of the Districts supported and conducted activities to commemorate International
Nelson Mandela Day. They painted the House of Hope Centre, contributed school
shoes to indigent learners, conducted Bible studies on “Women abuse” and provided
groceries to the needy. Limpopo District continued to implement the “Young Mens’
Guild - Thokoza Statement of Faith and Life” against the abuse of women and
children in every convention in their District.
Education and Christian formation
Most of the Districts intensified their progress in this mission. Among others, Highveld and Swaziland District held “Men Summit” on socio-political and economic issues while Grahamstown gave R2 256 in school-fees to Ms Nontobeko Sihlongonyane. Natal West District provided R7 000 towards school uniforms for thirteen learners while Queenstown distributed furniture and four brand new computers with printers, to the tune of R60 000 to Msundulo Primary School. Central District distributed bursaries of R25 000 to destitute students while Clarkebury District ensured that sixty three learners were dressed in school uniform at Brooksnek.

GDDSR
The 12 Districts continued to empower communities around them and members of the organisation. As part of the empowerment initiatives, the 2015 CGEC resolved that the Mozambique District must be visited to be empowered on matters relating to the church and Young Mens’ Guild. That was done during a visit by the officials from the 12 Districts and the Connexional Young Mens’ Guild EXCO. All the circuit leaders were trained on the roles and responsibility of each portfolio including how the Young Mens’ Guild in the circuit operates and how to manage the finances of the Organisation.

Pivotal to note is the Philani (Clinic) Project currently underway in the two districts of KNB and Clarkebury. As reported during the last Conference, the active project is underway in Ndofela, Sterkspruit, KNB District. The partnership on this project has been formalised between the Young Mens’ Guild, the District Municipality, and the Eastern Cape Government, care of the Provincial Department of Health and the Community of Ndofela, Sterkspruit. Great strides have been made in this project and the provincial government has agreed to provide substantial funding. It is expected that by the end of the year the first phase of the project will be completed.

Notwithstanding the above, different District projects such as building a house for the Louw family who stays at Vryburg (North West) at Central District, building a house to the tune of R35 000 for a widow by Highveld and Swaziland District, Clothing of the elders by Queenstown District and back to school project of clothing and shoes by Clarkebury and Northern Free State and Lesotho Districts are but few examples of the excellent job done by the Young Mens’ Guild-movement under the 26th Triennial Conference theme: “The role of Christian men (Young Mens’ Guild) in reclaiming humanity in a broken society: The 2nd Century outlook”

YOUNG MENS’ GUILD CONSTITUTION
The Young Mens’ Guild had again during the last Triennial Convention considered amendments to the current constitution to make final inputs and or comments. The inputs and comments have since been consolidated into a final draft Young Mens’ Guild Constitution which is hereby tabled for consideration by the MCSA Conference. The final draft has been referred to the Revision Committee as determined by
protocol. This process has been ongoing since the 2013 Triennial Convention and the Connexional Young Mens’ Guild desires that the process be finalised.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE YOUNG MENS’ GUILD (STATISTICS)

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27th TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

During its 27th Triennial Conference held in Saulsville Methodist Church, the Connexional Young Mens’ Guild elected Rev. Nkosinathi A. Geja as the Young Mens’ Guild General President-Elect. He will be inducted during the next Triennial Conference to be held in 2019 at a venue still to be confirmed.

TRIBUTE TO GP-REV MOTLALEPULE PETRUS LESEBA

The tragic death of the General President, Rev Motlalepule Petrus Leseba was commemorated in all twelve Districts in their different District Conventions. An amount of R22 000 was collected for condolences from Districts and was sent to the Leseba family by the Connexional Executive Committee.

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED

In the rising of the sun and it’s going down;
In the blowing of the wind and the chill of winter;
In the opening of the buds and the rebirth of spring;
In the blueness of the sky and it’s going down;
In the beginning of the year and when it ends

When I am weary and in need of strength;
When I am lost and sick at heart;
When I have joys, I yearn to share;
So long as I live; you too shall live, for you are part of me.
May your beautiful and humble soul rest in peace!
CONCLUSION
The Connexional Young Mens’ Guild continues to grow in strength and members continue to brighten every corner where they are. This is despite the challenges of life, including growing unemployment affecting most of our membership. We shall continue to pray for our church, its organisations and the government to provide leadership during periods of crisis. We believe that even during this era of the new leadership in the organisation, we will continue to strive for “a Christ healed Africa for the healing of the nations.” God bless you all abundantly!

This is the spirit in the Connexion - “One heart, One way!!!”
CHAPTER 18
DOCTRINE, ETHICS AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Bishop Mthobeli Matyumza

The work of DEWCOM encompasses engaging with current issues pertaining to doctrine, ethics and worship. Members of the committee consider it an honour and privilege to serve the Methodist people in this manner. Therefore this committee should be understood as a resource for the Church through Conference, and as a conscience that seeks to serve and assist the MCSA to be theologically proactive and contextual as she responds to contemporary, yet very complex, challenges in this era, and as we navigate into the future. We have to learn as a denomination to be guided by our theology in taking decisions, avoiding the tendency of being reactive and emotional in decision making, and regret it later.

Methodist people are reminded that documents produced by DEWCOM are available for viewing and/or downloading at: www.mcsadwecom.blogspot.co.za.

DEWCOM notes with sadness the deaths of the Rev. Prof. Neville Richardson, Rev. Neill Robinson, and Rev. Dr. Simon Gqubule. At one point, during their years of ministry, these great theological giants of Methodism and gifted ministers served in this committee. Their enormous contribution to the life and ministry of the church will be sorely missed. The committee also notes the death of the Rev. Constance Oosthuizen, whose 40th anniversary of ordination is being celebrated in the MCSA currently. Her struggle for acceptance into the ministry of the MCSA and courageous witness for the gospel should never be forgotten.

1. MATTERS REFERRED BY CONFERENCE

1.1 Party political chaplaincy (2016 Yearbook, para. 2.5, pg. 99)
DEWCOM notes that the Presiding Bishop appointed a committee that prepared a document in this regard. That document was circulated to circuits for discussion and feedback. DEWCOM calls upon the MCSA to continue with respectful dialogue pertaining to this matter. DEWCOM is currently producing a paper on the role of the church in the political sphere. It is envisaged that this paper will inspire the church to debate the matter further and come to a sound theological understanding of its role in the political sphere.

1.2 Ministerial farewell gifts (2016 Yearbook, para. 2.10, pg. 99)
DEWCOM notes that the Finance Unit produced a document pertaining to this matter and circulated it for discussion at Circuit Quarterly Meetings. DEWCOM advises against legislating ministerial farewell gifts as our...
church operates in diverse cultural contexts. Having said that, giving gifts to ministers should be done in a moral and ethical manner. Personal benefit should not precede the gospel imperative of sharing with the poor. Ministers should resist the temptation of enriching themselves at the expense of mission in their circuits and societies.

1.3 **Xenophobia** (2016 Yearbook, para 2.20, pg. 101)
DEWCOM acknowledges the complexity of this issue and awaits the finalisation of the discussion document by the Mission Unit. This issue raises the question of whether the MCSA has a clear theological understanding of how the least, the last and the lost should be treated. DEWCOM, through the liturgy sub-committee is working on producing liturgical material that seeks to dispel xenophobia and create cultural integration of all.

1.4 **Initiation schools** (2016 Yearbook, para. 2.24, pg. 102)
DEWCOM awaits finalisation of the work by the Mission Unit. Production of liturgical material that will assist our ministers in their response to initiation and similar cultural practices is underway. Production of a discussion document on the subject is underway as well. DEWCOM advises the Mission Unit to include a discussion on initiation in the agenda of the upcoming mission congress. DEWCOM undertakes to introduce a standing item on this issue in their agenda for discussion.

1.5 **Youth pastors' training** (2016 Yearbook, para. 2.29, pg. 102)
DEWCOM submits to Conference that youth pastors are lay staff and therefore their relationship with the church is contractual and not covenantal. Our theology of ordination, which does not apply to youth pastors, calls for a life-long intent and commitment of the one ordained to ministry. This is not the case with youth pastors and other lay agents.

1.6 **Patriarchal attitudes and sexual discrimination against women in ministry** (2016 Yearbook, para. 2.33, pg. 103)
DEWCOM advises the Mission Unit, as per the resolution from Conference, to place the issue of patriarchy on the agenda of the upcoming Mission Congress. DEWCOM is developing papers for discussion and publication on the pervasiveness of patriarchal attitudes as well as gender discrimination. Furthermore, DEWCOM commits to publish some articles in the Dimension that highlight these issues. DEWCOM notes that the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women in the MCSA offers the church a unique opportunity to reflect on these issues and to take steps in addressing them.

1.7 **Ministerial session** (2016 Yearbook, para. 2.40, pg. 104)
DEWCOM advises Conference to explore experimental formulae that could address the need for ministerial engagement. For example, certain districts within the Connexion have set up clergy convocations where they deal particularly with issues pertaining to theological formation, moral
and ethical behaviours and accountability of ministers. While ministerial sessions are not a solution, space is needed where theological integrity, accountability and ongoing formation happens amongst colleagues. This could happen at a district level. DEWCOM is in the process of drawing up the framework for dealing with matters relating to the presbyteral order within our current structures.

2. **DOCTRINE**
   2.1 **Same-sex relationships**
   DEWCOM advises Conference of the necessity to keep the conversation on this matter going. The resource “In search of grace and truth” remains valuable in facilitating the conversation. DEWCOM encourages the church to use the “profession of the MCSA’s unity in diversity” (Book of Order 2014:216-218) in our services as a method of acknowledging the diversity of opinions regarding this matter.

   2.2 **Diversity and Interpretation of Scripture**
   DEWCOM is pleased to announce that a document on the diversity and interpretation of scripture is ready for tabling at Conference 2016.

   2.3 **Definition of Christian marriage**
   DEWCOM is pleased to announce that a document on the theology of marriage is ready for tabling at Conference 2016.

   2.4 **Order of Deacons**
   The Methodist Order of Deacons, through the General Secretary, presented a document of amendments to chapter 13 of the Book of Order. Relevant to DEWCOM were only clauses 13.1.1 and 13.2.
   13.1.1 should be amended to read: “A deacon in the MCSA is ordained for the ministry of word and service.”
   13.2 should be amended to read: “As members of an ordained ministry, members of the Order of Deacons are addressed as “Deacon”.

3. **WORSHIP AND LITURGY**
   DEWCOM wishes to report to Conference that the liturgy sub-committee, under the leadership of Bishop Anderson, will convene a meeting with a view to revise the membership of that committee as well as charting a way forward regarding liturgy production and publication.

4. **RESOLUTION TO CONFERENCE**
   DEWCOM wishes to submit the following resolution to Conference, for consideration:

   **Widening the pool: the election of female clergy to positions of senior leadership in the MCSA**
   DEWCOM notes that the ongoing failure of the MCSA to elect female clergy to the
office of Bishop and other positions of senior leadership denies our understanding of what it means to be the body of Christ, impoverishes the church, undermines its witness and compromises its commitment to justice, healing and transformation. DEWCOM therefore requests Conference to set up a task team to explore this ongoing reality and make recommendations of changes in the processes of identifying, nominating and appointing suitable candidates for these roles that would address these concerns.

**NOMINATION OF DEWCOM COMMITTEE FOR 2017**

DEWCOM wishes to propose the following to serve on the committee in 2017:

A very interesting acquisition for the Archives in 2015 was two scrapbooks compiled by Rev William J. Marris (1842-1926) of Bradford, Yorkshire. He collected autographs, mainly in the form of letters, of all the Presidents of Conference from 1793 to 1920 and arranged them in a scrapbook with a portrait or photograph of each person. Included in this collection are two original letters written by John Wesley and one written by Charles Wesley, with the envelopes in which they were posted. The letters from John Wesley were written to Miss Peggy Dale of the Orphan House, Newcastle on 1 April 1766 and to Tommy Roberts of the New Room, Cork in 1789. The letter from Charles Wesley was written in 1778 but the name of the recipient is illegible. The second scrapbook contains newspaper cuttings and portraits or photographs of ministers.

The two scrapbooks were discovered in a filing cabinet in the Museum at Kingswood College in 2014 and have been entrusted to the Methodist Archives at the Cory Library, Rhodes University where they will be preserved in a temperature controlled and dust free environment. Their history is not known, but it is speculated that when Rev Marris died in 1926 a family member must have inherited them and they later on found their way to Kingswood College, possibly through Rev Howard Kirkby who was the Chaplain there for many years.

During the period July ’15 - June ‘16 the following requests were received: Marriage records, 62; Family tree information, 7; Baptismal records, 25; Historical research, 31; Burial records, 2.

There has been a big increase in the number of requests for marriage records, mainly from people needing to get unabridged marriage certificates from the Dept. of Home Affairs. Unfortunately many churches and ministers have not sent their marriage, baptism and burial registers to the Archives which means that there are extensive gaps in the holdings. For example there are no church registers in the Archives for the whole of Johannesburg and surrounding areas later than 1949. These registers are an invaluable research tool and should ideally be in the Archives where they are accessible to everyone. In 2014 the Connexional Marriage Officer instructed all Marriage Officers in the Methodist Church to send all their used Marriage Registers to the Archives for preservation. To date only 44 ministers have responded. There is also a growing interest in writing down the history of Societies and Circuits celebrating anniversaries and wanting to produce brochures for the occasion. There
is a scarcity of information available about individual churches and any brochures or pamphlets that are produced should be sent to the Archives. Churches should encourage the writing down of their history by those who have been members for a long time, before such institutional memory is lost. A valuable reference source is the set of Minutes of Conference dating back to the early 1800s which is available in the Archives, as well as the index to the obituaries which appear in the Minutes each year and which are useful in finding information about the life and work of specific ministers. Also available in the Archives are back numbers of Dimension and The Methodist Churchman which are useful for historical research.

Please do not send to the Archives financial records such as bank statements, old cheque books, financial reports etc., as they take up a lot of space and are not of general interest. Only financial reports of specific or unusual interest will be kept.

Requests for information from the Archives come from all over South Africa as well as neighbouring countries and overseas. Many people visit the Archives themselves and make use of the material there to do their own research into family histories. Thank you to the staff at the Cory Library for their friendly assistance in accessing material and finding information.
CHAPTER 20

METHODIST YOUTH UNIT

Rev Luxolo Mantini

INTRODUCTION
2015 was a year filled with diverse social realities such as xenophobic violence, civil unrest (service delivery protests), devastating drought, a volatile economy, Fees must Fall protests, hate speech cases, Statue removal protests (UCT) and Stellenbosch University Language Policy protests. Central to these social realities is the youth. Below is a narrative of 2015, the year that was …

ADMINISTRATION
For proper governance of the Youth Ministry, CYC 2015 agreed that there needs to be a streamlining that will ensure that the Youth Unit falls directly under the L&D to provide for the Youth and Children’s Ministry in a manner that is aligned to the MCSA doctrines, Theology, Ethos, Worship and Ethics. CYC 2015 started a process to review the governance, structure, operations and leadership of the MYU by appointing a task team that will be assisted by the HR Director, Rev. Dr Mehana. Further, the following terms of reference were presented:

(a) That such a review to be conducted with the involvement of the current leadership of the MYU with a view to align it with the doctrines, theology, ethos, ministries, mission and structures of the MCSA.

(b) That there must be a very clear distinction between what constitutes Church Youth and Children’s Ministry and what constitutes Fellowship Organisations within the Youth and Children’s work.

(c) That the appointment of the Leadership of the Unit be aligned with how other Units of the Church are led, namely that Conference or Connexional Executive should have a closer involvement in such an appointment.

(d) That having re-structured the governance and operations of the Youth and Children’s ministry the Church should provide resources (both financially and human) which could assist in exploring the possibility of having a full time dedicated person to run this Unit.

(e) That clarity should be obtained with regards to the kind of Organisations that should fall under this Unit with clear objectives that will enhance the unity and development of young people and children in our Church.

Coupled with the above, it was agreed that cluster summits (inter-District) would be organised with an intention to examine current realities on Education and the Economy, and to engage the Kairos documents of member countries of MCSA.
**Education**

In our quest to ensure that the poorest of learners experience improvement in the quality of schooling they receive, we applaud the 1 Circuit 1 Computer project by the Grahamstown District youth which was aimed at supplying computers to a school in the Sunshine Coast Region. This new revolution in education has seen the launch of Funda Nathi Bursary Scheme by KNB and the Solomon Thekisoe Education Fund by Northern Free State & Lesotho, aimed at providing tuition fees to youth in need.

It is our sincere hope that the established Connexional Mission Fund (TMMF) is drawing closer to finalising the funding strategy that will provide much needed relief to disadvantaged schools. CYC 2015 endorsed a policy framework that would govern the roll out of funds through the Tsietsi Mashinini Mission Fund for the improvement of school infrastructure in disadvantaged communities. Subsequently, a task team was established to process and adjudicate on applications for school projects.

Whilst most MethSSoc branches maintain a healthy relationship with local churches around issues of pastoral oversight and ultimately with DYUs, it is equally important to note that there are some branches who are still neglected. Such challenges arise from a range of reasons which include matters of administration, lack of insight about this entity as well as adherence.

We applaud the establishment of new branches at CPUT-Athlone campus and Stellenbosch University; this demonstrates growth and relevance of the student’s society at Institutions of Higher Learning. We have always encouraged optimum involvement by our members in general student affairs, and it is for this reason that we celebrate the election of Skhosiphi Cele as General Secretary of the SRC at UKZN. We continue to hold him and others in our prayers as they advance the Wesleyan spirit through their leadership in various institutions. MethSSoc members have an important role to play in the school-going fraternity, that of being “BIG BROTHER”, especially to the grade 11 and 12 pupils who aspire to further their education. We encourage the acts displayed by MethSSoc members of Rhodes University, NMMU and University of Fort Hare who jointly with Queenstown and Grahamstown District Youth Unit, held a career exhibition, assisting pupils on how to apply for student funding and providing comprehensive labour market information.

During the #Fees Must Fall campaigns throughout the country, we convened an urgent meeting between the MethSSoc Connexional and Regional leadership, the office of the Presiding Bishop, the Mission Unit, the Justice and Service Desk and the Education Desk. The purpose was to listen, understand the gravity of the situation on the ground, and try to comprehend the entire student revolution so as to be intentional in our response as the church. We are thankful for the intervention of the Presiding Bishop Rev Siwa and Rev Prof Steven Hendricks (Education Desk) who swiftly engaged University Management of CPUT and Rhodes on the basis of the information shared at that meeting. A prayer service was held at Central Methodist
Mission in Johannesburg the day after, in response to the student unrest. We are grateful to Central Methodist Mission MYU for the hospitality in hosting the CEC and Regional leadership and the whole arrangement of this service. A WhatsApp group was formed by Nancy Herron (Justice and Service Desk) in order to get real-time updates from different campuses around the country and also to communicate strategies to surmount student afflictions on the fly.

**Human and Economic Development**

According to the International Labour Market Database, the unemployment rate of youth indicate the following statistics with respect to member countries of MCSA: Botswana (33.9%), Lesotho (33%), Mozambique (40.7%), Namibia (38.7%), South Africa (52.7%) and Swaziland (42.6%). This depicts a chunk of young people who do not participate in the mainstream economy. We live in an era where young graduates out of frustration, resort to humiliating themselves and seeking employment by displaying placards at road intersections with the hope that they would trend on social media and ultimately find employment out of sympathy. It pained us to learn from the Statistician-General’s report that young black South Africans aged between 24 and 34 are less skilled than their parents. It further revealed that this group is less skilled than any other race and age group. We must therefore commend initiatives by the Wesley Guild and District MYUs for the establishment of the Mission and Education Funds, signing of MOUs, youth development projects and other initiatives that seek to address the issues of education predicaments, skills and economic development. Although at times these efforts might seem like a drop in the ocean, we should never be deterred.

The Youth Economic Empowerment which is an initiative by the Connexional Youth Office did not offer any assistance to entrepreneurial aspirants, due to a moratorium which will remain in place until such time as a resource fund is established. CYC 2015 endorsed the decision to register the Khoza Mgojo Enterprise and therefore it is our hope that this firm resource fund will sustain the operations of YEE going forward.

It was our wish that the Summit on Human and Economic Development envisaged to sit in the KZN Districts which would culminate in the Connexional Symposium, would give rise to conversations around trying to understand the socio-economic character of our youth and their general attitudes towards entrepreneurship and unemployment (or even employment), which could then be espoused.

**Spirituality**

On this imperative of mission, youth entities continuously strive for Christian maturity through spiritual enhancement programmes such as regular Bible studies and spiritual revival services. Some of the Wesley Guilds still meet weekly at local churches to run the 4Cs programme, in particular, Consecration and Community Outreach and Development. We have witnessed in most parts of the Connexion
some youthful and innovative ways of doing praise and worship at youth gatherings and across different church levels. These exciting praise and worship approaches make our covenantal relationship with God relevant and fashionable such that it becomes a draw-card to those who are far from Christ. It must be noted that youth services across the Connexion have begun to have an ecumenical outlook which helps harness spiritual gifts and sharpens relations with our ecumenical partners. We are thankful to God for our well-equipped clergy who during difficult times of conflict within youth formations, facilitate healing processes towards the restoration of peace. We are encouraged that more circuits embrace (September) Youth Month where youth entities and even teens and children lead and minister to congregants. The significance of Youth Month to the spiritual development of youth and children cannot be over emphasised in the life of the church. As such, the spiritual fruits are evident in the number of young people who are called to lay ministry (Local Preachers Association) and various categories of ministry within MCSA.

Evangelism and Church Growth
The Methodist youth remain a “fresh expression” of MCSA in the execution of this pillar. Youth Units at District level have developed an up-to-the-minute method of evangelising called Sport Evangelism. This is where youth compete in various sporting codes with local communities, civil society and Government Departments, thus enabling them to reach out to their peers and infuse the Wesleyan spirit of the “4 Alls”. However, the conventional ways of evangelising such as street revivals are still employed to draw people to the table of Grace. Extensive growth in Children’s Ministry has been widely recorded across Districts. This entity is by far the largest in numbers compared to all entities within the Youth Unit. Youth constitutes a large number of confirmands who are received in circuits. This should be partly but most importantly attributed to the wonderful work done by Children’s Ministry Practitioners and Children’s Pastors who nurture and look after Teen Church. Wesley Guild continues to robe scores of young people each year but its membership has fluctuating statistics. This is due to the very nature of youth, moving around a lot, seeking better education and employment opportunities but also, the fact that they just grow up.

Justice and Service
In the year 2015 we experienced the re-emergence of xenophobic violence against foreign nationals in certain pockets of society in South Africa. This wave of xenophobic attacks started, following an apparent labour dispute between South African and foreign workers at Isiphingo, south of Durban. The Methodist youth heeded the call by the Presiding Bishop to go and encourage the Wesleyan spirit of tolerance and also to locate ourselves on the side of the oppressed. We saw many of our regions and Districts staging prayer walks and peaceful marches against Xenophobia. Our youth took time to partake in peace walks organised by the eThekwini Municipality through the streets of Durban, some joined walks organised by civil society and in
some other Districts, youth organised themselves and were joined by SAPS and other Law Enforcement Agencies. They all echoed the same sentiment, “Not in our name”. However, we should not fall into the trap of thinking we have conquered xenophobic symptoms. South Africa is Africa’s most industrialised country and therefore attracts thousands of foreign nationals seeking refuge from poverty, economic crises, war and government persecution in their home countries. It must also be noted that at independence, unemployment stood at 15% and that figure has skyrocketed to 26.7% in SA. These two realities create aggressive competition for employment and resources triggered partially by the private sector seeking to increase shareholder profits by outsourcing jobs abroad and hiring exploitable foreign nationals. Other contributing factors are some key policy areas by Government which have not been entirely pro-poor. In our engagement with the Presidency during the public participation sessions on Youth Policy, we alluded to the possibilities of settling the foundations of an inclusive society that could accelerate economic transformation.

An initiative by HISWA District youth in collaboration with the Mission Unit to advance the battle against substance abuse through MASA, saw our youth taking to the streets of kwaThema with messages #IamScarred #SayNoToDrugs. We note that other Districts like NFS&L have established similar initiatives called “Youth Ministry against Substance Abuse” and Children’s Ministry Practitioners empower and educate children about this scourge.

Millions of girls from impoverished and rural backgrounds aged 12-19 miss a week of school every month because of a lack of sanitary protection. Many will use unhygienic alternatives which put them at a huge risk of infection and some will completely drop out of school. It is for this reason that the Wesley Guilds in various parts of the Connexion have been on a drive to provide sanitary protection for school girls in order to restore their dignity and keep them in school. The Wesley Guilds continue to provide food parcels to the destitute, Old Age Homes and Orphanages and also donate school uniforms and shoes to needy children. Although not much was reported on the response to the devastating drought experienced in 2015, we applaud the drought relief efforts by the NFS&L Youth Synod, where the youth went out and offered drinking water to communities around Ficksburg and Ladybrand Circuits.

**GENERAL**

Children’s Ministry is by far the biggest entity in numbers within the Methodist Youth Unit. District reports reflect an upward trajectory in terms of the number of children who come in to this ministry but it is not proportionate with the number of practitioners in this ministry. We are pleased that the Feed My Lambs curriculum has been rolled out to all districts. Districts continue to hold Indabas, workshops and camps where Children’s Ministry is involved in some District EMMUs in the training of CMPs. At the Connexional Children’s Ministry Indaba in Barkley West (2015) and Delmas (2016) we had all CMPs present screened and most clearance
certificates handed to the rightful owners, with the help of the Child-chare Desk. However, we are not really getting a sense that the same is being effected in most Districts. We perhaps need to put emphasis on the fact that this is a subject of Child Protection Laws and compliance. Each and every person who has a relationship of trust and works with children must be screened. We note that only two Districts reported having Youth Pastors gatherings. If such gatherings do happen in other Districts as well, where Youth Pastors organise themselves, the least we could ask of District Committees is to be present and to affirm Youth Pastors because after all we are in the same ministry. There is a gradual growth of the Young Adults Movement as an entity. YAM branches were launched in some parts of Central and Limpopo Districts. The Girls Brigade of COGH District participated at the Girls Brigade Africa Fellowship in Zimbabwe. The Wesley Guild movement, ‘the blue train’, continues to be the most dominant and vibrant of all entities in terms of their mission oriented programs. Their strength resides in their systemic organisation at local, regional and District level.

CONCLUSION
We would like to thank the MCSA Leadership for their continued support for this important Ministry. Our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude is expressed to all the District Youth leaders, Child and Youth Workers for advancing the Vision and Mission of MCSA as guided by the Holy Spirit. It is our hope that this report makes sense of our past and creates a vision for a better tomorrow.
INTRODUCTION
I would like to express my gratitude to the Conference of 2015 for appointing me to lead Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary (SMMS). This was a demonstration of the confidence that the church has in me. It is now seven months since we moved into this position. It has not been an easy journey but it has been enjoyable. It is challenging but fulfilling. We have a sense that we are coming to grips with the fundamental responsibilities that we need to hold in this institution if we are to take it forward. One has a sense that SMMS is an institution with a bright future and we are grateful for the firm foundation that was laid by those who went before us. I am also grateful for the work of the MCO, the Governing Council and other bodies of our church for their commitment to the work of SMMS, and also for the continuing support of the Methodist people in general to the staff as they execute their responsibilities. I am, therefore, happy to present to you SMMS’s first report to Conference since I took office. My report is structured according to five areas, viz. Academics, Formation, Finance and Administration, Governance, Partnerships and the Circuit. Then I draw it to a conclusion.

GOVERNANCE OF THE SMMS
SMMS continues to be under the direct leadership of the Governing Council which is chaired by Prof Gordon Zide. The day to day operations of the institution continue to be implemented by MANCOM which is closely monitored by the Governing Council Executive. MANCOM has bi-weekly meetings and meets with the Students Executive Committee on a regular basis. This has improved the atmosphere in the Seminary. There is a collaborative spirit and a clear understanding that we have been entrusted with one of the most significant jewels of the Methodist people, to serve them through it and therefore we are compelled to make the seminary operate optimally. The relationships amongst staff members have also improved. Conference can thus be assured that generally SMMS is operating on a solid and healthy base. It is my privilege to share with you that the Management Committee of the Seminary consists of the following people as per their positions of responsibility:

President: Prof R Simangaliso Kumalo
Dean of the Chapel: Rev Norman Raphahllela
Academic Dean: Dr Rowanne Marie
Dir of Finance and Admin: Rev Maurice Mpeta-Phiri
Registrar: Ms Christel Robinson
ACADEMICS

The academic programmes function under the leadership of the following academics:

**Biblical Studies Director:** Dr Eraste Nyirimana  
**Church History:** Dr Scott Couper (Acting)  
**Practical Theology:** Dr Rowanne Marie  
**Systematic Theology:** Rev Norman Raphahlela  
**Research & Special Programmes:** Dr Kennedy Owino

We have a total of 92 students. The general quality of the Seminarians is quite impressive. Most of them are private candidates, with a lesser number comprising probationers. The following is an illustration of the students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methodists</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>8 (6 UCCSA, 1 Presbyterian, 1 Pentecostal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>South African</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>3 (1 Swaziland, 1 Namibia, 1 Ghana)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probationers/ Non-private</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
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<td>Formation Internship Program</td>
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**The Special Programmes Unit**

At the beginning of this year we established a new unit, which is aimed at offering other options of theological education in order to increase the accessibility of our programmes and an increment in enrolment numbers. The Special Programmes Unit (SPU) currently offers a Higher Certificate in Christian Ministry (HCCM) which is accredited by the Council for Higher Education (CHE). This programme is a distance learning programme that is fully registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DOHET). The HCCM requires all candidates to have already obtained a Matric (Grade 12) or a National Senior Certificate (NSC), or its equivalent (NQF4) as an entry qualification. The Special Programmes Unit (SPU) not only intends to offer theological training and skills to Local Preachers within the MCSA, but also seeks to cater for interested learners who are pursuing training in lay ministries in other constituencies such as the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC), Zulu Congregational Church (ZCC) and denominations that are affiliated and registered with the KwaZulu-Natal Council of Churches (KZNCC). The HCCM programme has attracted 115 registered students for the first semester of 2016. This comprises the following:
Higher Certificate in Christian Ministry

<table>
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<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Year of Intake</th>
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<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total number of MCSA Students</strong></td>
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<td>26</td>
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<td>South Africa</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA)</td>
<td>2nd Sem ‘16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pentecostal</td>
<td>1st Sem ‘16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td>1st Sem ‘16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of Students Registered in 2016</strong></td>
<td><strong>117</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

By 2015 the total number of students at SMMS was 80. In 2016 we started the year with 94 full-time registered students. Then we introduced the HMMC programme which has 117 students. That means in total SMMS now has 210 students, which means that we have increased the enrolment of SMMS with over 110% in the last 6 months.

**Collaborations between SMMS and EMMU in the training of Local Preachers in 2017**

We are also happy to report to the Conference that we have had a series of bilateral meetings with the Education for Ministry and Mission Unit (EMMU), to explore ways of collaborating in the training of local preachers of the MCSA. It has been agreed that SMMS will be working with EMMU in the training of Local Preachers. Both SMMS and EMMU will offer two kinds of certificates: First, instead of conferring what used to be called “Mature Age” we will henceforth furnish completing candidates a “Certificate in Foundations of Ministry”. This is for candidates with from Grade 0-6. Second, we will present completing candidates with a “Certificate of Competence in Ministry”. This one is for people with Grade 7-11, who would previously get an “Award.” Third, we will also offer “The Higher Certificate in Christian Ministry.” This is an important step forward in resolving the challenges that have been faced by our church with regard to the training of Local Preachers.
So from now on Local Preachers can be trained at SMMS if they so choose, while others will still go through TEEC if they choose to do so. For us at SMMS this is good news because it means that we are going to increase our student body and ultimately the income. It also means opportunities for some of the students with the prerequisite qualifications to be involved in the development of teaching materials and teaching in the LP Programmes. We have agreed to offer 3 programmes i.e. the *Higher Certificate in Christian Ministry*, *The Certificate of Competency in Ministry* and the *Certificate in Foundations for Ministry*. The HCCM is an accredited course with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DoHET), whilst the other two are only recognised and validated by the MCSA and are only recognised for the training and accreditation of local preachers. These programmes will be offered in collaboration with EMMU, its structures and personnel starting from January 2017.

**Proposed SMMS Archives**

Our students have expressed their concern regarding the need for access to Methodist archives. As we all know, at the moment Methodist Archives are available at Cory Library at Rhodes, which makes access a bit difficult for some of the researchers, especially our students. Consequently we had discussions internally about the pressing need to develop archives at SMMS. The arrival of Dr Chisa has proliferated the excitement around this project. We have already developed a policy framework that is going to be used to develop this project, to be known as the Presidential Library. The thinking is that the envisaged archives will focus on collecting material, books and papers that focus on the leaders of the MCSA during a particular period. We have already been promised material by Drs Peter Storey, Mvume Dandala and the Rev Ivan Abrahams. We are still going to be talking to other former Presiding Bishop’s families about sharing papers that were left behind by these leaders.

**Training of Minister’s Spouses**

Another request came from the Women’s Manyano, i.e. that SMMS renders assistance with the training of ministers’ spouses, especially those who are part of the SMMS community. This request was welcomed by our management. We have already registered the five ministers’ wives who are at the seminary on the HCCM programme and we will offer them two (2) optional electives that are customised for them e.g. The Church and Women and Spouses in partnership for Ministry. These two electives will be offered to them during the last two semesters of their study. We have agreed with the Methodist Women’s Manyano (MWM) that 25% of every donation that they make every year will be dedicated to the training of ministers’ spouses at the Seminary. This idea has also resolved an old problem, namely, providing capacity to ministers’ spouses during their time at the Seminary. This course is also available to other ministers’ spouses who are already in the field and who have the ambition to support their spouses either as local preachers, presidents of organisations and even for their own spiritual growth. However those who are not at the Seminary will need to pay for themselves.
Marriage Officer’s Certificate
We have also been engaged in discussions with the KwaZulu-Natal Christian Council regarding the need for us to train our Seminarians and other ordained ministers from the ecumenical family who would like to be trained as Marriage Officers. This course will enable us to generate income for the Seminary, whilst also meeting the urgent need in our communities for thoroughly trained marriage officers. This will also be done in collaboration with the KZNCC and the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) who will control the examinations. We have agreed to offer this course in 2017.

Peter Storey lecture and the graduation Ceremony
The Peter Storey Lecture of 2016 was a huge success. The Keynote Speaker, Ms Thuli Madonsela, the Public Protector, was excellent and the logistical arrangements were irreproachable. This lecture is becoming more and more prestigious. The challenge for us as an institution is to maintain the standard of these lectures as we are moving forward. The lecture was followed by the Graduation Ceremony, which was also a great success. For the first time in the history of SMMS, an academic was invited to be the speaker at Graduation. We were graced by the enormous insights and knowledge of Prof. Vuyani Vellum from the University of Pretoria, who is also an ordained minister in the Uniting Presbyterian Church. The atmosphere during this ceremony was electrifying and again SMMS acquitted itself with distinction as far as preparations for this event were concerned. 33 students from the class of 2013 graduated. Our students were once again excellent representatives of our institution, gauging from the positive feedback rendered by members of the public who attended these functions. Our staff members worked brilliantly as a team to pull through these huge events successfully.

FORMATION AND FIELD EDUCATION

From Pew to Pulpit Programme
This is a new model to ministerial training which MANCOM has been discussing under the direction of the Dean of Formation. It is aimed at responding to two critical issues that have been raised by the feedback we have received from EMMU. The first is that most of the graduates of SMMS have been found not to be ready for ministry. Second, the influx of private candidates to SMMS, some of who have little knowledge of the church and ministry. It has been established that some of the students were not confirmed or at least are not local preachers. These developments have prompted us to think of a programme through which we can better serve the MCSA by training these enthusiastic people who join the Seminary with an intention to candidate for ministry but without the prerequisite knowledge of the church and its functions. The proposal is that we be allowed to do the following:

(1) To request private students to submit letters from class leader, society steward and superintendent minister with the application form.

(2) To require the private students to complete a form that captures their profile in the church.
(3) To admit private candidates not only to the SMMS and its academic programmes but also to the Circuit so that they can be trained for the full understanding and appreciation of the MCSA, its theology, sub-culture, organisations, polity and practice.

(4) To use the newly established Wesley House of Studies to inculcate a culture of Methodism to our Seminarians.

(5) To prepare them for preaching, Organisations and candidate examinations and processes.

(6) To use the Circuit and its close connection with the Natal West and Coastal Districts in the training of our students in the following programmes: field-work, practicum, participation and leadership of our organisations, conventions, preaching and mission.

As an institution we are convinced that if we are allowed to implement the proposals mentioned above, we will be able to produce ministers who will be able to hit the ground running once they are stationed in the church.

SMMS remains committed to exposing students to the functions of the church while they are still at the Seminary, so that by the time they go to the congregations they are fully aware of what the church is, does and stands for. As a result for the first time this year our 3rd years attended conventions and the District Synod. The Synod of the Natal West District was held in our Baumann Hall and we had the privilege of sharing fellowship with all the Bishops, Ministers, Lay Leaders and ordinary Methodist men and women right here in our village. Our 3rd year students attended as observers, for it is important at this stage of their training and formation that they learn and understand the nitty-gritty of Methodist Church and its Polity.

*Ubunye centre and centre for food security*

In an endeavour to maximise the opportunities for theological reflection and ministerial formation the SMMS has developed two flagship programmes. The first programme is called the **Food Security and Mission Development Programme** and the second is called the **Ubunye Centre for Reconciliation and Humanitarianism**.

The Food Security Programme is an extension of the Gardens Project of SMMS, but it now aims at food production and food protection. Seminarians will be introduced to the following themes: Food Security, A Theology of Food, Basic Food Production Skills, Project Development, Proposal Writing, Budgeting, Report Writing, and Project Management.

The Ubunye Centre for Reconciliation and Humanitarianism will focus on the development and dissemination of knowledge regarding the role of the Church in doing mission around the following themes: Racism, Xenophobia, Ethnicity and Gender Equality. These Projects are aimed at becoming training sites for all Seminarians through which they will be equipped to manage the atrocities that are so prevalent in our society. Once placed as a minister in a congregation, these are the
very aspects of community life that they can expect. Some of our students will be placed in these programmes for their field education.

I trust that they will find these programmes beneficial and relevant for the ministry that awaits them. We also celebrate the fact that the Ubunye Centre has already received an initial funding to kick-start the project. We are grateful to the Maurice Webb Trust for the sum of R150 000 for their support of this initiative.

**Stations placement**
At the beginning of July the Bishops of our church met to discuss the 2017 stations. They managed to station all our third year students, but they were still left with some stations that are without ministers. This is good news for our second years and those who are still thinking of joining the ministry, because it means that the MCSA still has a need for new ministers. At the moment we are preparing the 3rd years for the work that awaits them in the congregation. In this regard we have introduced two modules, namely Methodist History and Polity, and Pastoral Leadership.

**Accommodation**
We celebrate the fact that SMMS has finally handed over the accommodation to MCO as it was agreed. This gives the Seminary relief from the burden of having to deal with issues around accommodation instead of focusing on the academics. However we would like to highlight the significance of sorting out the accommodation issue. In 2017 we will have approximately ten (10) married probationers who will need to be accommodated in married quarters. At the moment SMMS does not have accommodation for these people and we are working with the MCO on this matter so that we will not be confronted with huge problems in January 2017.

**Mission Congress**
The SMMS community is excited about hosting the Mission Congress in October this year. A few preparatory meetings have been conducted already and a few of our staff members and members of the Students Executive Committee are involved in this work. As the SMMS Community, we are grateful that the Church has chosen SMMS as the host of this important event. We would like to ensure that as many members of this institution have the benefit of participating in this event. It has been agreed that, as a priority, we envisage that our 3rd year students will participate as assistants and ushers at the Congress, so that they can be exposed to the functions of the MCSA as they will soon be exiting to take up their appointments in the Connexion.

**Disciplinary matters**
In the past six months we had four disciplinary matters to deal with. Two were dealt with internally and the remaining two needed to be brought before the Disciplinary Committee. From these cases we have deduced two lessons. One is that conflict is inevitably part of this community; therefore we need to strengthen our disciplinary
processes and support systems. Cases that needed to be addressed include the following: sexual harassment, bullying and drunkenness. However I must make it clear that these challenges are not overwhelming or out of the ordinary.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The financial situation of SMMS continues to be a matter of concern. Basically we are spending more than what we have in terms of our resources. The institution has to subsidise the accommodation for private students, the water and lights, and simultaneously has to take care of the probationers and their families. While the decision to let both Texel and Vaalhaven to UKZN students proved to be a financial advantage for this institution, it also draws a lot of money, because of the demands that are placed by the UKZN students on the institution for utilities, cutlery and other resources that must be provided by SMMS.

There is also a need for the MCSA’s funding model to be revisited, to ensure that SMMS is adequately funded. An observation was made that SMMS needs the services of an expert to help with the development of the financial plan. We have approached Mr Anthony Tibbitt who has agreed to step into the breach. We are also planning to have a Financial Stability Workshop that will be held in October once the process of restructuring the governance has been completed.

Ministerial Student Fund

SMMS would like to express its gratitude to the Methodist people for the Ministerial Student Fund which has been a source of relief in difficult times. We thank our ministers and leaders who are always reminding the Methodist people to contribute to this fund every Easter. However we have observed that there has been a decline in the amount that is collected. For instance there has been a decline from R1.2 million in 2013 to R460 000 in 2015. The other problem has been the delay in depositing the money. Some circuits deposit it towards end of the year. This makes it difficult for SMMS, because we would like to write to each congregation that has contributed to thank them for their gift. We would like to encourage ministers to continue encouraging their congregations to support this fund.

Institutional Development Officer

It has also become clear to us that we need a qualified person to develop and manage the communications and marketing office of the institution. This person will work with the President’s Office in promoting SMMS to the world. This post has been advertised and the process of appointing the right candidate will follow. We would like the person to start as soon as possible.

Human Resource Matters

SMMS is made out of 26 full-time members of staff and six adjuncts. See the table below for their breakdown:
**Staff Compliment**

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<th>Other</th>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grounds &amp; Cleaners</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nationality</td>
<td>20 SA</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>19 male</td>
<td>7 female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjuncts</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
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<td>20 Blacks</td>
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**Adjuncts**

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<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academics</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>4 male 2 female</td>
</tr>
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**Employment contracts**
The Governing Council resolved that SMMS needs to facilitate the signing of new and fixed contracts with its employees to replace the existing “open contracts” that were not clear on the periods that people have been engaged by the institution, leaving their legal status questionable. This placed both the institution and its employees in a state of insecurity. A table of all the positions with the relevant particulars such as numbers, responsibilities, qualifications and level of remuneration has been drawn. All members of staff have now signed the new contracts. All administrative, ground and academic staff have three-year (3-Years) contracts. The senior academic staffs like Deans and the ordained ministers seconded by the church have signed 5 year contracts. So currently every member of staff at SMMS has a contract that protects them as well as the institution. Kindly see the attached document for details.

**Multi-synodical road show**
Immediately after my return from the US, I embarked on a Road Show to market the SMMS in the Connexion. I visited the Central District Synod, the Highveld District Synod and the Limpopo District Synod. In addition, I also visited the Gracepoint Methodist Church in Fourways for the same purpose. Of significance is that I experienced warmth from all those I spoke to about SMMS. It is my considered opinion that, generally, people like this institution and would like to support it.

**Partnerships and International Relations**
There are 3 types of partnerships. These are intra MCSA, Cluster, Ecumenical and International partnerships.
**Intra-MCSA partnerships**

Intra-partnerships are the ones that are arranged between some MCSA organisations and units and SMMS for the achievement of specific objectives. These are partnerships the SMMS has developed with organisations such as the Women’s Manyano for the training of minister’s spouses, with the Black Methodist Consultation for the development of a lecture on Black theology and with the Connexional Music Association’s vision of developing a programme on Methodist music at SMMS.

**MANCOM meets Black Methodist Consultation (BMC)**

MANCOM also had a fruitful meeting with the National Executive of the BMC. A number of issues of common concern were discussed. The two parties agreed to work together to develop a Programme on African Thought and Christianity, a Lecture on one of the Church fathers e.g. Drs Mgojo or Gqubule, and to establish a BMC bursary fund. The BMC pledged their support to the Seminary in its work and we celebrate these developments. It was also agreed that the BMC will contribute to an endowment fund, which will be dedicated to work that seeks to further research and reflection on Black Theology and African Christianity.

**Meeting with Connexional Music Association**

We also had the privilege of meeting with the Executive of the Connexional Music Association. Again, they are also looking for ways in which they can support the Seminary. A number of exciting ideas were put on the table and they will be discussing them with their members. Nevertheless, there is some excitement which will benefit our institution. The Music Association is making an annual donation of R6 000 to SMMS. We agreed to increase this amount to a substantial one which will be dedicated to an endowment to support the development of music classes and Seminars at SMMS.

**Partnership with the Methodist Women’s Manyano**

The Women’s Manyano met with the leadership of the SMMS, to express their continued support of the Seminary and the students. They made a donation of R210 000. In our discussions we agreed that 25% of the money will be used to buy food for the students who are struggling at the Seminary. 25% will be dedicated to the training of Minister’s spouses for ministry by paying for their fees in the HCCM course. The remaining 50% will be invested as an Endowment Fund dedicated to supporting Women’s training at the SMMS. It was agreed that all donations that come from the MWM will be apportioned according to these three areas of need. We are looking forward to future collaboration with the MWM.

**Partnership between UKZN and SMMS**

Collaboration between UKZN and SMMS continues and benefits our students immensely. There is collaborative teaching and learning between the two institutions with academics of the two institutions being involved in co-teaching and research. We
are about to complete the process whereby 3 of our academics have been appointed as Honorary Lecturers and Researchers at UKZN. An example of this collaboration is demonstrated in the Greek classes which are taught by Dr Billy Meyer at SMMS which comprise students from both UKZN and SMMS.

A number of our students would have completed their B.Th. by the end of this year whilst they still have to be at SMMS even next year. These students will be registered with UKZN for their Honours degree studies.

**Partnership with the Cluster of Theological Institutions**

SMMS continues to be a significant partner in the Cluster of Theological Institutions together with St Joseph’s Theological Institution, Lutheran Training Institute, the UKZN and the Evangelical Seminary for Southern Africa. We participate in the seminars and sports days that are organised by these institutions for the partners. It is important to note that some of these partners have serious challenges that they are seeking to overcome and SMMS stands in solidarity with them. The LTI has been confronted with huge financial challenges, which they are working hard to overcome. ESSA’s registration licence was taken away from them some years ago and they are currently waiting for re-accreditation.

SMMS continues to be home to Cluster Publications which is the publishing wing of the Cluster. The challenge that is facing this partnership is that this company is struggling to survive and consequently they have not been able to pay their rental for the past year. They are currently in arrears to the tune of R38 000. We need to find a way forward on how to deal with this matter.

**Ecumenical Partnerships**

These are the partnerships that we have with other denominations as far as theological educations are concerned.

**The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA)**

Our partnership with the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa continues. I also had the opportunity to address the Synod of the UCCSA at George on the evening of Thursday 7 July 2016. As you know, the UCCSA is our important partner. They were very excited to hear that their students at SMMS are doing very well. All their students passed their exams, to the excitement of the denomination. I have made an appeal to all to make a concerted effort to make these students to feel at home in this Seminary at all times, because the SMMS is indeed their home too. I have emphasized also that they must be encouraged to participate fully in the life and work of the Seminary. The partnership with the UCCSA is long-term undertaking and we need to take it seriously. We are currently finalizing the signing of the MOU with them. Two of their ministers are working for SMMS and this strengthens the partnership.
The African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC)
In recent months we have experienced collaboration and friendship with the leadership of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. At the moment this church has registered 30 of their student in our HCCM programme. They have expressed interest in signing an MOU with us so that we can provide theological training to their students. Discussions are continuing.

International partnerships
National partnerships are the ones held by SMMS in collaboration with other theological institutions in the country, in order to collaborate in teaching and research, but also in campaigning for a conducive environment for Theological Education. In May 2016 I embarked on a trip to a number of SMMS’s friends and partners overseas. First, I visited the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, which normally takes place once in four years. This meeting was held in Portland Oregon. For the first time since SMMS was founded, its banner was lifted, amongst others, representing the 800 Methodist Educational Institutions worldwide. This is important for SMMS to be registered as one the Methodist educational institutions in order to receive support of the other institutions within the Methodist family. Subsequently I visited the following institutions: Duke University, Vanderbilt University and Brentwood United Methodist Church. I also started conversations with Emory University around the issue of partnership. We are currently finalizing the signing of the MOU between the two institutions. These partnerships are critical for the validation of SMMS’s status as a credible and internationally recognised institution of higher education and training by the South African Department of Higher Education and Training.

Our partnership with Wesley House-Cambridge University is on-going and one of our students is doing her studies there at the moment (Juliet Windgovel). However we cannot continue sending students there with the current arrangement owing to the limited resources that are needed for this project. We will be discussing other possibilities of collaboration going forward.

THE NEW CIRCUIT
Towards the end of last year the Governing Council endorsed a proposal that a new circuit must be formed under which the buildings will fall and be administered. When the new President was appointed, his position was a two-pronged position. First, he is the President of the Seminary. Second, he is the Superintendent of the Circuit. The Circuit has three ministers, the President (RS Kumalo) the Dean, (Rev Raphahlela) and the Seminarian Pastor (Rev Leepile).

Circuit officials
Three (interim) Circuit Stewards of the circuit were appointed being Dr Lilian Siwila, Mr Baphumze Rubuluza and Mr Jabulani Dlungwana. There are five members of
staff in the circuit, viz. Mr Dumi Zuma (Property Manager), Ms Nelly Madlala (Bookkeeper), Ms Rebecca Majola (Receptionist), Mr Sihle Mtshali (Caretaker), Nonhlanhla Mbanjwa (Cleaning supervisor). This completes the number of staff that the MCO had agreed to employ.

DISTRICT BISHOP’S OFFICE
Another development has been the relocation of the Office of the Natal West District Bishop to the SMMS premises. Two reasons have necessitated this move. First, there has been a concern that the church does not seem to be walking closer to the SMMS. Secondly the bishop needed offices. The District is paying rent for those offices to SMMS. The Bishop has been of tremendous help to the Seminary, first in the promotion of the work of the institution to the district and also for providing the episcopal oversight where it is required. He has already intervened on a number of matters that needed his office. We are appreciative of his presence at the SMMS.

CONCLUSION
This report has covered most of the activities that occupied the staff and student of SMMS for the first half of 2016. Reading this report makes it clear to everyone that although we have been in this institution for just seven months, these have been very busy months for us. The reason for this is that SMMS is a rapidly growing institution with many opportunities and challenges. These keep us on our toes all the time. It is a joy to be part of this great institution; therefore we are looking forward to the next six months. In our endeavour to perform our duties, we may have stepped on each other’s toes, for that we ask for forgiveness. However I am very grateful to the staff at SMMS, especially to those who have remained resolute and never doubted our commitment to the wellbeing of this institution. May this report give us hope that the SMMS is resolutely on course.
Grace and Peace.
CHAPTER 22

CONNEXIONAL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

Mr Motingoe Itumeleng

OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE
CONNEXIONAL MUSIC ASSOCIATION (JULY 2015-May 2016)
Motto: “One voice; one song!”

God is good at all times! Gratitude to the Almighty for affording the Connexional Music Association another opportunity and strength to tirelessly do His work and be able to present this organisational report. As an organisation within the greater MCSA, the Music Association operates within the framework of the Vision and Mission of the Church for Healing and Transformation of the people of God. Again, as Methodist Choristers, we aspire to be like Angels surrounding God’s Throne, offering Him our praise, worship, adoration, confession, forgiveness and thanksgiving through music. This report calls for God’s Name to be praised as we report the work of Music Association from eleven (11) Districts of the Connexion which are fully participating in Connexional activities. However there is still cause for concern with the 12th District, (Mozambique), and most Districts which are supported by just a few Circuits in comparison to the number of Circuits in those Districts.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONNEXIONAL MUSIC ASSOCIATION FOR THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

• To increase membership from Society to District level;
• To attract Youth and other Organisations to the great work of Evangelism and Mission through music;
• To ensure that the Music Association’s Amendment to the Constitution is recognised by the Conference;
• To ensure full participation of all Districts in Connexional activities;
• To support and assist Mozambique & Lesotho to be part of the Connexion as far as the Music Association is concerned;
• To continue supporting SMMS financially;
• To continue unifying music and singing in the Connexion (bring back Methodist chants in our Divine services), especially Liturgy, so that the Liturgy of the Methodist Church is preserved, and its hymns are passed on to future generations;
• To establish links with the Ministers, Evangelists and Local Preachers in a bid to get these stakeholders to regard the choirs as their support system during services.
IMPERATIVES OF MISSION

Spirituality
Our District Choirs are always available to participate in all spiritual gatherings (Conference, Triennials, Synods, Conventions) of different Organisations, memorial services and funerals of Ministers, including church members and in services at all levels of the church, to lead worship, for “God is Spirit, and all those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth”. Our music is not intended to be entertainment or performance, but to be an act of worship. It is a concern that some congregants still find it difficult to understand the choral music of the choir in leading services and introducing new chants, as most Methodists use beats, whistles and drums during Divine services. However, the choirs continue to lift the spirits of the congregants by leading worship during church services. Most districts are embarking on reviving inactive choirs in different circuits to deepen the sense of spirituality.

Evangelism and Church Growth
Music is one of the tools used to call people to the Grace of God. Through music choirs join with Ministers and Preachers to convey messages that call people into the church and makes it grow. Great improvement and support have been reported by most districts where more circuits are coming in to support the Music Association. There is a marked increase in the number of participating choirs at district competitions. District Executive members are fully at work, visiting inactive circuits, embarking on road shows for building and revival of inactive choirs. Where revival is held, there have been reports that people join choirs in great numbers. Other districts hold a ‘Music Association Indaba’, to create a platform for choristers and other organisations to dialogue about issues relating to the growth in membership and development of music in the circuits. The Connexional Music Association has introduced the Intermediate section for participation during music festivals.

Justice and Service (Humanitarian Service)
No sustainable project has been reported by Districts. However, mission outreach during Conventions (Districts and Connexion), is still much supported by the choristers, as identified needy institutions are visited, and donations offered in the form of groceries, blankets, bedding and school uniforms. A donation of Computers and Printers was delivered to the Methodist High School in Lesotho (WEZI) as promised. This was made possible by generous donations from the Districts and was delivered to the school by the Connexional Music Association Executive members, accompanied by NFS & L and KNB District Executive members on the 27th of November 2015.

Human Economic Empowerment and Development
The eleven Districts will now hold their annual/bi annual Conventions. Church choirs are not financially viable because they operate with limited funds, from a
pledging system by members. Our hymn books are a reservoir filled with great and inspiring hymns from different languages. Some districts have put in more effort to produce CDs and DVDs to develop and preserve our music heritage, and also boost their financial muscle. The following Districts have CDs: Cape of Good Hope (False Bay and Dumisani Circuits), Grahamstown, Queenstown, Natal West, Highveld & Swaziland (Kwa Thema and St Paul’s Circuits) and Northern Free State & Lesotho (Qwaqwa Circuit). These initiatives also assist the church choirs to be viable and be able to support Church programme initiatives, and also meet the contributions of the Connexion. Malihambe Melodies’ (Connexional Choir that toured Germany in 2014), CD has also been released and is presently in circulation. Youth choirs have been developed in most Districts and are being nurtured.

Education and Training
The Connexional Music Association continues with its commitment to support SMMS. A few Districts reported that they are supporting District Methodist Bursary Funds by donating a certain amount of money to assist learners from disadvantaged communities to pursue their studies. Some Districts have reported that they have helped nearby schools with buying of JOJOs during this period of water shortage country-wide. Districts and Connexional workshops are held prior to the Competitions. Capacity building workshops are held in different Districts to empower choristers. The greatest contribution by the Connexion was the donation of computers to WEZI School in Lesotho!

ACHIEVEMENTS
The Connexional Music Association has succeeded in assisting NFS&L establish and induct its structure in August and September 2015 respectively. 2016 saw the NFS&L District holding its inaugural Convention, hosted by Qwaqwa Circuit, under the Theme: “Music as a Call to Discipleship and Transformation of our Worship.” (Mathew 4 verse 19). The Connexional Music Association held its twentieth (20th) Biennial Connexional Competition which was hosted by the Grahamstown District. It was a real ‘Clash of Titans!’ The Liturgy formed part of the prescription again in the 2015 Connexional Competitions. Intermediate and Youth choirs have been established in most districts and participate in music Competitions up to Connexional level.

Qwaqwa Circuit’s CD, “Rea u boka Modimo”, was nominated for (National Choral Music Achievement Awards) NACMA (Kzn) in March 2016, for “Best Recorded Church Hymns” Category. We note the inclusion of the choir of the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary (SMMS) in the Eisteddfod Project. We celebrate 40 years of recognition of the Church Choirs as an organised body in the Church and that the Music Association will organise Church Choir Competitions on behalf of the MCSA. The celebration will take place during the Connexional Music Convention in November 2016.
CHALLENGES
• The Districts still face a challenge of a limited number of male voices;
• The younger generation does not join the choirs and as a result choir members are mainly groups of mature age;
• Participation from other racial groups non-existent;
• Poor visibility of Ministers in choir activities;
• Only three (3) Districts managed to tackle the prescribed Liturgical excerpts in Zulu and Sotho languages successfully;
• No data base for the Music Association due to a lack of statistics from districts, circuits and societies;
• Some Districts are still not viable financially, making it difficult for the choir that wins at district level to proceed to the Connexional competition;
• The Connexion has not yet established full relationships with Mozambique District;
• Some Ministers do not view the Music Association as part of the organisations that need support and inclusion in the plans at Society and Circuit level;
• Lack of support in other congregations where choirs are still in competition with other organisations to lead services.

FINANCIAL POSITION
The financial status of the Connexional Music Association according to the audited financial statement as at 31 December 2015 was as follows:
Income: R290 205.33
Expenditure: R184 343.20
Balance: R105 862.13

FUTURE PLANS
• Continue reviving inactive Circuits.
• Finalize completion of the Connexional Music Booklet with specific reference to the birth of Music in the Methodist Church (from all Districts) as well as the establishment of the Connexional Music Association.
• To enable all choirs in all Districts to incorporate all Methodist hymn books and sing all liturgies in all languages.
• To have our own Music Academy, where we are going to train Conductors and Pianists and also teach our choirs the approach to good singing.

CONCLUSION
The Connexional Music Association appreciates the support of the Ministers who encourage choirs and ensure that the Ministry of Music grows. Church choral music is an important facet in the life of the church. The choir members offer their time tirelessly to the work of God. The church needs to apply its mind to the fact that during seven days of the week, church choirs meet frequently to prepare for Sunday worship. Without the support of the Ministers and the congregants, the
Music Ministry of the Methodist Church will flounder and perish. We are looking forward to the day when Districts will report that their Circuits and societies have formal church choirs that will help restore the Methodist culture of proper musical performance during services!

**MATTER REQUIRING CONFERENCE DECISION**


**DISTRICT STRUCTURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Portfolio</th>
<th>Contacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cape of Good Hope</td>
<td>Rev Maseti VG</td>
<td>District President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:masetvg@gmail.com">masetvg@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Yolisa S</td>
<td>Assistant Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Sizeka_Yolisa@stellenbosch.gov.za">Sizeka_Yolisa@stellenbosch.gov.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grahamstown</td>
<td>Mr Meke H</td>
<td>District President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ghtmusicassociation@mail.com">ghtmusicassociation@mail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Msizi N</td>
<td>District Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:norooi85@gmail.com">norooi85@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>Mr Kolo T</td>
<td>District President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kolo.thomas@gmail.com">kolo.thomas@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Bam N</td>
<td>District Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:noluthandbm7@gmail.com">noluthandbm7@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberley, Namibia &amp; Bloemfontein</td>
<td>Me Sebate K</td>
<td>District President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kea.sebate@gmail.com">kea.sebate@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Makate P</td>
<td>District Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Pmakate@yahoo.com">Pmakate@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Free State &amp; Lesotho</td>
<td>Mr Mnguni T</td>
<td>District President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thokozanitr@gmail.com">thokozanitr@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Malete L</td>
<td>District Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lollymalete@gmail.com">lollymalete@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natal Coastal</td>
<td>Mr Sangweni T</td>
<td>District President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thembasangweni@vodamail.co.za">thembasangweni@vodamail.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Khanyile DR</td>
<td>Assistant Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dudruthkhanyile@gmail.com">dudruthkhanyile@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natal West</td>
<td>Prof Ngcobo R</td>
<td>District President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:langareg@mweb.co.za">langareg@mweb.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Mthiyane N</td>
<td>District Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Nomusa.Mthiyane@kzndoe.gov.za">Nomusa.Mthiyane@kzndoe.gov.za</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Mr Monyane TL</td>
<td>District President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Monyane@gauteng.gov.za">Monyane@gauteng.gov.za</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Legote K</td>
<td>District Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highveld &amp; Swaziland</td>
<td>Rev Mabuza FN</td>
<td>District President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:francenmabuza@gmail.com">francenmabuza@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Maritz J</td>
<td>District Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:JMaritz@lscmasakhe.co.za">JMaritz@lscmasakhe.co.za</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Limpopo</td>
<td>Ms Kgabi G</td>
<td>District President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:loungog@gmail.com">loungog@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Moopelwa M</td>
<td>District Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gmoopelwa@rustenburg.gov.za">gmoopelwa@rustenburg.gov.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarkebury</td>
<td>Rev. Nogonyoti ZL</td>
<td>District President</td>
<td>078 577 0445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Nkewana M</td>
<td>District Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nonibs74@gmail.com">nonibs74@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 23

CONNEXIONAL LOCAL PREACHERS ASSOCIATION

Rev Tanduxolo P Sikotoyi

INTRODUCTION

The Local Preachers Association, normally known as the LPA, is an Organisation of Methodist Preachers who have accepted the calling of Jesus Christ to proclaim His Gospel within the holistic Mission of the Church. This organisation always promotes the fellowship of all Local Preachers of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA) within the context of her progressively unfolding Vision and Mission.

Local Preachers are accorded significant authority over the progress of a service of worship, for which they are seen as having overall responsibility, rather than just delivering the sermon.

The Association is guided by the theme articulated at the Triennial Convention in 2014: “Seek, Tend my Flock and Follow me”. This theme seeks to remind Local Preachers of their primary calling.

Jesus calls us to follow Him first and then sends us to seek the lost and to care for the found. The word “seek” indicates evangelism – the act of inviting others into a living relationship with Jesus and “tending the flock”– the act of caring for and giving nurture to those who have been sought and found

EXECUTIVE:

General President: Rev. P.T Sikotoyi
Ex General President: Mr. J.M Nkosi
General President Elect: Mr. M. Hlatshwayo
Vice General President: Mr. F. Sikweyiya
General Secretary: Ms. FPS Mageleni
Ass. General Secretary: Mr. J.Z Ncinane
General Treasurer: Mr. G. Rulumeni
Committee Members: Rev. O. Rasonti
Mr. N. Kave

LPA OVERVIEW

The records of accredited preachers who have affiliated to the LPA come from twelve districts of the MCSA’s Connexion. The number has increased from 8020 to 8175 with 436 local preachers called to a higher service. The data revealed a total number of 873 preachers on trial. According to our records, no member of the Association
has been called for a disciplinary hearing by his/her church, thus establishing good conduct in ministering among God’s people. All the preachers affiliated to LPA are in good standing with their local churches, districts and the Connexion. The following statistic is a true reflection from the 12 districts;

**OBJECTIVES FOR PERIOD UNDER REVIEW**
The Local Preachers Association has successfully followed activities that respond to the long-term and short-term objectives set out in the constitution. These objectives are reflected in the LPA constitution as follows:

- To encourage all Local Preachers and Ministers to observe the Vision and Mission of the MCSA and to enhance its purpose.
- To give fresh and relevant impetus to the preaching ministry of lay persons.
- To encourage and assist Local Preachers and Ministers to empower themselves through study and reading widely in order to enhance their preaching potential.
- To promote fellowship amongst all Local Preachers and Ministers in the MCSA.
- To utilise this Association as a forum to promote fellowship, inspiration and empowerment, and to share issues of common concern amongst members of the Local Preachers’ Association.
- To find creative ways of embracing each other within and among all Local Preachers and Ministers in the Connexion in a manner that is sensitive and uniting.

**ACTIVITIES PERFORMED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FIVE IMPERATIVES**

**Spirituality**
DRD Model: This is observed by eleven (11) Districts through Bible Studies, with some Districts observing the LPA Sunday. Local preachers have been addressing social ills through this model ever since its implementation and adoption in 2012.

Local preachers at their discretion, do a number of different things:
- create the order of service;
- omit or include any part of the order of service;
- determine which Bible readings are to be included, which may - but need not - be selected from those defined in the lectionary;
- involve other people in the preparation and leading of the worship.

Local Preachers accept guidance from the churches to which they go, for example in regular or seasonal local elements of liturgy, or in using those nominated.

**Evangelism and Church Growth**
Local preachers take part in evangelising in their Circuits and Districts working hand in hand with sister Organisations. Annual, biennial and triennial evangelical crusades take place at district, regional and Connexional levels respectively. The Association will hold its third Triennial Connexional Evangelical Crusade on 22-23
October 2016 at Buffalo City Stadium in East London. The main purpose of this crusade, but not limited to this, is to address the social ills that are destroying the moral fibre of our society and encourage, develop and empower our people to form and take an active part in the fight and struggle against these ills, putting prayer and faith at the centre in bringing about transformation and healing. We strongly believe that this event will contribute towards boosting the economy and tourism of our province, as it is not limited only to Methodists people but to everyone who believes in prayer, as its approach is interdenominational and ecumenical.

**Justice and Service**

All of the 11 Districts have outreach programmes where the LPA donates to the needy during the annual conventions or at scheduled periods. One district observes John Wesley’s Day through a Presidential Project wherein the Circuits are urged to look after the Ministers and their families by offering blankets or any gift as led by the Holy Spirit as John Wesley once said; “give as much as you can”.

**Human and Economic Development and Empowerment**

One District has launched a “District Social Relief Desk”, an adopt or dress a child programme whereby every Circuit is expected to have a soup kitchen and assist the needy and aged people where the need arises.

**Education and Training**

Local Preachers have always been required to undergo some form of training and examination - the examination being concerned with their doctrinal orthodoxy as well as with their knowledge of the scriptures and the history and doctrines of the church. Districts conduct in-service training and workshops in order to empower local preachers.

**FINANCIAL POSITION**

The Association submitted its books for auditing. They showed as at 31 December 2015 the position of the finances of the Association as having a balance of R183811.

**OBITUARIES**

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth”. Out of 436 Local preachers who were called to their eternal rest, one of them was the Connexional Executive member, Mrs. Nodumo Bongoza. The enormous support received from the districts during this trying time was unmeasurable; one district even wrote a poem with her photo to be placed in the cars and be read at the funeral. What a send-off… befitting a queen!

May all their departed souls rest in peace and rise in glory.
CONCLUSION
We thank God Almighty for the wisdom, vision and courage as we pursue the theme; “Seek, tend my flock and follow me”. As these are action words that challenge the Local Preacher to get up and do something, indeed, Local Preachers have been challenged.
## CHAPTER 24

### ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRESIDING BISHOP</strong></td>
<td>2015-2017</td>
<td>Rev Ziphizihle Daniel Siwa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Term: 2012-2014</td>
<td>2018-2022</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LAY PRESIDENT</strong></td>
<td>2015-2017</td>
<td>Mr James M Nkosi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GENERAL SECRETARY/MINISTERIAL GENERAL TREASURER</strong></td>
<td>2015-2019</td>
<td>Rev Charmaine Morgan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LAY GENERAL TREASURER/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER</strong></td>
<td>2015-2019</td>
<td>Mrs Thini Ngonyama</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DISTRICT BISHOPS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape of Good Hope</td>
<td>2014-2016</td>
<td>Rev Michel Hansrod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Term: 2011-2013</td>
<td>2017-2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grahamstown</td>
<td>2015-2017</td>
<td>Rev Andile Mbete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2018-2022</td>
<td>Rev Jacob Freemantle (Bishop Elect)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>2014-2016</td>
<td>Rev Mthobeli Matyumza</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2017-2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberley, Namibia &amp; Bloemfontein</td>
<td>2016-2018</td>
<td>Rev Lesiba Nkhumise</td>
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<td><strong>Northern Free State &amp; Lesotho</strong></td>
<td>2016-2018</td>
<td>Rev Andrew Motswenyane</td>
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<td>Previous Terms: 2010-2012 and 2013-2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natal Coastal</td>
<td>2015-2017</td>
<td>Rev Michael Vorster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natal West</td>
<td>2016-2020</td>
<td>Rev William Dlamini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>2016-2020</td>
<td>Rev Gary Rivas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highveld &amp; Swaziland</td>
<td>2015-2017</td>
<td>Rev Jonathan Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Term: 2012-2014</td>
<td>2018-2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limpopo</td>
<td>2016-2018</td>
<td>Rev Themba Mntambo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Term: 2013-2015</td>
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</table>
Moçambique 2015-2017  Rev Dinis Matsolo
Previous Term: 2012-2014  2018-2022
Clarkebury 2016-2018  Rev Thembinkosi Fandaleki
Warden of the Order of Deacons 2015-2017  Deacon Dr Vernon Van Wyk
Previous Term: 2012-2014  2018-2020  Deacon Douw Grobler
Warden of the Order of Evangelism
2015-2017  Rev Jacob Freemantle
2018-2020  Rev Nompithizelo Sibidla

UNIT LEADERS
Communications Unit Director  Mrs Bonginkosi Moyo-Bango
Appointed 2009
Ecumenical Affairs Unit Director  Rev ’Musi Losaba
2016-2020
Education for Ministry and Mission Unit Director  Rev Purity Malinga
2016-2020
Human Resources Unit Director  Rev Dr Vukile Mehana
Previous Term: 2012-2014  2015-2019
Mission Unit Director  Rev Kaneleone Ketshabale
2016-2020
SMMS President  Prof S Kumalo
Appointed 2016
Youth Unit Director  Rev Luxolo Mantini
Appointment due in 2017

COMMITTEES
Arbitration Panel  Justice Thebani Jali
Chaplaincy Committee  Bishop Themba Mntambo
Committee on Marriage & Family Life  Bishop Andrew Motswenyane
Connexional Disciplinary Committee  Adv Lee Anne de la Hunt
Doctrine, Ethics and Worship Committee  Bishop Mthobeli Matyumza
Heritage Committee  Rev Charmaine Morgan
Local Preachers Department  Rev Morapedi Diutwileng
Mediation Panel  Mr Pat Mkhize
Revision Committee  Rev Charmaine Morgan
Structures Committee  Bishop Michel Hansrood
## CHAPTER 25
### CONFERENCE AWARDS

The Methodist Conference Award for Excellence in Service to Church and Society is awarded to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Awarded to</th>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Durban</td>
<td>Mrs Hluphekile Gladness Ntuli</td>
<td>For Excellence in Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Durban</td>
<td>Mr David Wylde</td>
<td>For Excellence in Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Port Elizabeth</td>
<td>Mrs Jabu Mngomezulu</td>
<td>For Excellence in Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Port Elizabeth</td>
<td>Mr Artur Julião Mukhatchua</td>
<td>For Excellence in Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Pretoria</td>
<td>Mr Zandile Jakavula</td>
<td>For Leadership in the Church and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Pretoria</td>
<td>Dr Cynthia Kabanyane</td>
<td>For Empowerment and Human Development work in the Church and Society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Pretoria</td>
<td>Justice Dikgang Moseneke</td>
<td>For Exemplary Wesleyan witness within the public space.</td>
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## JANUARY

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<tr>
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<td>New Year’s Day</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>MCO reopens</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Young Men’s’ Guild Connexional Executive Committee</td>
<td>Pretoria</td>
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<td>17-19</td>
<td>Ordinands’ Retreat</td>
<td>Lumko</td>
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<td>20-21</td>
<td>Mission Resource Fund Training</td>
<td>Gauteng</td>
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<td>23-27</td>
<td>Probationers’ Seminar</td>
<td>eMseni</td>
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<td>24-25</td>
<td>EMMU General Committee</td>
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<td>26-28</td>
<td>Bishops’ Leadership Capacity Building</td>
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<td>27-29</td>
<td>Children’s Ministry Indaba</td>
<td>Delmas</td>
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<td>30-5 Feb</td>
<td>Education Week</td>
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## FEBRUARY

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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MJR Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-11</td>
<td>Young Men’s’ Guild Connexional General Executive Committee</td>
<td>Durban</td>
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<td>10-12</td>
<td>Local Preachers General Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>Mission Unit Advisory Board</td>
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<td>14-15</td>
<td>DEWCOM</td>
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<td>17-19</td>
<td>District Lay Leaders Consultation</td>
<td>CoGH</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>CUC - FEDSEM Event</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Finance Unit Investment Advisory Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Order of Evangelism - Secretaries Consultation</td>
<td>eMseni</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Methodist Publishing House</td>
<td>Cape Town</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-26</td>
<td>Young Men’s Guild Connexional Executive Visit To HISWA District YMG Convention</td>
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## MARCH

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<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
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<td>2-3</td>
<td>Revision Committee</td>
<td>MCO</td>
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<td>2-5</td>
<td>Young Women’s Manyano General Executive Meeting</td>
<td>CoGH</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Unit Leaders &amp; Organisation Presidents Meet with Bishops</td>
<td>Clarens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-10</td>
<td>Bishops’ Meeting</td>
<td>Clarens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Marsh Insurance Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Music AssociationConnexional General Executive Meeting</td>
<td>NFS &amp; L</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Location</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Structures committee</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-19</td>
<td>Young Men’s Guild Connexional Executive Visit To Cape of Good Hope District YMG Convention</td>
<td>Langa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>South Africa Human Rights Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Independence Day - Namibia</td>
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<td>22-24</td>
<td>Ecumenical Affairs Indaba</td>
<td>Lumko</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-2 Apr</td>
<td>Presiding Bishop’s Office visit to Lesotho</td>
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**APRIL**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Joint Women’s Organisations’ Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
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<td>10-13</td>
<td>Holy Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Family Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-23</td>
<td>Young Men’s Guild Connexional Executive Visit To Limpopo District YMG Convention</td>
<td>GaRankuwa</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-28</td>
<td>Order of Deacons Convocation</td>
<td>eMseni</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Stipend Augmentation Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>South African Freedom Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>27-30</td>
<td>Young Men’s Guild Connexional Executive Visit To Grahamstown District YMG Convention</td>
<td>Port Elizabeth</td>
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**MAY**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Workers’ Day</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>District Treasurers Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-13</td>
<td>Mozambique District Synod</td>
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<td>11-14</td>
<td>Cape of Good Hope District Synod</td>
<td>Helderberg</td>
</tr>
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<td>12</td>
<td>SMMS Governing Council</td>
<td>Pietermaritzburg</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>SMMS Graduation</td>
<td>Pietermaritzburg</td>
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<td>Finance Unit Investment Advisory</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pension Funds Meetings</td>
<td>MCO</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-20</td>
<td>Kimberley Namibia &amp; Bloemfontein District Synod</td>
<td>Aliwal North</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Methodist Publishing House</td>
<td>Cape Town</td>
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<td>18-20</td>
<td>Highveld &amp; Swaziland District Synod</td>
<td>Swaziland</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-20</td>
<td>Limpopo District Synod</td>
<td>Moreleta Circuit</td>
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<td>18-20</td>
<td>Grahamstown District Synod</td>
<td>Knysna</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Marsh Insurance Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
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<td>25-27</td>
<td>Clarkebury District Synod</td>
<td>Bojane Circuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Location</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Ascension Day</td>
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<td>25-27</td>
<td>Natal West District Synod</td>
<td>SMMS</td>
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<td>25-28</td>
<td>Natal Coastal District Synod</td>
<td>Upper South Coast Circuit</td>
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<td>25-28</td>
<td>Northern Free State And Lesotho District Synod</td>
<td>Winburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-28</td>
<td>Queenstown District Synod</td>
<td>Idutywa</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Unit Leaders Meeting</td>
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<td>31</td>
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**JUNE**

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>1-4</td>
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<td>Klerksdorp</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Pentecost Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Order of Evangelism General Committee</td>
<td>Durban</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>SACC Conference</td>
<td>tba</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Connexional Music Association Workshop</td>
<td>KN&amp;B</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Young Men’s Guild Connexional Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Pretoria</td>
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<td>10-13</td>
<td>EMMU Non Itinerant Training 2017</td>
<td>Lumko</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Revision Committee</td>
<td>MCO</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Structures Committee</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Ecumenical Affairs Advisory Board Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>South Africa Youth Day</td>
<td></td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Stipend Augmentation Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Connexional District Trust Properties Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Independence Day Mozambique</td>
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**JULY**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Finance Unit Executive</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>Connexional Youth Executive</td>
<td>Cape Town</td>
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<td>7-9</td>
<td>Connexional Youth Conference</td>
<td>Cape Town</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>NFS &amp; L</td>
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<td>Order of Evangelism Graduation</td>
<td>Bloemfontein</td>
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<td>10-11</td>
<td>DEWCOM</td>
<td>Lumko</td>
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<td>11-16</td>
<td>Women’s Manyano Triennial Convention</td>
<td>Queenstown</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Mission Unit Advisory Board</td>
<td>MCO</td>
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<td>Preliminary Stationing Meeting - Bishops</td>
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<td>Mandela Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Location</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Marsh Insurance</td>
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<td>Pre Conference Resolutions Committee</td>
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<td>25-26</td>
<td>EMMU General Committee Meeting</td>
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**AUGUST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>PBO visit to Swaziland</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>South African Women’s’ Day</td>
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<td>14-18</td>
<td>Superintendents’ Training - EMMU</td>
<td>Lumko</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Methodist Publishing House</td>
<td>Cape Town</td>
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<td>Finance Unit Investment Advisory Committee</td>
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<td>Medical Aid Committee</td>
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**SEPTEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Independence Day Swaziland</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>Connexional Executive</td>
<td>Jhb</td>
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<td>6-10</td>
<td>Ordinands’ Retreat</td>
<td>Jhb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>Conference 2017 and Ordination</td>
<td>Jhb</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>South African Heritage Day</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>District Treasurers Meeting</td>
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<td>29-01</td>
<td>Young Men’s Guild General DDSR workshop with all DDSRs</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Botswana Day</td>
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**OCTOBER**

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<td>4</td>
<td>Independence Day Lesotho</td>
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<td>Local Preacher’s Presidential Desk Meeting</td>
<td>Bloemfontein</td>
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<td>EMMU -Candidates’ Examination</td>
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<td>5-8</td>
<td>Women’s Manyano Presidents’ Retreat</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Connexional Music Association Eisteddfod</td>
<td>NFS &amp; L</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Finance Unit Investment Advisory Committee</td>
<td>MCO</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pension Funds Meetings</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Mission Unit Advisory Board</td>
<td>MCO</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Ecumenical Affairs Advisory Board Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Stipend Augmentation Meeting</td>
<td>MCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-22</td>
<td>Local Preacher’s Association Triennial Convention</td>
<td>Lichtenburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-27</td>
<td>Biblewomen and Evangelist Training</td>
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<td>Structures Committee</td>
<td>MCO</td>
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<td>24-25</td>
<td>New Bishops Orientation</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Medical Aid Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-28</td>
<td>Young Women’s Manyano CCS Workshop</td>
<td>Limpopo</td>
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**NOVEMBER**

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<tr>
<td>2-5</td>
<td>Women’s Manyano Workshop for Wives of Ministers On Probation</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Unit leaders and Organisation Heads Imbizo to strategise Missionally for 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>EMMU - DSS, IST &amp; SOV Conveners Training</td>
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<td>7-8</td>
<td>District Secretaries</td>
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<td>8-12</td>
<td>Bishops’ Meeting and Mission</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Bishops Induction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Connexional Finance Unit Executive Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Young Men’s’ Guild Connexional Executive Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Methodist Publishing House</td>
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<td>23-26</td>
<td>Africa Methodist Youth Movement Conference</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Bishop’s Induction</td>
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<td>1st Sunday of Advent</td>
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**DECEMBER**

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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>World Aids Sunday</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>South African Day of Reconciliation</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td><em>Christmas Day</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Day of Goodwill</td>
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</table>
ANNUAL
FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS
THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
MILLENNIUM MISSION RESOURCE FUND

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 31 December 2015
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Annual financial statements:

Report of the Methodist Connexional Executive Committee 2 - 3


Balance Sheet 6

Income Statement 7

Statement of changes in equity 8

Notes forming part of the financial statements 9 - 10

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements as set out on pages 2 to 10 were approved by the Committee and signed on their behalf.

The Committee is responsible for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and the preparation and integrity of the financial statements and related information. The auditors are responsible to report on the fair presentation of the financial statements.

The Committee is also responsible for the Fund’s system of internal financial control. These are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance as to the reliability of the financial statements, and to adequately safeguard, verify and maintain accountability of assets, and to prevent and detect misstatements and loss. Nothing has come to the attention of the Committee to indicate that any material breakdown in the functioning of these controls, procedures and systems has occurred during the year under review.

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis, since the Committee have every reason to believe that the Fund has adequate resources in place to continue operating in the foreseeable future.

Ministerial General Treasurer

Date 4th July 2016

Lay General Treasurer

Date 4th July 2016
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa
Millennium Mission Resource Fund

Annual Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 December 2015

Page 2

REPORT OF THE METHODIST CONNEXIONAL OFFICE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

The Committee has pleasure in presenting their Report for the year ended 31 December 2015

Management
In terms of the Investment Policy endorsed by the Connexional Executive Committee of the Church in
January 2000 the Methodist Connexional Office shall administer the Fund.

Description of Fund

Prophetic Statement
The Millennium Mission Campaign is a Prophetic Statement related to the Mission Calling of the
Church. We need to access and use the resources God has given to us and constantly hold the vision
of a Christ-Healed Africa before our people.

Primary Objective
To advise and act under the authority of the Presiding Bishop to establish a strong and sustainable
Millennium Mission Resource Fund.

Objectives of the Fund
To ensure that in accordance with the Resolution of Conference held in July 1998, donations
collected and banked into the Fund bank account are:
  • responsibly and professionally accounted for and invested in accordance with the investment
  ethos of the Church;
  • Invested so as to achieve excellent, consistent returns and capital growth over the medium and
    long term and achieve the purpose of the Fund;
  • efficiently administered, accounted for and audited and that all relevant information regarding
    donations received, investments made, income generated and distributions are communicated
    to the Connexional Executive;
  • distributed in line with the Mission objectives of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.

Investment Policy
  • To grant operational responsibility for the investment of the assets of the Fund to the investment
    and Advisory Committee of the Methodist Connexional Office.
  • No direct investments will be made in Companies involved in alcohol, cigarettes, gambling or
    armaments production.
  • To comply with the prudential requirements laid down in the Pension Funds Act, which, whilst
    allowing for lucrative investment growth opportunities, provides protection against undue risk.
  • To offset the effects of inflation, the objective over time, is to ensure that the market value of the
    Fund’s investments increase during any year by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of that year plus a
    minimum of 1%.
  • After allowing for administration costs and capital growth of CPI plus 1%, and subject to the
    decisions of the Connexional Executive, surplus income will be distributed to the Mission Units Pula
    Fund and a Contingency Fund as soon as possible each year after finalisation of the audit.
  • The Mission Unit will arrange for the distribution of the income to the Pula Fund on the basis of
    needs and established criteria. Recipients may not start their own investment accounts with the
    money allocated.
Address
Methodist Connexional Office
33 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue
Johannesburg
2198

Auditors
BDO South Africa Incorporated
Registered Auditors

Report of the Investment Committee

• The Future
The Committee notes that only about 20% of churches responded to the Millennium Fund appeal. Whilst 80% did not respond, the Fund will provide immense resourcing for future generations because a Mission Endowment Fund has no time limits.

• Review of the period’s activities
During the year the Market Value of Investments increased by R 2,276,165. In addition dividend and interest income amounted to R 546,608 and donations of R 1,380 were received.

The funds are invested in Unit Trusts with three Investment Managers, Allan Gray, Investec and Foord. The Capital Value of the Fund was R 26,283,517 as at 31 December 2015 (2014: R 24,563,439).

• Distribution
Conference 2009 considered and approved a proposal whereby the annual distribution will be paid to the Mission Unit’s Pula Fund from which distributions to projects approved by their Board of Mission will be made. In addition a distribution will be paid to a Contingency Fund.
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Executive Committee of The Methodist Church of South Africa - Millennium Mission Resource Fund

We have audited the financial statements of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa - Millennium Mission Resource Fund, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2015 and the income statement for the year then ended, the report of the Executive Committee and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Executive Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The executive committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note 1, for determining that the basis is acceptable in the circumstances and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud and error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting principles used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa - Millennium Mission Resource Fund for the year ended 31 December 2015 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the constitution of the entity.

Other Matter - Restriction on Use

The financial statements of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa - Millennium Mission Resource Fund have been prepared in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note 1 to the financial statements for the purposes of the executive committee. The financial statements and our auditor's report may not be suitable for another purpose.

BDO South Africa Incorporated
Registration number: 1995/002316/21
Practice number: 903526
VAT number: 491048485

National Executive: S Dansie • H Bhaga-Alhajee • BJ de Wet • HCS Lopes • B Lovell • PD Schneider • J Skosana (Non-Executive Chairman) • MJ Stewart (Chief Executive) • A van der Hoek
Office Managing Director: B Lovell

The company’s principal place of business is at 22 Wellington Road, Parktown, Johannesburg where a list of directors' names is available for inspection. BDO South Africa Incorporated, a South African personal liability company, is a member of BDO International Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, and forms part of the International BDO network of independent member firms.
Other reports

As part of our audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015, we have read the Report of the Methodist Connexional Office Executive for the purpose of identifying whether there are material inconsistencies between this report and the audited financial statements. The Report is the responsibility of the respective preparers. Based on reading the Directors’ Report we have not identified material inconsistencies between this report and the audited financial statements. However, we have not audited the Report and accordingly do not express an opinion thereon.

BDO South Africa Incorporated

Bronwyn Lovell
Registered Auditor

29 July 2016
La Lucia Ridge
# Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Assets

### Investments
- Funds Invested
  - 2
  - 2015: 26,283,518
  - 2014: 24,563,439

### Current Assets
- Cash and Cash Equivalents
  - 33,618
  - 2015: 33,618
  - 2014: 70,962

## Equity Reserves and Liabilities

### Accumulated Surplus
- 2015: 25,171,136
- 2014: 28,495,401

### Current Liabilities
- Accounts Payable
  - 2015: 1,146,000
  - 2014: 1,139,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26,317,136</td>
<td>24,634,401</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
MILLENNIUM MISSION RESOURCE FUND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

Page 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from investments</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2,822,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>88,417</td>
<td>81,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration fees</td>
<td>72,000</td>
<td>66,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>13,809</td>
<td>13,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>2,608</td>
<td>2,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION</strong></td>
<td>2,734,355</td>
<td>2,050,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations received</td>
<td>1,380</td>
<td>1,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 DISTRIBUTION</td>
<td>1,060,000</td>
<td>1,060,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNALLOCATED SURPLUS CARRIED FORWARD</strong></td>
<td>1,675,735</td>
<td>991,615</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
MILLENNIUM MISSION RESOURCE FUND

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 31 December 2012</td>
<td>19,652,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Distribution paid in 2013 for 2012 year end</td>
<td>(1,060,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net surplus for the year per income statement</td>
<td>3,911,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance at 31 December 2013</strong></td>
<td>22,503,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Distribution paid in 2014 for 2013 year end</td>
<td>(1,060,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net surplus for the year per income statement</td>
<td>2,051,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance at 31 December 2014</strong></td>
<td>23,495,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Distribution paid in 2015 for 2014 year end</td>
<td>(1,060,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net surplus for the year per income statement</td>
<td>2,735,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance at 31 December 2015</strong></td>
<td>25,171,136</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
MILLENNIUM MISSION RESOURCE FUND

Notes to the annual financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2015

Page 9

1 Accounting policies

The annual financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention and incorporate the following principal accounting policies which are consistent with those of the previous year.

The principal accounting policies are:

Revenue recognition
Interest is recognised on a time proportion basis, taking account of the principal outstanding and the effective rate over the period to maturity, when it is determined that such income will accrue to the Fund. Donations are recognised when received. Dividends are recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

Investments
The investments are valued at market value at the reporting date. Marketable securities are carried at market value. Market value is calculated by reference to stock exchange prices on the balance sheet date. Gains and losses on revaluation of investment are recognised in the income statement. On disposal of the investment the difference between the net disposal proceeds value and the carrying value is charged or credited to the income statement.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents are measured at fair value.

Accounts Payable
Provisions are recognised for distributions to be paid, audit and administration fees, the amount of which is the present value of the expenditure expected to be required to settle the obligation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Investments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allan Gray Balanced Unit Trusts</td>
<td>9,143,007</td>
<td>8,624,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foard Unit Trusts</td>
<td>9,101,229</td>
<td>8,854,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investec</td>
<td>8,039,282</td>
<td>7,084,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26,283,518</td>
<td>24,563,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Accounts Payable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for distribution</td>
<td>1,060,000</td>
<td>1,060,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sundry creditors</td>
<td>86,000</td>
<td>79,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,146,000</td>
<td>1,139,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4 Income from Investments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dividends received on Investments</td>
<td>201,745</td>
<td>179,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>344,862</td>
<td>224,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market value surplus on investments</td>
<td>2,276,165</td>
<td>1,727,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,822,772</td>
<td>2,131,621</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 Available for distribution

The amount available for distribution is arrived at after taking into account the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auditors remuneration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current year</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>13,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over provision prior year</td>
<td>(191)</td>
<td>(46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12,809</td>
<td>12,954</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 Related Parties Disclosure

The Millennium Mission Resource Fund is a related party with the Methodist Connexional Office which receives and administers the Pula Fund on behalf of the Mission Unit with effect from 2010. The Methodist Connexional Office charges the Millennium Mission Resource Fund an administration fee of R60,000.
THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
SUPERNUMERARY FUND

FINANCIAL SERVICES BOARD
REGISTRATION NO. 12/8/2604/2

SOUTH AFRICAN REVENUE SERVICES APPROVAL
NO. 18/20/4/030055

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the 12 Months ended 31 December 2015
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Supernumerary Fund  
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/2604/2.  
Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schedule A: Regulatory Information</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule B: Statement of responsibility by the Board of Trustees</td>
<td>5-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule C: Statement of responsibility by the Principal Officer</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule D: Report of the independent Auditors</td>
<td>8-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule E: Report of the Board of Fund</td>
<td>10-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule F: Statement of Net Assets and Liabilities</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule G: Revenue Account</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule H: Notes to the Annual Financial Statements</td>
<td>16-18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Supernumerary Fund
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/2604/2

Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE A
REGULATORY INFORMATION
For the year ended 31 December 2015

Registered office of the fund:
Postal address: PO Box 50216, Musgrave, 4062
Physical address: 450A Che Guevara Road, Durban, 4001

Financial reporting periods:
Current: 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015
Previous: 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014

Board of fund:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Date appointed</th>
<th>Date resigned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev Charmaine Morgan</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>01.01.2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Joanne Trytsman</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>01.01.2013</td>
<td>31.12.2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Thiti N Ngonyama</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>01.01.2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev Ziphozile D Siwa</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>01.01.2012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev Craig HC Bell</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>01.01.2012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev Jacob Freerankelius</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>01.01.2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev John Herman</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>01.01.2005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev John P Scholtz</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>01.01.2006</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev Steven O Jonas</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>01.01.2012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr George Trimble</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>01.01.2011</td>
<td>31.12.2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = M denotes member elected; E = denotes employee appointed
\( ^{1/2} \) = C denotes chairperson

Schedule of meetings held by the Board of Fund in terms of the rules of the fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting date</th>
<th>Place of meeting</th>
<th>Quorum (yes/no)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06 May 2015</td>
<td>33 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, 2199</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 October 2015</td>
<td>33 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, 2199</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fund officers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name</th>
<th>Principal officer</th>
<th>Principal officer</th>
<th>Monitoring person*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Joanne Trytsman</td>
<td>Mrs Marlie Halliday</td>
<td>Private Bag X11, Garden View, 2047</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal address</td>
<td>PO Box 50216, Musgrave, 4062</td>
<td>450A Che Guevara Road, Durban, 4001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical address</td>
<td>33 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, 2198</td>
<td>33 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, 2198</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone no.</td>
<td>(011) 615 1616</td>
<td>(031) 202 4214</td>
<td>(011) 615 1616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email address</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joanne@mco.org.za">joanne@mco.org.za</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:marlie@mco.org.za">marlie@mco.org.za</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:candice@mco.org.za">candice@mco.org.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appointment date</td>
<td>01 January 2015</td>
<td>01 January 2016</td>
<td>01 October 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resignation date</td>
<td>31 December 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* (In terms of Section 13A of the Pension Funds Act in South Africa)

Professional service providers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actuary/Valuator</th>
<th>Auditors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full name</td>
<td>ARGEN Actuarial Solutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal address</td>
<td>P.O. Box 1390, Kroonstad, 9500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical address</td>
<td>39 President Street, Kroonstad, South Africa, 9499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone number</td>
<td>(011) 215 1147</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Supernumerary Fund
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/2604/2

Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

### SCHEDULE A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit administrator</th>
<th>Fund consultant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full name</td>
<td>The Methodist Connexional Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal address</td>
<td>Private Bag X11, Garden View, 2047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical address</td>
<td>33 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, 2189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone number</td>
<td>(011) 615 616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit administrator's FAIS registration number in terms of section 138:</td>
<td>24/114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund consultant's FAIS registration number</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Investment administrator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name</th>
<th>Investec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postal address</td>
<td>P O Box 785700, Sandton, 2146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical address</td>
<td>100 Grayston Drive, Sandton, 2196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone number</td>
<td>(021) 416 1713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment administrator's FAIS registration number in terms of section 138:</td>
<td>24/61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment administrator's FAIS registration number</td>
<td>587</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Investment administrator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name</th>
<th>Allan Gray Life Limited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postal address</td>
<td>P O Box 51318 V&amp;A Waterfront Cape Town 8002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical address</td>
<td>Granger Bay Court Beach Road V&amp;A Waterfront Cape Town 8001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone number</td>
<td>(021) 415 2300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment administrator's FAIS registration number in terms of section 138:</td>
<td>24/527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment administrator's FAIS registration number</td>
<td>6663</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Investment administrator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name</th>
<th>Firstup Trusts Limited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postal address</td>
<td>P O Box 135 Howard Place 7450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical address</td>
<td>B Forest Mews Forest Drive Pinelands 7405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone number</td>
<td>(021) 531 3085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment administrator's FAIS registration number in terms of section 138:</td>
<td>21476</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Risk insurer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name</th>
<th>Zurich Insurance Co SA Ltd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postal address</td>
<td>Private Bag X4, Gateway, 3201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical address</td>
<td>Glass House Office Park Sinimbe Close Umhlanga Rocks, 4051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone number</td>
<td>031-584 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSB approval no.</td>
<td>17703</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Custodian and/or nominee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Participating employers:
The list of participating employers is available for inspection at the fund's registered office.
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Supernumerary Fund  
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/2604/2  
Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE B

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY BY THE BOARD OF FUND  
For the year ended 31 December 2015

Responsibilities

The Board of Fund hereby certify to the best of their knowledge and belief that, during the period under review, in the execution of their duties they:

• ensured that proper registers, books and records of the operations of the fund were kept, inclusive of proper minutes of all resolutions passed by the Board of Fund;
• ensured that proper internal control systems were employed by or on behalf of the fund;
• ensured that adequate and appropriate information was communicated to the members of the fund, informing them of their rights, benefits and duties in terms of the rules of the fund;
• took all reasonable steps to ensure that contributions, where applicable, were paid timeously to the fund or reported where necessary in accordance with section 13A and regulation 33 of the Pension Funds Act in South Africa;
• obtained expert advice on matters where they lacked sufficient expertise;
• ensured that the rules and the operation and administration of the fund complied with the Pension Funds Act in South Africa, the Financial Institutions (Protection of Funds) Act and all other applicable laws;
• ensured that fidelity cover was maintained. This cover was deemed adequate and in compliance with the rules of the fund; and
• ensured that investments of the fund were implemented and maintained in accordance with the fund’s investment strategy.

Approval of the annual financial statements

The Annual Financial Statements of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Supernumerary Fund are the responsibility of the Board of Fund. The Board of Fund fulfills this responsibility by ensuring the implementation and maintenance of accounting systems and practices adequately supported by internal financial controls. These controls, which are implemented and executed by the fund and/or its benefit administrators, provide reasonable assurance that:

• the fund’s assets are safeguarded;
• transactions are properly authorised and executed; and
• the financial records are reliable.

The Annual Financial Statements set out on pages 14 to 18 have been prepared for regulatory purposes in accordance with:

• The basis of accounting applicable to retirement funds in South Africa as indicated in the principal accounting policies contained in the notes to the financial statements on pages 16-17;
• the financial rules of the fund; and
• the provisions of the Pension Funds Act in South Africa.

These financial statements have been reported on by the independent auditors, BDO South Africa Incorporated, who were given unrestricted access to all financial records and related data, including minutes of all relevant meetings. The Board of Fund believes that all representations made to the independent auditors during their audit were valid and appropriate. The report of the independent auditors is presented on page 8-9.
SCHEDULE B

Instances of non-compliance

We are not aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including the provisions of laws and regulations that determine the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

These financial statements:
• were approved by the Board of Fund on 1st June 2016;
• are certified by them to the best of their knowledge and belief to be correct;
• fairly represent the net assets of the fund at 31 December 2015 as well as the results of its activities for the period then ended; and
• are signed on behalf of the Board of Fund by the Chairman and two board members:

REV C MORGAN
CHAIRPERSON

Date: 08.06.2016

REV S G JONES
BOARD MEMBER

Date: 08.06.2016

MRS T M NGONYAMA
BOARD MEMBER

Date: 08.06.2016
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Supernumerary Fund  
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/2604/2  

Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015  

SCHEDULE C  

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY BY THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER  

I confirm that for the period under review the Methodist Church of Southern Africa Supernumerary Fund has lodged with the Registrar of Pension Funds all such returns, statements, documents and any other information required in terms of the Pension Funds Act in South Africa.  

[Signature]  

MRS M HILDYARD  
PRINCIPAL OFFICER  

Date: 8 - 06 - 2016
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA SUPERNUMERARY FUND

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the annual financial statements of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa Supernumerary Fund, which comprise the statement of net assets and funds as at 31 December 2015, the statement of changes in net assets and funds for the year then ended, and the notes to the financial statements which include the principal accounting policies and other explanatory information, as set out on pages 10 to 18.

Board of Fund's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Board of Fund is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements for regulatory purposes, in accordance with the basis of preparation applicable to retirement funds in South Africa, as set out in the notes to the financial statements. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud and error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.
Opinion

In our opinion, the annual financial statements of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa Supernumerary Fund for the year ended 31 December 2015 have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of preparation applicable to retirement funds in South Africa as set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Financial Reporting Framework

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the principal accounting policies in which the applicable financial reporting framework is identified, as prescribed by the Registrar. Consequently, the financial statements and related auditor’s report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

The Statement of Responsibility by the Board of Fund describes instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including those that determine the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements that have come to the attention of the Board of Fund and the corrective action taken by the Board of Fund. There are no additional instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that came to our attention during the course of our audit of the financial statements.

BDO South Africa Incorporated

Per: B Lovell
Director
Registered Auditor

29 June 2016
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Supernumerary Fund  
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/2604/2  

Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE E  
REPORT OF THE BOARD OF FUND  
For the year ended 31 December 2015

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE FUND

1.1 Type of fund:  
For the purposes of the prescribed Financial Statements of the Fund, the Fund is classified as a Pension Fund in terms of Section 1 of the Income Tax Act, 1962. The fund is a Defined Contribution Fund.

1.2 Benefits:  
1.2.1 Summary in terms of the rules of the fund:  
All Pensioners were granted an increase of 10.74% of which the entire increase was financed by the Supernumerary Fund in terms of the Fund’s Pension Increase Policy.

1.2.2 Strategy of Board of Fund towards unclaimed benefits:  
Benefits due and unpaid on retirement, death or resignation of Members are held after 3 years in an “unclaimed benefits” account within the Fund and every effort made by the Administrators, the Church and the Board of Trustees to urgently trace and pay out such benefits to the member, eligible spouse, eligible children or dependants of the member, in accordance with the rules of the Fund and the Pension Funds Act 24 of 1956. Interest is credited to such unclaimed benefits based on the average interest rate earned on Call Account investments at First National Bank Limited.

1.2.3 Unclaimed benefits:  
Complete records, as prescribed, are maintained in respect of such members as from the date of their commencement of membership of the Fund.

1.3 Contributions:  
1.3.1 Description in terms of the rules of the fund.

1.3.1.1 Members’ contributions:  
Members shall, in respect of each monthly stipend paid to such member by the Church, contribute ten percent of one-twelfth of the annual Pensionable Stipend prescribed in the Schedule for the Group in which that member’s stipend falls during the month of service for which that stipend is paid.

1.3.1.2 Employer’s contributions:  
The Church shall make a monthly contribution equal to the contribution made by each member.

1.4 Rule amendments:  
The physical and postal addresses for the registered office of the Fund was changed in 2014. This amendment is to be submitted to the Board of Fund and FSB in 2016 for approval.

1.5 Reserves:  
1.5.1 Market value reserve:  
The percentage deducted by the Actuary from the market value of the investments of the Pensioners Fund in order to determine the actuarial value of the assets of the Pensioners Fund.
SCHEDULE E

1.5.2 Risk reserve:
The Supernumerary Fund’s Risk Reserve falls under the definition of a contingency fund as it has been set aside to deal with the specific risk of the early payment of insurance type benefits in the case of ill-health retirements or death in service. The Actuary will advise, from time to time, the contributions which need to be credited to the Reserve from the Church’s contribution, and by so doing will regulate the size of the Reserve to be commensurate with the risk it has to bear. The current balance of the Risk Reserve is R 32 570 557 which amounts to 2.16% of the total net assets of the Fund.

2 INVESTMENTS

2.1 Investment strategy:
The Board of Fund have formulated an investment strategy whereby the investments are managed according to the following principles. This investment strategy complies with the provisions of regulation 28 of the Pensions Funds Act in South Africa.

2.1.1 General:
The Fund’s benchmark for investment performance is 6% in excess of the CPI rate after taking into account the Investment Managers’ fees.

Regarding Asset Allocations the policy is to invest:
- Between 50% and 80% of the total investments in moderate risk balanced investment portfolios;
- Between 0% and 50% of the total investments in more aggressive investment portfolios;
- Between 0% and 25% of the total investments in overseas investments.

The Fund should at all times have a minimum of two Investment Managers and possibly three.

2.1.2 Individual member choice:
Members do not have individual investment choice because very few of the Members have the background which would enable them to make informed choices, and the Membership is scattered throughout South Africa making it even more difficult to hold investment seminars than if they were situated in one or several venues. In practice it is doubtful whether the Fund would be able to fulfil its responsibility to educate members sufficiently to enable them to make reasonable choices.

2.1.3 Unclaimed benefits:
Unclaimed benefits are represented by call account investments making such funds available for immediate payment to beneficiaries.

2.1.4 Surplus apportionment allocations:
A ‘Nil Scheme’ was submitted to the Financial Services Board for approval on 28 June 2004 and approval of the NIL surplus was obtained on 10 October 2006.

2.1.5 Reserve accounts:
The current value of the risk reserve account is 2.16% of the total net assets of the Fund and such funds are therefore invested in accordance with the general investment strategy of the Fund.

2.2 Management of investments:
The Fund’s investments consist of funds invested on a moderate risk basis, in Balanced Portfolios or Unit Trust Funds with Investment Managers, but with between 0% and 50% thereof in more aggressive Absolute Funds. All portfolios conform with the provisions of the Pensions Fund Act. The investment Managers have discretion to vary their asset allocation in the various market sectors within the asset allocation range specified in paragraph 2.1.1.
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Supernumerary Fund  
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/2604/2  
Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE E

The Board of Fund appointed an Investment and Advisory Committee which meets 4 times a year to discuss the investment policy, monitor the asset allocation and performance of the Investment Managers against the investment strategy of the Fund and to submit recommendations on all such matters to the Board of Fund, which meets twice annually, for their consideration and approval. The Investment Managers are remunerated on a negotiated fee basis.

The fair value of the Fund’s investments, administered by the Investment Managers at the end of the period was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current period R</th>
<th>Previous period R</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allan Gray Life Limited</td>
<td>501 172 308</td>
<td>447 812 676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Balanced Fund</td>
<td>378 562 799</td>
<td>337 680 537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Absolute Fund</td>
<td>91 623 835</td>
<td>85 845 799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>30 985 674</td>
<td>24 286 340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foord Unit Trusts</td>
<td>495 806 957</td>
<td>461 219 720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balanced</td>
<td>495 806 957</td>
<td>461 219 720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investec</td>
<td>498 889 280</td>
<td>462 498 790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Equity Fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balanced Fund</td>
<td>498 889 280</td>
<td>462 498 790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total value of investments managed</td>
<td>1 495 868 545</td>
<td>1 371 531 186</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 MEMBERSHIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numbers at beginning of period</th>
<th>Active members</th>
<th>Deferred pensioners</th>
<th>Pensioners/Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Unclaimed benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers in</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers out</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawals</td>
<td>(8)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(11)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirements</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retrenchments</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(32)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers (from)/to deferred pensioners</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numbers at end of period</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>739</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 ACTUARIAL VALUATION

The financial statements summarise the transactions and net assets of the Fund. They do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits in the future. In accordance with the rules of the Fund, the actuarial position of the Fund, which does not take account of such liabilities, is examined and reported on by the Actuary at intervals not exceeding three years. The last valuation was performed for 31 December 2014 and per the valuation the Fund was in a sound financial condition.
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Supernumerary Fund  
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/2604/2  
Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE E

5 SURPLUS APPORTIONMENT
The Fund has a ‘Nil Scheme’ appportionment and documentation to this effect was submitted to the Financial Services Board on 28 June 2004 to meet the 18 month deadline imposed by the Second Amendment to the Act. The Fund has met all the requirements for the submission of documentation required by the Act. Approval of the ‘Nil Scheme’ was obtained from the Financial Services Board on the 10th October 2006.

6 HOUSING LOAN FACILITIES
No loans or guarantees were granted to members in terms of the provisions of section 19(5) of the Pension Funds Act in South Africa.

7 INVESTMENTS IN PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS
No investments were held in participating employers as provided for in section 19(4A) of the Pension Funds Act in South Africa.

8 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS
Joanne Trytsman resigned as Principal Officer effective 31 December 2015 and Martie Hildyard has been appointed the new Principal Officer effective 01 January 2016. The appointment was approved by the Board of Fund and noted in the minutes of the trustee meeting held on 14 October 2015. This has been submitted to the FSB and is pending approval.

9. SIGNIFICANT MATTERS
In 2007, having regard to the substantial surplus which existed in the Fund because of the prior four years of very favourable market conditions, the Trustees gave consideration and approved the apportionment of part of the actuarial surplus arising after the surplus apportionment date (which was 31 December 2002 in the case of the Fund) to an Employer Surplus Account as envisaged in section 15 of the Pension Fund Act. The establishment of such an Account is also provided for in Rule 28 of the Fund’s Rules. The purpose of Section 15 is, inter alia, to provide a measure of relief to employers from the cost of pension contributions and pension increases when these are borne by the employer.
THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA SUPERNUMERARY FUND
Reference No: 12/8/2604/2
For the year ended 31 December 2015

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SCHEDULE F

[In terms of regulation 12(2)(b)(iv)]

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
At 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2015 (R)</th>
<th>2014 (R)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,495,868,545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td></td>
<td>12,354,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,295,892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,124,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,513,643,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated funds</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1,458,762,493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members' Individual Accounts</td>
<td></td>
<td>509,400,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Reserve Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td>32,570,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensioners' Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td>916,796,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclaimed benefits</td>
<td></td>
<td>46,351,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer Surplus Account</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,582,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44,934,139</td>
<td>39,176,318</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits payable</td>
<td>8,524,405</td>
<td>11,986,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income tax payable</td>
<td>8,252,182</td>
<td>11,986,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>272,223</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Funds and Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,513,643,140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Supernumerary Fund  
Reference No.: 12/B/2104/2  
For the year ended 31 December 2015  
Page 14 A

SCHEDULE F

[in terms of regulation 13(2)(b)(iv)]

Statement of funds and net assets at 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Members Fund</th>
<th>Risk Reserve Fund</th>
<th>Pensioners Fund</th>
<th>Employer Surplus Fund</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-current assets</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>503,372.128</td>
<td>30,440.045</td>
<td>918,625.595</td>
<td>43,422.777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td>9,032,344</td>
<td>2,122,512</td>
<td>5,274,177</td>
<td>1,345,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,511,688</td>
<td>91,596</td>
<td>10,620,517</td>
<td>130,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,295,892</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,274,364</td>
<td>2,030,916</td>
<td>(3,341,343)</td>
<td>1,214,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>512,404.472</td>
<td>32,570.557</td>
<td>923,899.772</td>
<td>44,768.339</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Funds and Liabilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>509,400.766</th>
<th>32,570.557</th>
<th>916,796.170</th>
<th>-</th>
<th>1,458,767.493</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td>509,400.766</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>509,400.766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Reserve Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>32,570.557</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>32,570.557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensioners Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>916,796.170</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>916,796.170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Current Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,538,193</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>44,310</td>
<td>44,768.339</td>
<td>44,351.242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclaimed Benefits</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,538,193</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>44,310</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,582,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus Apportionment Reserve</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>44,768.339</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>44,768.339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,465,113</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,059,292</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,224,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits payable</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,465,113</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,787,066</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,252,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income tax payable</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>272,233</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>272,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Funds and Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>512,404.472</td>
<td>32,570.557</td>
<td>923,899.772</td>
<td>44,768.339</td>
<td>1,613,143.140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Superannuity Fund  
Reference No: 12/13/2604/2  
For the year ended 31 December 2015  

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**SCHEDULE G**  

(in terms of regulation 12(2)(d)(v))

Revenue account for the year ended 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributions received</th>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members’ Contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Normal</td>
<td></td>
<td>13,619,606</td>
<td>12,617,309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Purchase of Past Service</td>
<td></td>
<td>167,027</td>
<td>125,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13,786,633</td>
<td>12,742,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employers’ contributions (Normal)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13,419,606</td>
<td>12,617,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27,426,241</td>
<td>25,349,933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from Investments</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>42,921,780</td>
<td>36,910,757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>70,348,027</td>
<td>62,320,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer’s Special Contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,454,042</td>
<td>8,126,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td>78,772,063</td>
<td>70,407,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Administration expenses</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6,051,410</td>
<td>5,546,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td>72,720,653</td>
<td>64,861,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustment to fair value of investments</td>
<td></td>
<td>129,412,688</td>
<td>167,118,269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated funds at beginning of year</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,373,141,692</td>
<td>1,270,425,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated funds - before benefits and transfers out</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,575,275,031</td>
<td>1,442,402,835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Benefits awarded</td>
<td></td>
<td>71,739,199</td>
<td>58,253,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Transfers to other funds</td>
<td></td>
<td>-1,019,778</td>
<td>-1,019,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated funds - at the end of the year</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,503,525,832</td>
<td>1,572,445,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members Fund</td>
<td>Risk Reserve Fund</td>
<td>Pensioners Fund</td>
<td>Employer Savings Account</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions received</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members Contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>13,619,006</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of Past Service</td>
<td>107,029</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13,626,035</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employers Contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>14,819,006</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>28,443,035</td>
<td>873,652</td>
<td>28,260,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from Investments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>41,869,776</td>
<td>873,652</td>
<td>28,260,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers between Funds - incoming</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received inter-fund</td>
<td>421,785</td>
<td>1,407,210</td>
<td>31,402,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery from Risk Reserve</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>211,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Reserve Contributions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40,051,159</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>43,401,541</td>
<td>2,290,877</td>
<td>68,051,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer's Special Contribution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>42,491,981</td>
<td>2,289,672</td>
<td>66,440,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Administration expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,432,189</td>
<td>83,292</td>
<td>2,417,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net revenue</td>
<td>40,059,792</td>
<td>2,206,380</td>
<td>63,951,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustment to fair value of investments</td>
<td>63,548,439</td>
<td>2,631,185</td>
<td>79,473,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated funds at beginning of year</td>
<td>402,973,525</td>
<td>27,049,905</td>
<td>843,257,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated funds - before benefits and transfers out</td>
<td>545,891,329</td>
<td>32,781,714</td>
<td>965,705,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Benefits awarded</td>
<td>3,497,107</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>68,272,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>32,813,486</td>
<td>211,151</td>
<td>693,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers between Funds - outgoing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest paid - inter-fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>608,150</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Reserve contributions</td>
<td>1,302,159</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to Pensioners Fund - funeral benefits</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>211,151</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated funds - at the end of the year</td>
<td>529,305,767</td>
<td>37,732,557</td>
<td>915,706,188</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Superannuation Fund  
Financial Services Board Registration No. 12/8/2604/2  
For the year ended 31 December 2015  
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SCHEDULE II

[In terms of regulation 12(2)(b)(vii)]

Notes to the annual financial statements as at 31 December 2015

1 PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTING POLICIES
The following are the principle accounting policies used by the Fund, which are consistent with those of the previous period.

1.1 Purpose and basis of preparation of financial statements
The financial statements are prepared for regulatory purposes in accordance with the Regulations to the Pension Funds Act. The Regulations require that the basis of accounting applied by the pension funds comprises of general adherence to Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, as applied to retirement funds in South Africa.

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost and going concern bases, modified by the valuation of financial instruments at fair value.

1.2 Financial instruments
Measurement
Financial instruments include cash and bank balances, investments, receivables and accounts payable. They are initially measured at cost as of trade date, which includes transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these instruments are measured as set out below.

Investments
Available for sale and held for trading investments are measured at fair value.

The fair value of marketable securities is calculated by reference to the applicable Stock Exchange quoted selling prices at the close of business on the statement of funds and net assets date.

Insurance policies - linked policies
Insurance policies linked to listed investments are valued at fair value and are therefore equivalent to market value of the underlying assets as certified by the investment insurer concerned.

1.3 Asset impairment
Asset impairment tests are applied annually to assets whose measurement basis is historic cost or historic cost as adjusted for revaluations. An impairment loss is recognised when an asset’s carrying value exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are initially adjusted against any applicable revaluation reserve, then expensed in the statement of changes in net assets and funds.

If the impairment loss for an asset exceeds the carrying value of the asset, the excess is recognised as a provision.

The recoverable value is the higher of the asset’s fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Fair value less costs to sell is the amount obtainable from the sale of the asset in an arm’s length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties, less the cost of disposal. Value in use is the present value of estimated future cash flows expected to flow from the continuing use of the asset and from its disposal at the end of its useful life.

If the recoverable amount of an asset subsequently exceeds the carrying value resulting from the application of its accounting policy, an impairment reversal is recognised to that extent. The impairment reversal is applied in reverse order to the impairment loss.

Accounts receivable
Accounts receivable are stated at amortised cost less provision for doubtful debts.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents are measured at fair value.

Accounts payable
Accounts payable are recognised at amortised cost.
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Supernumerary Fund
Financial Services Board Registration No. 12/8/2604/2
For the year ended 31 December 2015

Page 17

1.4 Contributions
Contributions are brought into account on the accrual basis except for voluntary contributions, which are recorded in the period in which they are received.

1.5 Dividend income, insurance policy income, interest and rentals
Interest
Interest is recognised on a time proportion basis, taking account of the principal outstanding and the effective rate over the period to maturity, when it is determined that such income will accrue to the Fund.

Insurance policy income
Insurance policy income and dividends are recognised when entitlement to revenue is established.

Gains and losses on subsequent measurement
Gains and losses on subsequent measurement to fair value of investments and all other financial instruments are recognised in the net investment income during the period in which the charge arises.

Section 14 and 15 transfers to and from the Fund
Section 14 and 15 transfers to or from the Fund are recognised on approval being granted by the Financial Services Board. Individual transfers are recognised when the individual member’s transfer is received or paid.

1.7 Comparatives
When necessary, comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to changes in presentation in the current period.

2 INVESTMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allan Gray Global Balanced</td>
<td>378,562,799</td>
<td>337,600,537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allan Gray Domestic Absolute</td>
<td>91,422,835</td>
<td>85,845,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allan Gray Foreign</td>
<td>30,985,674</td>
<td>24,286,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Unit Balanced</td>
<td>495,806,957</td>
<td>461,219,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investec Balanced Fund</td>
<td>496,889,280</td>
<td>462,498,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,495,668,545</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,397,531,136</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM EMPLOYERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Contribution</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal Employer contributions</td>
<td>12,619,406</td>
<td>12,617,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYERS</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,619,406</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,617,329</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Supernumerary Fund  
Reference No: 12/8/2604/2  
For the year ended 31 December 2015  

Page 1B

SCHEDULE H  
[in terms of regulation 12(2)(b)(vii)]

Notes to the annual financial statements at 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4 INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Investments</td>
<td>22,641,641</td>
<td>17,423,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity dividends</td>
<td>19,715,987</td>
<td>18,180,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry income</td>
<td>564,152</td>
<td>1,299,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>42,921,780</strong></td>
<td><strong>36,910,757</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration fees</td>
<td>1,971,819</td>
<td>1,820,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment advisor’s fees</td>
<td>4,079,594</td>
<td>3,725,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,051,413</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,546,016</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6 BENEFITS AWARDED</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pensions</td>
<td>59,950,196</td>
<td>57,413,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lump sums on retirement</td>
<td>7,078,969</td>
<td>9,037,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral benefits</td>
<td>421,415</td>
<td>295,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death benefits</td>
<td>817,455</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Unclaimed Benefits</td>
<td>69,495</td>
<td>6,282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refunds on resignation</td>
<td>3,401,669</td>
<td>1,500,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL BENEFITS AWARDED</strong></td>
<td><strong>71,739,199</strong></td>
<td><strong>68,253,364</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7 ACCUMULATED FUNDS</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members’ Individual Accounts</td>
<td>509,400,767</td>
<td>462,073,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Reserve Fund</td>
<td>32,570,557</td>
<td>27,949,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensioners’ Fund</td>
<td>916,796,169</td>
<td>843,257,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,458,767,493</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,333,281,489</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Superannuation Fund  
Reference No: 12/8/2104/2  
For the year ended 31 December 2015

Page 18 A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schedule II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[In terms of regulation 12(2)(b)(x)]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes to the annual financial statements of 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4 Income From Investments</th>
<th>Members Fund</th>
<th>Risk Reserve Fund</th>
<th>Pensioners Fund</th>
<th>Employer Surplus Account</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Investments</td>
<td>7,619,100</td>
<td>460,865</td>
<td>13,904,423</td>
<td>637,253</td>
<td>22,641,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity dividends</td>
<td>6,624,993</td>
<td>401,314</td>
<td>12,107,755</td>
<td>572,325</td>
<td>19,715,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry Income</td>
<td>189,842</td>
<td>11,483</td>
<td>348,451</td>
<td>16,376</td>
<td>564,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income From Investments</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,433,335</strong></td>
<td><strong>873,662</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,358,629</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,243,934</strong></td>
<td><strong>42,921,790</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 General Administration Expenses</th>
<th>Administration Fees</th>
<th>Investment Advisor’s Fees</th>
<th>Total Administration Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,089,372</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>1,011,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,372,917</td>
<td>83,029</td>
<td>2,055,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Administration Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,462,289</strong></td>
<td><strong>116,052</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,578,341</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6 Benefits Awarded</th>
<th>Members Fund</th>
<th>Risk Reserve Fund</th>
<th>Pensioners Fund</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pensions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>59,950,196</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lump sum on retirement</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,078,969</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral benefits</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>421,415</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death benefits</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>817,455</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Unclaimed Benefits</td>
<td>45,409</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refunds on resignation</td>
<td>3,401,669</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,401,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Benefits Awarded</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,447,108</strong></td>
<td><strong>48,272,091</strong></td>
<td><strong>51,729,199</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7 Accumulated Funds</th>
<th>Members Fund</th>
<th>Risk Reserve Fund</th>
<th>Pensioners Fund</th>
<th>Total Accumulated Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>509,400,767</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>509,400,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Reserve Fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>32,570,557</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>32,570,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensioners Fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>916,786,169</td>
<td>916,786,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Accumulated Funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>509,400,767</strong></td>
<td><strong>32,570,557</strong></td>
<td><strong>916,786,169</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,458,746,493</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
PROVIDENT FUND

FINANCIAL SERVICES BOARD
REGISTRATION NO. 12/8/5135/2

SOUTH AFRICAN REVENUE SERVICES APPROVAL
NO. 18/20/4/030508

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the 12 Months ended 31 December 2015
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Provident Fund  
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/5135/2  
Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF RETIREMENT FUND</th>
<th>THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA PROVIDENT FUND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL SERVICES BOARD REGISTRATION NUMBER</td>
<td>12/8/5135/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH AFRICAN REVENUE SERVICES APPROVAL NUMBER</td>
<td>18/20/4/030508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOR THE PERIOD</td>
<td>1 JANUARY 2015 to 31 DECEMBER 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schedule A</td>
<td>Regulatory information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule B</td>
<td>Statement of responsibility by the Board of Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule C</td>
<td>Statement of responsibility by the Principal Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule E</td>
<td>Report of the Board of Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule F</td>
<td>Statement of Net Assets and Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule G</td>
<td>Revenue Account</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule H</td>
<td>Notes to the Annual Financial Statements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Provident Fund
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/5135/2
Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE A

REGULATORY INFORMATION
for the year ended 31 December 2015

Registered office of the fund:
Postal address: PO Box 50216, Muxgrae, 4062
Physical address: 450A Che Guevara Road, Durban, 4001

Financial reporting periods
Current: 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015
Previous: 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014

Board of Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Date appointed</th>
<th>Date resigned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev Charmaine Morgan</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>01.01.2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Joanne Trytsman</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>01.01.2013</td>
<td>31.12.2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Thiti N Ngoyamwa</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>01.01.2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev Ziphazile D'Swa</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>01.01.2012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Barbara E Jubber</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>01.01.2005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Heather A Fleming</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>01.01.2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Martha Hildyard</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>01.01.2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr George W Thimbleski</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>01.01.2011</td>
<td>31.12.2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Johan J Gouws</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>01.01.2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs S Maya-Bango</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>01.01.2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 'M' denotes member elected; 'E' denotes employer appointed
  'C' denotes chairperson

Schedule of meetings held by the Board of Fund in terms of the rules of the Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting date</th>
<th>Place of meeting</th>
<th>Quorum (yes/no)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06 May 2013</td>
<td>33 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, 2198</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 October 2015</td>
<td>33 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, 2198</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fund officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name</th>
<th>Principal officer</th>
<th>Principal officer</th>
<th>Monitoring person*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private Bag XI, Garden View, 2047</td>
<td>PO Box 50216, Muxgrae, 4062</td>
<td>Private Bag XI, Garden View, 2047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>33 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, 2198</td>
<td>450A Che Guevara Road, Durban, 4001</td>
<td>33 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, 2198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(011) 615 1616</td>
<td>(031) 202 4214</td>
<td>(011) 615 1616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:joanne@mcc.org.za">joanne@mcc.org.za</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:marlie@mcc.org.za">marlie@mcc.org.za</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:candice@mcc.org.za">candice@mcc.org.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appointment date</td>
<td>01 January 2015</td>
<td>01 January 2016</td>
<td>01 October 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* (In terms of Section 13A of the Pension Funds Act in South Africa)

Professional service providers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name</th>
<th>Actuary/Valuator</th>
<th>Auditors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARGEN Actuarial Solutions</td>
<td>EUG South Africa Incorporated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 1390, Kroonstad, 9500</td>
<td>P.O. Box 47, La Lucia, 4193</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39 President Street, Kroonstad, South Africa, 9499</td>
<td>SA Rydall Valle Office Park, 38 Douglas Saulsers Drive, La Lucia Ridge, Durban, 4051</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(011) 615 1149</td>
<td>(010) 060 6700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Provident Fund

**FSB Registration No.: 12/8/5135/2**

**Period:** For the year ended 31 December 2015

## SCHEDULE A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit administrator</th>
<th>Fund consultant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Methodist Connexional Office</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name:</th>
<th>Postal address:</th>
<th>Physical address:</th>
<th>Telephone number:</th>
<th>Benefit administrator’s registration number in terms of section 13B:</th>
<th>Fund consultant’s FAIS registration number:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allan Gray Life Limited</td>
<td>PO Box 51318 V&amp;A Waterfront, Cape Town, 8002</td>
<td>1 Silo Square, V&amp;A Waterfront, Cape Town, 8001</td>
<td>(021) 415 2300</td>
<td>24/437</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name:</th>
<th>Postal address:</th>
<th>Physical address:</th>
<th>Telephone number:</th>
<th>Investment administrator’s registration number in terms of section 13B:</th>
<th>Investment administrator’s FAIS number:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foord Unit Trusts Limited</td>
<td>PO Box 135, Howard Place, 7450</td>
<td>8 Forest Mews, Forest Drive, Pinelands, 7450</td>
<td>(021) 531 5085</td>
<td>21476</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name:</th>
<th>Postal address:</th>
<th>Physical address:</th>
<th>Telephone number:</th>
<th>Investment administrator’s registration number in terms of section 13B:</th>
<th>Investment administrator’s FAIS number:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investec</td>
<td>PO Box 785700, Sandton, 2146</td>
<td>100 Greyston Drive, Sandown, Sandton, 2196</td>
<td>(021) 415 2300</td>
<td>24/61</td>
<td>587</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Insurer</th>
<th>Custodian / nominee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zurich Insurance Co SA Ltd</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name:</th>
<th>Postal address:</th>
<th>Physical address:</th>
<th>Telephone number:</th>
<th>FSB approval no.:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private Bag X4, Gateway, 3201</td>
<td>Glass House Office Park, Sinembe Close, Umhlanga Rocks, 4051</td>
<td>(031) 584 2000</td>
<td>17703</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The list of participating employers is available for inspection at the funds registered office.*
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Provident Fund  
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/5135/2  
Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE B

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY BY THE BOARD OF FUND
For the year ended 31 December 2015.

Responsibilities
The Board of Fund hereby certify to the best of their knowledge and belief that, during the period under review, in the execution of their duties they:
• ensured that proper registers, books and records of the operations of the fund were kept, inclusive of proper minutes of all resolutions passed by the Board of Fund;
• ensured that proper internal control systems were employed by or on behalf of the fund;
• ensured that adequate and appropriate information was communicated to the members of the fund, informing them of their rights, benefits and duties in terms of the rules of the fund;
• took all reasonable steps to ensure that contributions, where applicable, were paid timeously to the fund or reported where necessary in accordance with section 13A and regulation 33 of the Pension Funds Act in South Africa;
• obtained expert advice on matters where they lacked sufficient expertise;
• ensured that the rules and the operation and administration of the fund complied with the Pension Funds Act in South Africa, the Financial Institutions (Protection of Funds) Act and all other applicable laws;
• ensured that fidelity cover was maintained. This cover was deemed adequate and in compliance with the rules of the fund; and
• ensured that investments of the fund were implemented and maintained in accordance with the fund’s investment strategy.

Approval of the annual financial statements
The Annual Financial Statements of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Provident Fund are the responsibility of the Board of Fund. The Board of Fund fulfils this responsibility by ensuring the implementation and maintenance of accounting systems and practices adequately supported by internal financial controls. These controls, which are implemented and executed by the fund and/or its benefit administrators, provide reasonable assurance that:
• the fund’s assets are safeguarded;
• transactions are properly authorised and executed; and
• the financial records are reliable.

The Annual Financial Statements set out on pages 13 to 17 have been prepared for regulatory purposes in accordance with:
• The basis of accounting applicable to retirement funds in South Africa as indicated in the principal accounting policies contained in the notes to the financial statements on pages 15 - 16;
• the financial rules of the fund; and
• the provisions of the Pension Funds Act in South Africa.

These financial statements have been reported on by the independent auditors, BDO South Africa Incorporated, who were given unrestricted access to all financial records and related data, including minutes of all relevant meetings. The Board of Trustees believes that all representations made to the independent auditors during their audit were valid and appropriate. The report of the independent auditors is presented on page 8 - 9.
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Provident Fund
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/5135/2

Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE B

Instances of non-compliance

We are not aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including the provisions of laws and regulations that determine the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

These financial statements:
• were approved by the Board of Fund on 26/07/2016;
• are certified by them to the best of their knowledge and belief to be correct;
• fairly represent the net assets of the fund at 31 December 2015 as well as the results of its activities for the period then ended; and
• are signed on behalf of the Board of Fund by the Chairman and two board members.

Date: 09/06/2016

REV. C. MORGAN
CHAIRPERSON

Date: 09/06/2016

MR. B. SHUBBER
BOARD MEMBER

Date: 09/06/2016

MRS. F. NGISOYAMA
BOARD MEMBER
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Provident Fund  
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/5135/2  
Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE C

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY BY THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER

I confirm that for the period under review the Methodist Church of Southern Africa Provident Fund has lodged with the Registrar of Pension Funds all such returns, statements, documents and any other information required in terms of the Pension Funds Act in South Africa.

[Signature]

MRS M HILDYARD  
PRINCIPAL OFFICER

Date: 01-06-2016
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA PROVIDENT FUND

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the annual financial statements of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa Provident Fund, which comprise the statement of net assets and funds as at 31 December 2015, the statement of changes in net assets and funds for the year then ended, and the notes to the financial statements which include the principal accounting policies and other explanatory information, as set out on pages 10 to 17.

Board of Fund’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Board of Fund is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements for regulatory purposes, in accordance with the basis of preparation applicable to retirement funds in South Africa, as set out in the notes to the financial statements. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud and error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor’s Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.
Opinion

In our opinion, the annual financial statements of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa Provident Fund for the year ended 31 December 2015 have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of preparation applicable to retirement funds in South Africa as set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Financial Reporting Framework

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the principal accounting policies in which the applicable financial reporting framework is identified, as prescribed by the Registrar. Consequently, the financial statements and related auditor’s report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

The Statement of Responsibility by the Board of Fund describes instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including those that determine the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements that have come to the attention of the Board of Fund and the corrective action taken by the Board of Fund. There are no additional instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that came to our attention during the course of our audit of the financial statements.

BDO South Africa Incorporated

Per: B Lovell
Director
Registered Auditor

29 June 2016
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Provident Fund  
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/5135/2  
Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE E

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF FUND  
For the year ended 31 December 2015.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE FUND

1.1 Type of fund:  
For the purposes of the prescribed Financial Statements of the Fund, the Fund is classified as a  
Provident Fund in terms of Section 1 of the Income Tax Act, 1962.

1.2 Benefits:

1.2.1 Summary in terms of the rules of the fund:  
The Fund provides lump sum payments to retirees or their dependants, as well as death benefits.

1.2.2 Strategy of Board of Trustees towards unclaimed benefits:  
Benefits due and unpaid on retirement, death or resignation of Members are held in an  
"unclaimed benefits" account within the Fund and every effort made by the Administrators, the  
Church and the Board of Trustees to urgently trace and pay out such benefits to the member,  
eligible spouse, eligible children or dependants of the member, in accordance with the rules of  
the Fund and the Pension Funds Act 24 of 1956. The benefit is increased or decreased by fund  
return and costs.

1.2.3 Unclaimed benefits:  
Complete records, as prescribed, are maintained in respect of such members as from the date  
of their commencement of membership of the Fund.

1.3 Contributions:

1.3.1 Description in terms of the rules of the fund.

1.3.1.1 Members’ contributions:  
Members shall contribute to the Fund six per cent of his/her annual Pensionable Emoluments.

1.3.1.2 Employer’s contributions:  
The Employer shall pay to the Fund in respect of each member eight per cent of the member’s  
Pensionable Emoluments.

1.4 Rule amendments:  
The physical and postal addresses for the registered office of the fund was changed in 2014.  
This amendment is to be submitted to the Board of Fund and FSB in 2016 for approval.
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Provident Fund
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/5135/2
Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE E

2 INVESTMENTS

2.1 Investment strategy:
The Board of Fund have formulated an investment strategy whereby the investments are managed according to the strategy. This investment strategy complies with the provisions of regulation 28 of the Pensions Funds Act in South Africa.

2.1.1 General:
The Fund's benchmark for investment performance is 6% in excess of the Headline Inflation rate after taking into account the Investment Managers’ fees. Priority is given to the acquisition of growth type investment.

2.1.2 Individual member choice:
Members do not have individual investment choice because very few of the Members have the background which would enable them to make informed choices, and the membership is scattered throughout South Africa making it even more difficult to hold investment seminars than if they were situated in one or several venues. In practice it is doubtful whether the Fund would be able to fulfill its responsibility to educate members sufficiently to enable them to make reasonable choices.

2.1.3 Unclaimed benefits:
Unclaimed benefits are represented by call account investments making such funds available for immediate payment to beneficiaries.

2.2 Management of Investments:
The Board of Fund appointed an Investment and Advisory Committee which meets 4 times a year to discuss the investment policy, monitor the asset allocation and performance of the Investment Managers against the investment strategy of the Fund and to submit recommendations on all such matters to the Board of Fund, which meets twice annually, for their consideration and approval. The Investment Managers are remunerated on a negotiated fee basis.

The fair value of the Fund’s investments, administered by the Investment Managers at the end of the period was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment Type</th>
<th>Current period</th>
<th>Previous period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allan Gray Life Limited</td>
<td>14 229 370</td>
<td>13 229 393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Balanced Fund</td>
<td>12 418 643</td>
<td>11 810 159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>1 810 727</td>
<td>1 419 234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Trusts</td>
<td>14 336 838</td>
<td>12 748 982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foord Balanced Fund</td>
<td>9 515 394</td>
<td>8 655 797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investec Class A Fund</td>
<td>677 452</td>
<td>579 849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investec Class R Fund</td>
<td>4 143 992</td>
<td>3 513 336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total value of investments</td>
<td>28 566 208</td>
<td>25 978 375</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Provident Fund  
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/5135/2  
Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE E

3 MEMBERSHIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numbers at beginning of period</th>
<th>Active members</th>
<th>Deferred pensioners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers in</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers-out</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawals</td>
<td>(16)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirements</td>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retrenchments</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers (from)/to deferred pensioners</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numbers at end of period</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 ACTUARIAL VALUATION
The Financial Statements summarises the transactions and net assets of the Fund. In terms of Rule 20 of the Fund, the Fund has been operating during the year on the basis of allocating the actual return earned for the month to members’ share accounts. As at 31 December 2015 the assets of the Fund are equal to the total of members’ share accounts and the Fund therefore has no surplus for distribution. The Fund is valuation exempt and this exemption expires 31 December 2015.

5 SURPLUS APPORTIONMENT
A Nil Scheme was approved by the Financial Services Board on 16 August 2005.

6 HOUSING LOAN FACILITIES
No loans or guarantees were granted to members in terms of the provisions of section 19(5) of the Pension Funds Act in South Africa.

7 INVESTMENTS IN PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS
No investments were held in participating employers as provided for in section 19(4A) of the Pension Funds Act in South Africa.

8 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS
Joanne Trytsman resigned as Principal Officer effective 31 December 2015 and Martie Hildyard has been appointed the new Principal Officer effective 01 January 2016. The appointment was approved by the Board of Fund and noted in the minutes of the trustee meeting held on 14 October 2015. This has been submitted to the FSB and is pending approval.

9. SIGNIFICANT MATTERS
No significant matters have occurred regarding the Fund during the current period.
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Provident Fund  
Reference No: 12/8/5135/2  
For the year ended 31 December 2015

Page 13

**SCHEDULE F**

(In terms of regulation 12(2)(b)(iv))

Statement of funds and net assets at 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-current assets</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28,546,208</td>
<td></td>
<td>25,978,375</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,256,272</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,396,429</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td></td>
<td>63,179</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td></td>
<td>327,149</td>
<td></td>
<td>281,982</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank</td>
<td></td>
<td>865,944</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,110,502</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>29,822,480</td>
<td></td>
<td>27,374,804</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members' individual accounts</td>
<td></td>
<td>28,802,799</td>
<td></td>
<td>25,223,149</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,019,681</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,151,655</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td></td>
<td>26,666</td>
<td></td>
<td>25,818</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits payable</td>
<td></td>
<td>993,013</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,736,064</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers payable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>389,773</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>29,822,480</td>
<td></td>
<td>27,374,804</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### SCHEDULE G

[in terms of regulation 12(2)(b)(v)]

Revenue account for the year ended 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contributions received</td>
<td>1,613,600</td>
<td>1,452,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) Normal</td>
<td>1,613,600</td>
<td>1,452,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) Purchase of Past Service</td>
<td>98,548</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,712,148</td>
<td>1,452,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Employers’ contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) Normal</td>
<td>2,151,447</td>
<td>1,936,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) Expenditure on the provision of benefits</td>
<td>3,863,615</td>
<td>3,389,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Income from investments</td>
<td>892,942</td>
<td>767,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Death benefits recovered</td>
<td>60,042</td>
<td>104,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gross revenue</td>
<td>4,816,599</td>
<td>4,261,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Less: Administration expenses</td>
<td>780,255</td>
<td>721,707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Net revenue</td>
<td>4,036,344</td>
<td>3,540,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adjustment to fair value of Investments</td>
<td>1,858,771</td>
<td>1,854,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Members’ individual accounts at beginning of year</td>
<td>25,223,149</td>
<td>24,727,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Members’ individual accounts - before benefits</td>
<td>31,118,264</td>
<td>30,122,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Less: Benefits Awarded</td>
<td>2,255,423</td>
<td>4,051,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Less: Transfers Out</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>743,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Less: Death benefits paid</td>
<td>60,042</td>
<td>104,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Members’ individual accounts - at the end of the year</td>
<td>28,802,799</td>
<td>25,223,149</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCHEDULE III

[In terms of regulation 12(2)(h)(ii)]

Notes to the annual financial statements of 31 December 2015

1 PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following are the principle accounting policies used by the Fund, which are consistent with those of the previous period.

1.1 Purpose and basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the regulatory reporting requirements for retirement funds in South Africa, the rules of the Provident Fund and the provisions of the Pension Funds Act.

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost and going concern bases, modified by the valuation of financial instruments at fair value.

1.2 Financial Instruments

Measurement

Financial instruments include cash and bank balances, investments, receivables and accounts payable. They are initially measured at cost at the trade date, which includes transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these instruments are measured as set out below.

Investments

Available for sale and held for trading investments are measured at fair value.

The fair value of marketable securities is calculated by reference to the applicable Stock Exchange quoted selling prices at the close of business on the statement date of funds and net assets.

Insurance policies - linked policies

Insurance policies linked to listed investments are valued at fair value and are therefore equivalent to market value of the underlying assets as certified by the investment managers concerned.

1.3 Asset Impairment

Asset impairment tests are applied annually to assets whose measurement basis is historic cost or historic cost as adjusted for revaluations. An impairment loss is recognised when an asset's carrying value exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are initially adjusted against any applicable revaluation reserve, then expensed in the statement of changes in net assets and funds. If the impairment loss for an asset exceeds the carrying value of the asset, the excess is recognised as a provision.

The recoverable value is the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Fair value less costs to sell is the amount obtainable from the sale of the asset in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable willing parties less the cost of disposal. Value in use is the present value of estimated future cash flows expected to flow from the continued use of the asset and from its disposal at the end of its useful life.

If the recoverable amount of an asset subsequently exceeds the carrying value resulting from the application of its accounting policy, an impairment reversal is recognised to that extent. The impairment reversal is applied in reverse order to the impairment loss.

Accounts receivable

Account receivable are stated at amortised cost less provision for doubtful debts.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are measured at fair value.

Accounts payable

Accounts payable are recognised at amortised cost.
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Provident Fund  
Reference No: 11/8/9156/1  
For the year ended 31 December 2016

Page 14

1.4 Contributions
Contributions are brought into account on the accrual basis except for voluntary contributions which are recorded in the period in which they are received.

1.5 Dividend income, insurance policy income, interest and rent rol
Interest
Interest is recognized on a time proportion basis, taking account of the principal outstanding and the effective rate over the period to maturity, when it is determined that such income will accrue to the fund.

Insurance policy income
Insurance policy income and dividends are recognized when entitlement to revenue is established.

Gains and losses on subsequent measurement
Gains and losses on subsequent measurement to fair value of investments and of other financial instruments are recognized in the net investment income during the period in which the change occurs.

1.6 Transfers to and from the Fund
Individual transfers are recognized when the individual member's transfer is received or paid.

1.7 Comparatives
When necessary, comparative figures have been restated to conform to changes in presentation in the current period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 INVESTMENTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United fund investment portfolio</td>
<td>28,564,208</td>
<td>23,913,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</td>
<td>28,564,208</td>
<td>23,913,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM EMPLOYERS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal contributors</td>
<td>1,613,600</td>
<td>1,422,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions towards group life insurance cost</td>
<td>537,867</td>
<td>404,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYERS</td>
<td>2,151,467</td>
<td>1,826,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividends</td>
<td>414,929</td>
<td>344,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on investments</td>
<td>424,004</td>
<td>340,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on cash and money market account(s)</td>
<td>41,917</td>
<td>37,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry income</td>
<td>13,302</td>
<td>5,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS</td>
<td>892,942</td>
<td>727,746</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Provident Fund  
Reference No: 12/8/5135/2  
For the year ended 31 December 2015

Page 17

SCHEDULE H  
[in terms of regulation 12(2)(b)(vi)]

Notes to the annual financial statements at 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration fees</td>
<td>203,158</td>
<td>175,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asset Managers fees</td>
<td>122,561</td>
<td>115,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>74,442</td>
<td>83,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Charges</td>
<td>10,922</td>
<td>11,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fidelity Cover</td>
<td>4,688</td>
<td>4,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Services Board</td>
<td>5,786</td>
<td>5,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Expenses</td>
<td>3,816</td>
<td>4,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Life Premiums</td>
<td>326,643</td>
<td>309,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest paid</td>
<td>14,143</td>
<td>1,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARS Penalties</td>
<td>5,001</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel expenses</td>
<td>9,095</td>
<td>9,583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>780,255</td>
<td>721,707</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                                | 2015   | 2014   |
|                                | R      | R      |
| **6 ADJUSTMENT TO FAIR VALUE OF INVESTMENTS** |        |        |
| Adjustments to fair value of investments comprises: |        |        |
| Market value of investments at 31 December 2015 | 28,566,208| 25,978,375|
| Add: Disinvestment             | -      | 350,000|
| Less: New Investment           | -      | -      |
| Less: Interest and Dividends received on investments | (851,423)| (730,427)|
| Add: Expenses                  | 122,561| 115,735|
| Less: Profit on Sale of investments | -      | -      |
| Market value of investments at beginning of the year | (25,978,375)| (23,859,181)|
| **TOTAL ADJUSTMENT TO FAIR VALUE OF INVESTMENTS** | 1,858,771| 1,854,502|

|                                | 2015   | 2014   |
|                                | R      | R      |
| **7 BENEFITS AWARDED**          |        |        |
| Lump sums on retirement - full benefit | 1,676,142| 2,910,302|
| Refunds                        | 579,281| 1,141,137|
| **TOTAL BENEFITS AWARDED**      | 2,255,423| 4,051,439|
THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
LAY STAFF PENSION FUND

FINANCIAL SERVICES BOARD
REGISTRATION NO. 12/8/4456/2

SOUTH AFRICAN REVENUE SERVICES APPROVAL
NO. 18/20/4/030777

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the 12 Months ended 31 December 2015
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Lay Staff Pension Fund  
FSB Registration No.: 12/6/4456/2  
Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schedule A \ Regulatory Information</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule B \ Statement of responsibility by the Board of Trustees</td>
<td>5-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule C \ Statement of responsibility by the Principal Officer</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule D \ Report of the Independent Auditors</td>
<td>8-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule E \ Report of the Board of Trustees</td>
<td>10-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule F \ Statement of Net Assets and Liabilities</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule G \ Revenue Account</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule H \ Notes to the Annual Financial Statements</td>
<td>16-18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Lay Staff Pension Fund
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/4456/2

Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE A

REGULATORY INFORMATION
For the year ended 31 December 2015

Registered office of the Fund:
Postal address: PO Box 50216, Musgrave, 4062
Physical address: 450A Che Guevara Road, Durban, 4001

Financial reporting periods
Current: 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015
Previous: 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014

Board of fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Date appointed</th>
<th>Date resigned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev Charmaine Morgan</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>01.01.2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Joanne Trylsman</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>01.01.2013</td>
<td>31.12.2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Thill N Ngqanyama</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>01.01.2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev Ziphosphile D Shwa</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>01.01.2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Barbara E. Rubbee</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>01.01.2005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Heather A Fleming</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>01.01.2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr George W Trimble</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>01.01.2011</td>
<td>31.12.2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs M Hildyard</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>01.01.2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Johan J Gouws</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>01.01.2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs E. Moyo-Phanga</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>01.01.2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* "M" denotes member elected "E" denotes employer appointed
* "C" denotes chairperson

Schedule of meetings held by the Board of Fund in terms of the rules of the Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting date</th>
<th>Place of meeting</th>
<th>Quorum (yes/no)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06 May 2015</td>
<td>33 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, 2198</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 October 2015</td>
<td>33 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, 2198</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fund officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name</th>
<th>Principal officer</th>
<th>Principal officer</th>
<th>Monitoring person*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Joanne Trylsman</td>
<td>Mrs Martie Hildyard</td>
<td>Ms Candice Pungavanam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal address</td>
<td>Private Bag X11, Garden View, 2047</td>
<td>PO Box 50216, Musgrave, 4062</td>
<td>33 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, 2198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical address</td>
<td>33 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, 2198</td>
<td>450A Che Guevara Road, Durban, 4001</td>
<td>33 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, 2198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone number</td>
<td>(011) 615 1616</td>
<td>(021) 202 2121</td>
<td>(011) 615 1616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email address</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joanne@mco.org.za">joanne@mco.org.za</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:martie@mco.org.za">martie@mco.org.za</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:candice@mco.org.za">candice@mco.org.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appointment date</td>
<td>1 January 2015</td>
<td>1 January 2016</td>
<td>1 October 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resignation date</td>
<td>31 December 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional service providers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name</th>
<th>Actuary/Valuator</th>
<th>Auditors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ARGENT Actuarial Solutions</td>
<td>B.D.O. South Africa Incorporated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal address</td>
<td>P.O. Box 1390, Kroonstad, 9500</td>
<td>P.O. Box 47, La Lucia, 4153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical address</td>
<td>39 President Street, Kroonstad, South Africa, 9499</td>
<td>5A Rydall Vale Office Park, 38 Douglas Saunders Drive, La Lucia Ridge, 4051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone number</td>
<td>(056) 215 1149</td>
<td>(010) 060 6700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Lay Staff Pension Fund  
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/4456/2  
Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

**SCHEDULE A**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit administrator</th>
<th>Fund consultant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full name</td>
<td>The Methodist Connexional Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal address</td>
<td>Private Bag X11, Garden View, 2047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical address</td>
<td>33 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, 2198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone number</td>
<td>(011) 615 1616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit administrator’s registration number in terms of section 13B</td>
<td>24/114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund consultant’s FAS registration number</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment administrator</th>
<th>Investment advisor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full name</td>
<td>Investec Asset Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal address</td>
<td>PO Box 785700 Sandton 2146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical address</td>
<td>100 Grayslon Drive Sandown Sandton 2196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone number</td>
<td>(021) 416 1713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment administrator’s registration number in terms of section 13B</td>
<td>24/61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment advisor’s FAS registration number</td>
<td>557</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment administrator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment administrator’s registration number in terms of section 13B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment advisor’s FAS registration number</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment administrator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment administrator’s registration number in terms of section 13B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk insurer</th>
<th>Custodian and/or nominee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full name</td>
<td>Jullich Insurance Co SA Ltd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal address</td>
<td>Private Bag X4 Gateway 3201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical address</td>
<td>Glass House Office Park, Sinembe Close, Umthlanga Rocks 4051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone number</td>
<td>031-584 2900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSB approval no.</td>
<td>17703</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Anticipating employers:*

The list of participating employers is available for inspection at the Fund’s registered office.
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Lay Staff Pension Fund  
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/4456/2  

Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE B

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY BY THE BOARD OF FUND
For the year ended 31 December 2015

Responsibilities

The Board of Fund hereby certify to the best of their knowledge and belief that, during the period under review, in the execution of their duties they:

• ensured that proper registers, books and records of the operations of the Fund were kept, inclusive of proper minutes of all resolutions passed by the Board of Fund;
• ensured that proper internal control systems were employed by or on behalf of the Fund;
• ensured that accurate and appropriate information was communicated to the members of the Fund, informing them of their rights, benefits and duties in terms of the rules of the Fund;
• took all reasonable steps to ensure that contributions, where applicable, were paid timeously to the Fund or reported where necessary in accordance with section 13A and regulation 33 of the Pension Funds Act in South Africa;
• obtained expert advice on matters where they lacked sufficient expertise;
• ensured that the rules and the operation and administration of the Fund complied with the Pension Funds Act in South Africa, the Financial Institutions (Protection of Funds) Act and all other applicable laws;
• ensured that fidelity cover was maintained. This cover was deemed adequate and in compliance with the rules of the Fund; and
• ensured that investments of the Fund were implemented and maintained in accordance with the Fund’s investment strategy.

Approval of the annual financial statements

The Annual Financial Statements of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Lay Staff Pension Fund are the responsibility of the Board of Fund. The Board of Fund fulfils this responsibility by ensuring the implementation and maintenance of accounting systems and practices adequately supported by internal financial controls. These controls, which are implemented and executed by the Fund and/or its benefit administrators, provide reasonable assurance that:

• the Fund’s assets are safeguarded;
• transactions are properly authorised and executed; and
• the financial records are reliable.

The Annual Financial Statements set out on pages 14 to 18 have been prepared for regulatory purposes in accordance with:

• the basis of accounting applicable to retirement funds in South Africa as indicated in the principal accounting policies contained in the notes to the financial statements on pages 16 and 17;
• the financial rules of the Fund; and
• the provisions of the Pension Funds Act in South Africa.

These financial statements have been reported on by the independent auditors, BDO South Africa Incorporated, who were given unrestricted access to all financial records and related data, including minutes of all relevant meetings. The Board of Fund believes that all representations made to the independent auditors during their audit were valid and appropriate. The report of the independent auditors is presented on page 8 - 9.

Instances of non-compliance

We are not aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including the provisions of laws and regulations that determine the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Lay Staff Pension Fund
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/4456/2

Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE B

These financial statements:
• were approved by the Board of Fund on 09.06.2016;
• are certified by them to the best of their knowledge and belief to be correct;
• fairly represent the net assets of the Fund at 31 December 2015 as well as the results of its activities for the period then ended; and
• are signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by the Chairman and two board members:

[Signatures]

Date: 09.06.2016

Date: 09.06.2016

Date: 09.06.2016

Chairperson
MRS E. JUBBER
MRS T. NGOAYAMA
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Lay Staff Pension Fund
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/4456/2

Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE C

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY BY THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER

I confirm that for the period under review the Methodist Church of Southern Africa Lay Staff Pension Fund has lodged with the Registrar of Pension Funds all such returns, statements, documents and any other information required in terms of the Pension Funds Act in South Africa.

Mrs. M. Hildyard
PRINCIPAL OFFICER

Date: 1 October 2016
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA LAY STAFF PENSION FUND

Report on the Financial Statements
We have audited the annual financial statements of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa Lay Staff Pension Fund, which comprise the statement of net assets and funds as at 31 December 2015, the statement of changes in net assets and funds for the year then ended, and the notes to the financial statements which include the principal accounting policies and other explanatory information, as set out on pages 10 to 18.

Board of Fund’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements
The Board of Fund is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements for regulatory purposes, in accordance with the basis of preparation applicable to retirement funds in South Africa, as set out in the notes to the financial statements. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud and error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor’s Responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.
Opinion

In our opinion, the annual financial statements of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa Lay Staff Pension Fund for the year ended 31 December 2015 have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of preparation applicable to retirement funds in South Africa as set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Financial Reporting Framework

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the principal accounting policies in which the applicable financial reporting framework is identified, as prescribed by the Registrar. Consequently, the financial statements and related auditor’s report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

The Statement of Responsibility by the Board of Fund describes instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including those that determine the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements that have come to the attention of the Board of Fund and the corrective action taken by the Board of Fund. There are no additional instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that came to our attention during the course of our audit of the financial statements.

BDO South Africa Incorporated

Per: B Lovell
Director
Registered Auditor

30 June 2016
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Lay Staff Pension Fund
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/4456/2

Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE E

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF FUND
For the period ended 31 December 2015

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE FUND

1.1 Type of fund:

For the purposes of the prescribed Financial Statements of the Fund, the Fund is classified as a Pension Fund in terms of Section 1 of the Income Tax Act, 1962. The Fund converted from a Defined Benefit Fund to a Defined Contribution Fund on 1 January 2004.

1.2 Benefits:

1.2.1 Summary in terms of the rules of the Fund:
The Fund is a Defined Contribution plan, making provision for lump sum payments and pensions to be paid to retirees or their dependants, as well as death benefits. On retirement the value of the individual members’ accounts is transferred from the Fund to a registered insurer who will pay the monthly pensions.

1.2.2 Strategy of Board of Fund towards unclaimed benefits:
Benefits due and unpaid on retirement, death or resignation of Members are held after 3 years in an “unclaimed benefits” account within the Fund and every effort is made by the Administrators, the Church and the Board of Fund to urgently trace and pay out such benefits to the member, eligible spouse, eligible children or dependants of the member, in accordance with the rules of the Fund and the Pension Funds Act 24 of 1956. Unclaimed benefits are increased or decreased by the Investment Return, and reasonable administration costs may be deducted from the balance.

1.2.3 Unclaimed benefits:
Complete records, as prescribed, are maintained in respect of such members as from the date of their commencement of membership of the Fund.

1.3 Contributions:

1.3.1 Description in terms of the rules of the Fund.

1.3.1.1 Members’ contributions:
Members shall contribute to the Fund at a rate of 7.5% of his/her annual pensionable emoluments.

1.3.1.2 Employer’s contributions:
The Employer shall make contributions towards the retirement benefit of each Member in its Service at the rate of 14% of the Annual Member’s Pensionable Emoluments. Of this 14% employer contribution, 13.19% shall be utilised to meet the portion of the costs of administering the Fund which relate to the Members of the Fund; and 28.73% shall be applied under the Risk Contingency Reserve Account.
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Lay Staff Pension Fund  
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/4456/2  
Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE E

1.4 Rule amendments:  
The physical and postal addresses for the registered office of the fund were changed in 2014. This  
амendment is to be submitted to the Board of Fund and FSB in 2016 for approval.

1.5 Reserves:

1.5.1 Market value reserve:  
A percentage is deducted by the Actuary from the market value of the investments of the  
Pensioners Fund in order to determine the actuarial value of the assets of the Pensioners Fund.

1.5.2 Reserves:  
Contingency Reserves total R 6 615 484. They are made up as follows:  
Risk Reserve: R 5 444 425  
As at the previous valuation of the Fund a Risk Reserve account was retained to provide for the  
payment of death and ill-health retirement benefits to members.

Employer Surplus Account: R 1 171 059  
The Employers Surplus Account was established in 2011, with the intention of utilising surplus for  
any purpose specifically named in Section 15E of the Pension Funds Act 24 of 1956. The Employer  
Surplus Account shall be credited with any monies payable in terms of the Act, and a pro-rata  
share of the increase or decrease in the Investment Return earned by the Fund.

2 INVESTMENTS

2.1 Investment strategy:  
The Board of Fund have formulated an investment strategy whereby the investments are managed  
according to the strategy. This investment strategy complies with the provisions of regulation 28 of  
the Pensions Funds Act in South Africa.

2.1.1 General:  
The Fund’s benchmark for investment performance is 6% in excess of the Headline Inflation rate  
after taking into account the Investment Managers’ fees.

Regarding Asset Allocations the policy is to invest:  
- Between 50% and 80% of the total investments in moderate risk balanced investment portfolios;
- Between 0% and 50% of the total investments in more aggressive investment portfolios;
- Between 0% and 25% of the total investments in overseas investments.

The Fund should at all times have a minimum of two Investment Managers and possibly three.

2.1.2 Individual member choice:  
Members do not have individual investment choice because very few of the Members have the  
background which would enable them to make informed choices, and the membership is  
scattered throughout South Africa making it even more difficult to hold investment seminars than if  
they were situated in one or several venues. In practice it is doubtful whether the Fund would be  
able to fulfil its responsibility to educate Members sufficiently to enable them to make reasonable  
choices.

2.1.3 Unclaimed benefits:  
Unclaimed benefits are represented by call account investments making such funds available for  
immediate payment to beneficiaries.

2.1.4 Reserve accounts:  
The current value of Risk Reserve and Fund Reserve (Employer Surplus Account) accounts are 13%  
of the total assets of the Fund and such funds are invested in accordance with the general  
investment strategy of the Fund.
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Lay Staff Pension Fund  
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/4456/2  

Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE E

2.1.5 Surplus apportionment:
An Actuarial Valuation was performed as at 31 December 2003 and the valuation reported that the Fund had an actuarial surplus of R 1 417 000. A Surplus Apportionment Scheme, approved by the Fund on 26 October 2006, recommended that the full surplus be allocated to the former members of the Fund dating back to 1 January 1980. No objections to the Surplus Apportionment Scheme were received by 31 January 2006 and the Scheme was approved by the Financial Services Board on 10 October 2006.

2.2 Management of Investments:
The Fund’s Investments consist of funds invested on a moderate risk basis, in balanced portfolios or unit trusts funds with Investment Managers, but with between 0% and 50% thereof in more aggressive absolute funds. All portfolios conform with the provisions of the Pensions Fund Act. The Investment Managers have discretion to vary their asset allocation in the various market sectors within the asset allocation range specified in paragraph 2.1.1.

The Board of Fund appointed an Investment and Advisory Committee which meets 4 times a year to discuss the investment policy, monitor the asset allocation and performance of the Investment Managers against the investment strategy of the Fund and to submit recommendations on all such matters to the Board of Fund, which meets twice a year, for their consideration and approval. The Investment Managers are remunerated on a negotiated fee basis.

The fair value of the Fund’s Investments, administered by the Investment Managers at the end of the period was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current period</th>
<th>Previous period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foord Unit Trusts</td>
<td>16 545 203</td>
<td>16 651 526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investec</td>
<td>16 399 007</td>
<td>16 533 565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investec Balanced</td>
<td>16 399 007</td>
<td>16 533 565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investec Property Equity Fund Class A</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allan Gray Life Limited</td>
<td>16 926 192</td>
<td>18 444 670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Balanced Fund</td>
<td>16 897 909</td>
<td>18 422 502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Absolute Fund</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>28 283</td>
<td>22 168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total value of investments managed</strong></td>
<td><strong>49 870 402</strong></td>
<td><strong>55 629 763</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

3 MEMBERSHIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active members</th>
<th>Deferred pensioners</th>
<th>Pensioners/ Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Unclaimed Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Numbers at beginning of period</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers in</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers out</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawals</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>[2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirements</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>[2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retrenchments</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers (from)/to deferred pensioners</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numbers at end of period</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Lay Staff Pension Fund
FSB Registration No.: 12/8/4456/2

Period: For the year ended 31 December 2015

SCHEDULE E

4 ACTUARIAL VALUATION
The financial statements summarise the transactions and net assets of the Fund. They do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits in the future. In accordance with the rules of the Fund, the actuarial position of the Fund, which does take account of such liabilities, is examined and reported on by the Actuary at intervals not exceeding three years. Last valuation was performed for 31 December 2012 and is still valid. Per the valuation the actuary reported that the Fund was in a sound financial condition.

5 SURPLUS APPORTIONMENT
An actuarial valuation was performed as at 31 December 2003 and the valuation reported that the Fund had an actuarial surplus of R 1 417 000. A Surplus Apportionment Scheme, approved by the Trustees on 26 October 2006, recommended that the full surplus be allocated to the former Members of the Fund dating back to 1 January 1980. No objections to the Surplus Apportionment Scheme were received by 31 January 2006 and the Scheme was approved by the Financial Services Board on 10th October 2006.

6 HOUSING LOAN FACILITIES
No loans or guarantees were granted to Members in terms of the provisions of section 19(5) of the Pension Funds Act in South Africa.

7 INVESTMENTS IN PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS
No investments were held in participating employers as provided for in section 19(4A) of the Pension Funds Act in South Africa.

8 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS
Joanne Tryptsman resigned as Principal Officer effective 31 December 2015 and Martie Hildyard has been appointed the new Principal Officer effective 01 January 2016. The appointment was approved by the Board of Fund and noted in the minutes of the trustee meeting held on 14 October 2015. This has been submitted to the FSB and is pending approval.

9 SIGNIFICANT MATTERS
No significant matters have occurred regarding the Fund during the current period.
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Lay Staff Pension Fund  
Reference No: 12/8/4456/2  
For the year ended 31 December 2015

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SCHEDULE F

(in terms of regulation 12(2)(b)(iv))

Statement of funds and net assets at 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>49,870,402</td>
<td>55,629,763</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
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<td>493,055</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>229,375</td>
<td>192,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank</td>
<td>245,078</td>
<td>295,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>50,344,855</td>
<td>56,122,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funds and Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated funds</td>
<td>46,308,321</td>
<td>45,666,271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members' Individual Accounts</td>
<td>36,548,970</td>
<td>36,733,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Reserve Fund</td>
<td>5,444,425</td>
<td>4,823,209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensioners' Fund</td>
<td>888,164</td>
<td>1,074,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus Apportionment Reserve</td>
<td>3,426,762</td>
<td>3,034,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Current liabilities</strong></td>
<td>1,836,437</td>
<td>1,229,917</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund Reserve - Employer Surplus</td>
<td>1,171,059</td>
<td>1,035,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclaimed benefits</td>
<td>665,378</td>
<td>194,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current liabilities</strong></td>
<td>2,200,097</td>
<td>9,226,630</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>45,727</td>
<td>43,475</td>
</tr>
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<td>Transfers payable</td>
<td>194,050</td>
<td>4,654,794</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benefits payable</td>
<td>1,959,883</td>
<td>4,528,361</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll taxes payable</td>
<td>437</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total funds and liabilities</strong></td>
<td>50,344,855</td>
<td>56,122,818</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Lay Staff Pension Fund  
Financial Services Board Registration No: 12/8/4456/2  
For the year ended 31 December 2015  

Page 14A  

SCHEDULE F  
(In terms of regulation 12(2)(b)(v)(g))  

Statement of funds and net assets of 31 December 2015  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Members Fund</th>
<th>Risk Reserve fund</th>
<th>Pensioners Fund</th>
<th>Surplus Apportionment</th>
<th>Fund Reserve EIA</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>5,756,313</td>
<td>922,530</td>
<td>3,996,171</td>
<td>1,228,953</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td></td>
<td>302,751</td>
<td>182,963</td>
<td>(9,934)</td>
<td>4,567</td>
<td>(7,894)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank</td>
<td></td>
<td>229,375</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td></td>
<td>38,767,584</td>
<td>5,942,876</td>
<td>922,594</td>
<td>3,600,738</td>
<td>1,171,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</td>
<td></td>
<td>36,548,970</td>
<td>5,444,425</td>
<td>888,164</td>
<td>3,404,762</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members' Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td>36,548,970</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Reserve Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,444,425</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensioners Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>888,164</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus Apportionment Reserve</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,404,762</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-current liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td>248</td>
<td>457,159</td>
<td>33,995</td>
<td>173,976</td>
<td>1,171,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclaimed Benefits</td>
<td></td>
<td>248</td>
<td>457,159</td>
<td>33,995</td>
<td>173,976</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Reserve - Employer Surplus</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,136,366</td>
<td>41,292</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,435</td>
<td>41,292</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers payable</td>
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<td>194,050</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits payable</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,959,883</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll taxes payable</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total funds and liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td>38,767,584</td>
<td>5,942,876</td>
<td>922,594</td>
<td>3,600,738</td>
<td>1,171,659</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Lay Staff Pension Fund
Financial Services Board Registration No: 12/8/4456/2
For the year ended 31 December 2015

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SCHEDULE G

[In terms of regulation 12(2)(b)(v)]

Revenue account for the year ended 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions received</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Employees contributions</td>
<td>924,246</td>
<td>918,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Employers Contributions</td>
<td>1,725,256</td>
<td>1,715,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,649,502</td>
<td>2,634,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from buy backs</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>1,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from Investments</td>
<td>1,584,054</td>
<td>1,715,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Revenue</td>
<td>4,235,356</td>
<td>4,351,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Administration expenses</td>
<td>961,719</td>
<td>1,004,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net revenue</td>
<td>3,273,637</td>
<td>3,347,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustment to fair value of investments</td>
<td>-4,811,324</td>
<td>-4,837,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated funds at beginning of year</td>
<td>46,701,844</td>
<td>60,783,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated funds - before benefits and transfers out</td>
<td>54,786,805</td>
<td>68,688,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Benefits awarded</td>
<td>-4,168,250</td>
<td>7,453,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Transfers Out</td>
<td>3,139,175</td>
<td>14,813,545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated funds - at the end of the year</td>
<td>47,479,380</td>
<td>46,701,844</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SCHEDULE G**

[in terms of regulation 12(2)(b)(v)]

Revenue account for the year ended 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Members Fund</th>
<th>Risk Reserve Fund</th>
<th>Pensioners Fund</th>
<th>Surplus Appropriation</th>
<th>Fund Reserve</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Contributions received</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees' contributions</td>
<td>924,246</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>924,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employers' contributions</td>
<td>1,725,256</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,725,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2,649,502</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,649,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from buyback</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from Investments</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,241,181</td>
<td>175,672</td>
<td>20,687</td>
<td>104,953</td>
<td>33,561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3,892,483</td>
<td>175,672</td>
<td>20,687</td>
<td>104,953</td>
<td>33,561</td>
<td>4,235,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Revenue</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>405,916</td>
<td>508,520</td>
<td>28,570</td>
<td>13,952</td>
<td>4,761</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Net revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1 Adjustments to fair value of investments</td>
<td>3,784,368</td>
<td>495,897</td>
<td>110,730</td>
<td>312,643</td>
<td>106,686</td>
<td>4,811,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3,486,587</td>
<td>(352,949)</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>91,001</td>
<td>20,600</td>
<td>3,273,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Accumulated funds at beginning of year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1 Accumulated funds before benefits and transfers out</td>
<td>36,733,541</td>
<td>4,823,208</td>
<td>1,074,810</td>
<td>3,034,712</td>
<td>1,035,573</td>
<td>45,701,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Accumulated funds - before benefits and transfers out</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1 Benefits awarded</td>
<td>44,004,470</td>
<td>4,987,257</td>
<td>1,195,657</td>
<td>3,439,356</td>
<td>1,171,059</td>
<td>54,766,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Less: Benefits awarded</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1 Benefits awarded</td>
<td>6,957,874</td>
<td>30,464</td>
<td>297,493</td>
<td>11,594</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,307,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2 Transfers out</td>
<td>3,328,699</td>
<td>30,464</td>
<td>297,493</td>
<td>11,594</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,168,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Transfers between Funds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Accumulated funds - at the end of the year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCHEDULE H

Notes to the annual financial statements at 31 December 2015

PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following are the principle accounting policies used by the fund, which are consistent with those of the previous period:

1.1 Purpose and basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements are prepared for regulatory purposes in accordance with the Regulations to the Pension Funds Act. The Regulations require that the basis of accounting applied by the pension funds comprise of general adherence to Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, as applied to retirement funds in South Africa.

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost and going concern bases, modified by the valuation of financial instruments to fair value.

1.2 Financial instruments

Measurement

Financial instruments include cash and bank balances, investments, receivables and accounts payable. They are initially measured at cost as at trade date, which includes transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these instruments are measured as set out below.

Investments

Available for sale and held for trading investments are measured at fair value.

The fair value of marketable securities is calculated by reference to the applicable stock exchange quoted selling prices at the close of business on the statement of funds and net assets date.

Insurance policies - linked policies

Insurance policies linked to listed investments are valued at fair value and are therefore equivalent to market value of the underlying assets as certified by the investment insurers concerned.

1.3 Asset impairment

Asset impairment tests are applied annually to assets whose measurement bases is historic cost or historic cost as adjusted for revaluations. An impairment loss is recognised when an asset’s carrying value exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are initially adjusted against any applicable revaluation reserves. Then expensed in the statement of changes in net assets and funds.

If the impairment loss on an asset exceeds the carrying value of the asset, the excess is recognised as a provision.

The recoverable value is the higher of the asset’s fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Fair value less costs to sell is the amount obtainable from the sale of the asset in an arm’s-length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties, less the cost of disposal. Value in use is the present value of estimated future cash flows expected to flow from the continuing use of the asset and from its disposal at the end of its useful life.

If the recoverable amount of an asset subsequently exceeds the carrying value resulting from the application of its accounting policy, an impairment reversal is recognised to that extent. The impairment reversal is applied in reverse order to the impairment loss.

Accounts receivable

Accounts receivable are stated at amortised cost less provision for doubtful debts.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are measured at fair value.
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa Law Staff Pension Fund  
Financial Services Board Registration No. 12/8/4464/2  
For the year ended 31 December 2015  
Page 17

SCHEDULE H

Accounts payable  
Accounts payable are recognised at amortised cost.

1.4 Contributions  
Contributions are brought into account on the accrual basis except for voluntary contributions, which are recorded in the period in which they are received.

1.5 Dividend income, insurance policy income, interest and rentals  
Interest
Interest is recognised on a time proportion basis, taking account of the principal outstanding and the effective rate over the period to maturity, when it is determined that such income will accrue to the Fund.

Insurance policy income
Insurance policy income and dividends are recognised when entitlement to revenue is established.

Gains and losses on subsequent measurement
Gains and losses on subsequent measurement to fair value of investments and of all other financial instruments are recognised in the net investment income during the period in which the change arises.

1.6 Transfers to and from the Fund  
Section 14 and 158 transfers to or from the Fund are recognised on approval being granted by the Financial Services Board. Individual transfers are recognised when the individual member’s transfer is received or paid.

1.7 Comparatives  
When necessary, comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to changes in presentation in the current period.

2 INVESTMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allan Gray Life Ltd</td>
<td>16,926,192</td>
<td>18,444,670</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fido</td>
<td>16,545,203</td>
<td>16,651,528</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investec</td>
<td>16,399,027</td>
<td>16,533,565</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Investments</td>
<td>49,870,422</td>
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</table>

3 CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM EMPLOYERS

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<td>Normal contributions</td>
<td>1,725,256</td>
<td>1,715,776</td>
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SCHEDULE H

[in terms of regulation 12(2)(b)(vi)]

Notes to the annual financial statements at 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4 INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Investments</td>
<td>872,583</td>
<td>851,626</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equity dividends</td>
<td>704,792</td>
<td>824,512</td>
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<td>Sundry Income</td>
<td>8,679</td>
<td>39,785</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS</strong></td>
<td>1,584,054</td>
<td>1,715,923</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration fees</td>
<td>260,665</td>
<td>289,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Life Premiums</td>
<td>486,346</td>
<td>489,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Manager’s fees</td>
<td>214,708</td>
<td>225,439</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td>1,004,237</td>
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</tr>
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<td><strong>6 BENEFITS AWARDED</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensions</td>
<td>295,228</td>
<td>377,660</td>
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<td>Refunds on resignation</td>
<td>3,828,682</td>
<td>5,509,631</td>
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<td>Interest on unclaimed benefits</td>
<td>44,340</td>
<td>19,279</td>
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<td>Shortfall on retirement</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL BENEFITS AWARDED</strong></td>
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<td>7,453,398</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>7 ACCUMULATED FUNDS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members’ Individual Accounts</td>
<td>36,548,970</td>
<td>36,733,539</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risk Reserve Fund</td>
<td>5,444,425</td>
<td>4,823,209</td>
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<td>Pensioners’ Fund</td>
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<td>1,074,811</td>
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<td>Surplus Apportionment Reserve</td>
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<td>3,034,712</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL MEMBER’S FUNDS AND RESERVE ACCOUNTS</strong></td>
<td>46,308,321</td>
<td>45,666,271</td>
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## SCHEDULE H

[In terms of regulation 12(2)(vii)]

### Notes to the annual financial statements at 31 December 2015

### 4 INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Member Fund</th>
<th>Risk Reserve Fund</th>
<th>Pensioners Fund</th>
<th>Surplus Appropriation Fund</th>
<th>First Reserve - VSA</th>
<th>TOTALs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Investments</td>
<td>681,571</td>
<td>102,194</td>
<td>12,213</td>
<td>50,721</td>
<td>17,794</td>
<td>872,583</td>
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<td>Equity dividends</td>
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<td>27,789</td>
<td>16,203</td>
<td>45,796</td>
<td>15,691</td>
<td>704,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry income</td>
<td>6,253</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>6,879</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>173,673</strong></td>
<td><strong>28,887</strong></td>
<td><strong>104,553</strong></td>
<td><strong>33,590</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,584,654</strong></td>
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### 5 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Administration fees</th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>23,527</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Life Premiums</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>486,348</td>
</tr>
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<td>Investment Manager's fee</td>
<td>146,879</td>
<td>22,174</td>
<td>4,242</td>
<td>13,992</td>
<td>4,261</td>
<td>214,798</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>485,917</strong></td>
<td><strong>308,820</strong></td>
<td><strong>28,569</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,992</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,261</strong></td>
<td><strong>961,759</strong></td>
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</table>

### 6 BENEFITS AWARDED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pensions</th>
<th>Refunds on resignation</th>
<th>Interest on Unclaimed Benefits</th>
<th>-</th>
<th>-</th>
<th>-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,626,682</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>33,453</td>
<td>7,286</td>
<td>11,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL BENEFITS AWARDED</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,626,682</strong></td>
<td><strong>33,453</strong></td>
<td><strong>297,693</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,553</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>4,168,250</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7 ACCUMULATED FUNDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Member Fund</th>
<th>Risk Reserve Fund</th>
<th>Pensioners Fund</th>
<th>Surplus Appropriation Reserve</th>
<th>-</th>
<th>-</th>
<th>-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>36,548,970</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>36,548,970</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Reserve Fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,444,425</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,444,425</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensioners Fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>888,194</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>888,194</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus Appropriation Reserve</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,425,762</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,425,762</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ACCUMULATED INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>36,548,970</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,444,425</strong></td>
<td><strong>888,194</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,425,762</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>45,508,221</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</table>
THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
METHODIST CONNEXIONAL OFFICE

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015
THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
METHODIST CONNEXIONAL OFFICE

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015

Page 1

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Income Statement

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Statement of changes in equity

6

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APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the Methodist Connexional Office are the responsibility of the Methodist Connexional Executive.

The Methodist Connexional Executive discharge this responsibility by ensuring the establishment and maintenance of accounting systems and practices are adequately supported by internal accounting controls. These controls, which are implemented and executed by the Methodist Connexional Office, provide assurance that assets are safeguarded, that the transactions are properly authorised and executed and that the financial records are reliable.

The financial statements of the Methodist Connexional Office, set out on pages 4 to 9, were approved by the Methodist Connexional Office Executive, are certified by them to the best of their knowledge to be true and fair, and are signed on its behalf by:

MINISTERIAL GENERAL TREASURER

DATE

LAY GENERAL TREASURER

DATE
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Executive Committee of The Methodist Church of South Africa - Methodist Connexional Office

We have audited the financial statements of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa - Methodist Connexional Office, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2015 and the income statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Executive Committee’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The executive committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note 1, for determining that the basis is acceptable in the circumstances and for such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud and error.

Auditor’s Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting principles used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa - Methodist Connexional Office for the year ended 31 December 2015 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the constitution of the entity.

Other Matter - Restriction on Use

The financial statements of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa - Methodist Connexional Office have been prepared in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note 1 to the financial statements for the purposes of the executive committee. The financial statements and our auditor’s report may not be suitable for another purpose.

BDO South Africa Incorporated
Registration number: 1995/002316/21
Practice number: 409526
VAT number: 4910148685

National Executive: S Daniels • H Bhaga Mukjee • BJ de Wet • MGS Lopes • B Lovell • PD Schneider • A Skosana (Non-Executive Chairman) • A Stewart (Chief Executive) • A van der Hoek
Office Managing Director: B Lovell

The company’s principal place of business is at 22 Wellington Road, Parktown, Johannesburg where a list of directors’ names is available for inspection. BDO South Africa Incorporated, a South African personal liability company, is a member of BDO International Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, and forms part of the international BDO network of independent member firms.
Supplementary information
Without qualifying our opinion, we draw your attention to the fact that the supplementary information set out on pages 10 to 27 does not form part of the financial statements and is presented as additional information. We have not audited this information and accordingly do not express an opinion thereon.

BDO South Africa Incorporated
Bronwyn Lovell
Registered Auditor
Director

29 July 2016
La Lucia Ridge
THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
METHODOIST CONNEXIONAL OFFICE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015

Page 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ASSETS**

**NON-CURRENT ASSETS**

Tangible assets:  
Investments  

Current Assets:

Accounts receivable and prepayments:  
Call deposits and bank accounts:  

**TOTAL ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
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</tbody>
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**EQUITY AND LIABILITIES**

**FUNDS AND RESERVES**

MCO Capital Fund - capital account:  
Ministerial Students fund:  
Ministerial Students fund - bequests:  
Circuit assessment account:  
Property protection fund:  
Sipenda account:  
General fund:  
Bequests funds and other funds:  
Sotha Mokilimi Seminary fund:  
Church reserve fund:  
Sublee fund:  
Sipenda augmentation fund:  

**NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Mission unit reserves:  

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Accounts payable and provisions:  
Short term deposits received from Church organisation:  
Mission Unit - short term portion:  

**TOTAL EQUITIES & LIABILITIES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
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### REVENUE

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<tr>
<th>Supplementary Schedules</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>Capital fund - capital account</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>142,444</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministerial Students' fund - bequests</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>28,642</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministerial Students' fund - capital account</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>7,060</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circuit assessment account</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>Property protection fund</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>12,490,499</td>
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<td>Stipend account</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>133,472,288</td>
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<td>General fund</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>4,644,497</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bequests, trusts and other funds</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>346,187</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seth Moktlimi Seminary fund</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>27,072,734</td>
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<td>Church reserve fund</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>186</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jubilee fund</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1,779,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stipend augmentation fund</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>232,680,993</strong></td>
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### EXPENDITURE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Supplementary Schedules</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital fund - capital account</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial Students' fund - bequests</td>
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<td>Circuit assessment account</td>
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<td>Stipend account</td>
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<td>Seth Moktlimi Seminary fund</td>
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<td>Church reserve fund</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>1,726,763</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jubilee fund</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stipend augmentation fund</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1,329,774</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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### SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR

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<tr>
<td>Date of Balance sheet</td>
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<td>Capital Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
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<td>31 December 2009</td>
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<td>145,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December 2010</td>
<td>2,697,610</td>
<td>132,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December 2011</td>
<td>111,808</td>
<td>3,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December 2012</td>
<td>2,381,118</td>
<td>137,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December 2013</td>
<td>101,333</td>
<td>4,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December 2014</td>
<td>2,002,351</td>
<td>112,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December 2015</td>
<td>103,677</td>
<td>5,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December 2016</td>
<td>3,184,648</td>
<td>112,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December 2017</td>
<td>138,367</td>
<td>6,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December 2018</td>
<td>2,314,415</td>
<td>114,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December 2019</td>
<td>142,445</td>
<td>7,060</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES
The annual financial statements are prepared according to the accounting policies of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. The Executive Committee considers the basis of accounting applied to be suitable for the intended users. The accounting policies are consistent with those of the previous year.

1.1 Office Furniture, Equipment and Computer Software
Depreciation on office furniture, equipment and computer software is provided on the straight line method at the rate of between 20% and 33.3% per annum.

1.2 Fixed Properties
No provision has been made for depreciation of fixed assets, as these are held for residential and office purposes. All properties are initially recorded at cost. Land is not depreciated as it is deemed to have an indefinite life. Subsequent expenditure on capitalised property is capitalised in the year incurred. Any property purchased that is not used for administration purposes is expensed in the year in which the cost was incurred.

1.3 Financial Instruments

1.3.1 Measurement
Financial instruments include cash and bank balances, investments, receivables, accounts payable and loans. They are initially measured at cost as of trade date, which includes transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these instruments are measured as set out below.

1.3.2 Investments
Available for sale and held for trading investments are measured at fair value.

The fair value is calculated by reference to the applicable stock exchange quoted selling price at the close of business on the Balance Sheet date.

1.3.3 Cash and Cash Equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents are measured at fair value.

1.3.4 Accounts Receivable
Accounts receivables are stated at amortised cost less provision for doubtful debts.

1.3.5 Trade Payables and Loans
Trade payables and loans are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period.

1.4 Asset Impairment
Asset impairment tests are applied annually to assets whose measurement basis is historic cost or historic cost as adjusted for revaluations. An impairment loss is recognised when an asset's carrying value exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are initially adjusted against any applicable revaluation reserve, then expensed in the statement of changes in equity. If the impairment loss for an asset exceeds the carrying value of the asset, the excess is recognised as a provision.

The recoverable value is the higher of the asset’s fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Fair value less costs to sell is the amount obtainable from the sale of the asset in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable willing parties. Less the cost of disposal. Value in use is the present value of estimated future cash flows expected to flow from the continuing use of the asset and from its disposal at the end of its useful life.

If the recoverable amount of an asset subsequently exceeds the carrying value, an impairment reversal is recognised. The impairment reversal is applied in reverse order to the impairment loss.

1.5 Investment Income
Interest and dividend income is recognised on the cash basis as and when received.

1.6 Grants
Grant receipts and grant payments are recognised on a cash basis as and when received or paid. At year end, should a budgeted grant expense not have been paid, it may be accrued and recorded in accounts payable.

1.7 Provisions
Provisions were raised based on management’s best estimate from the information available. Additional disclosure of these estimates of provisions are included in note 8 Accounts Payable and Provisions. Amounts are not generally accrued for expect for audit fees.
2. TANGIBLE ASSETS
2.1 Capitalised Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morse - situate Erf 198 Linksfield Johannesburg</td>
<td>1,129,149</td>
<td>1,129,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office - situate Erf 400 Bedfordview, Bedfordview</td>
<td>3,416,722</td>
<td>3,446,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office - situate Erf 5076, 450AAbove Road, Durban</td>
<td>1,005,407</td>
<td>858,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manse - 601 Agulhas, Bedfordview</td>
<td>1,248,324</td>
<td>1,248,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrying value of freehold land and buildings</td>
<td>6,779,602</td>
<td>7,377,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrying value of office furniture, equipment and computer hardware</td>
<td>466,779</td>
<td>737,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7,085,381</td>
<td>7,704,105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reconciliation of carrying value of freehold land & buildings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening carrying value</td>
<td>6,733,062</td>
<td>6,733,062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions/(Disposals)</td>
<td>46,540</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing carrying value</td>
<td>6,779,602</td>
<td>6,733,062</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reconciliation of carrying value of office furniture, equipment and computer hardware

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening carrying value</td>
<td>737,105</td>
<td>308,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>212,049</td>
<td>633,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposals/write offs</td>
<td>(9,946)</td>
<td>(8,536)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation charge</td>
<td>(272,460)</td>
<td>(136,317)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing carrying value</td>
<td>466,779</td>
<td>737,105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2 The following properties were purchased for use by the Seth Moklitse Methodist Seminary in Pietermaritzburg. They were not, however, capitalised in 2010, which is in terms of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa’s accounting policies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 Isobe - Beadmore - purchased 2013</td>
<td>1,514,819</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7A and 7B Isobe Beadmore</td>
<td>1,257,169</td>
<td>1,301,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Isobe Beadmore</td>
<td>1,097,602</td>
<td>1,051,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47 Hutchinson Road</td>
<td>464,878</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 Hutchinson Road</td>
<td>1,677,137</td>
<td>1,697,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tselel Faths (287 Alexandra Road)</td>
<td>1,349,857</td>
<td>1,349,857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Isobe Beadmore</td>
<td>1,097,471</td>
<td>1,097,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127 Golf Road</td>
<td>1,097,302</td>
<td>1,097,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woosarfen Faths</td>
<td>27,130,320</td>
<td>1,697,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land purchased from Epworth High School</td>
<td>54,222,444</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 INVESTMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unlisted</td>
<td>2,083,904</td>
<td>2,891,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans to Circuits &amp; Ministers</td>
<td>2,539,809</td>
<td>2,488,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan to Seth Moklitse Methodist Seminary</td>
<td>11,514,234</td>
<td>14,735,267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan to MCISA Properties (Pty) Ltd</td>
<td>4,315,131</td>
<td>3,415,131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21,430,139</td>
<td>22,228,436</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Listed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit Trusts</td>
<td>81,213,304</td>
<td>72,745,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>105,243,443</td>
<td>99,348,633</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE AND PREPAYMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessments unpaid</td>
<td>5,064,391</td>
<td>3,002,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable and prepayments</td>
<td>10,682,700</td>
<td>9,989,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans: Provision for bad debts</td>
<td>18,267,091</td>
<td>12,922,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14,509,091</td>
<td>11,665,120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5 CALL DEPOSITS AND BANK ACCOUNTS

FirstRand Bank Limited has offered MCO a credit facility, subject to the following terms and conditions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working Capital</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment and Collection Systems</td>
<td>12,320,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Facility
1.1 Short term Direct
1.2 Settlement
The above is repayable on demand and subject to annual review.

The utilization of the above facilities is conditional upon the following collateral/agreements being provided to the Bank for the obligation of MCO towards the Bank:
1. Cession in the amount of R 1,000,000 in favour of the bank by the Client of credit balances held at the Bank

6 FUNDS AND RESERVES

The interest earned on the MCO Capital Fund is used to provide grants for limited periods of time or loans or for such other purposes as may be desirable from time to time as determined by the Bishops of Districts and or the General Treasurer.

7 REQUEST AND TRUST FUNDS

The interest earned on the funds is used in accordance with the conditions of each request and in most cases is for the benefit of various circuits, institutions and bursary funds.

8 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND PROVISIONS

Trade creditors & provisions: 12,684,577

9 POST RETIREMENT MEDICAL AID-CONTINGENT LIABILITY

A contingent liability exists regarding post retirement medical aid contributions. This liability has arisen due to the undertaking by the Methodist Church of Southern Africa to provide medical cover to pensioners (and their dependents) during their retirement. The expected financial impact is material and the Church remains committed to this obligation for as long as resources are available.

10 GOING CONCERN

The annual financial statements have been prepared on the basis of accounting policies applicable to a going concern. This basis presumes that funds will be available to finance future operations and that realization of assets and settlement of liabilities, contingent obligations and commitments will occur in the ordinary course of business.

11 POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

The Executive Committee is not aware of any material matter or circumstances arising since the end of the financial year not otherwise dealt with in this report or the financial statements, which significantly affects the financial position of the Methodist Connexional Office or the results of its operations to the date of the report.
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Capital Fund</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Ministerial Students Fund</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Circuit Assessment Account</td>
<td>13 &amp; 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Property Protection Fund</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Stipend Account</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. General Fund</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Bequests, Trusts and Other Funds</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Seth Mokotoni Seminary Fund</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Expenses</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Church Reserve</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Jubilee Fund</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Stipend Augmentation Fund</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Supernumerary Fund Reserve Balance Sheet</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Supernumerary Fund Reserve Income Statement</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O. Laystaff Fund Reserve Balance Sheet</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Laystaff Fund Reserve Income Statement</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These schedules do not form part of the annual financial statements and are presented solely for the information of the Connexional Executive.
A. CAPITAL FUND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant ex Cash Management Scheme</td>
<td>7,980</td>
<td>6,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>134,466</td>
<td>121,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</strong></td>
<td>142,446</td>
<td>128,562</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

## METHODIST CONNEXIONAL OFFICE

### B. MINISTERIAL STUDENTS' FUND

**Page 12**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUND ACCOUNT (Part of Circuit Assessment account)</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td>9,126,553</td>
<td>7,611,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Unit costs</td>
<td>2,636,986</td>
<td>2,208,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminary training</td>
<td>6,489,568</td>
<td>5,402,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COST TO CIRCUIT ASSESSMENT ACCOUNT</strong></td>
<td>(9,126,553)</td>
<td>(7,611,540)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BEQUESTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest received from Bequests &amp; Trusts</td>
<td>26,642</td>
<td>26,683</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| EXPENDITURE | 20,403 | 18,517 |
| Payments from Bequests |

| SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR | 8,239 | 8,166 |

### MINISTERIAL STUDENTS' FUND CAPITAL ACCOUNT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest received on MSF Capital Fund</td>
<td>7,060</td>
<td>6,422</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Circuit Assessment Account

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessments</td>
<td>51,221,448</td>
<td>48,392,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration cost recovered from Pension Fund</td>
<td>1,476,840</td>
<td>1,361,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>52,698,288</td>
<td>49,754,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance of ministry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's education grants</td>
<td>36,409,520</td>
<td>38,049,493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bursaries</td>
<td>7,625</td>
<td>8,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long leave grants</td>
<td>2,121,108</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency relief</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>954,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extraordinary affliction grants</td>
<td>22,747,247</td>
<td>22,528,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remittances</td>
<td>4,574,607</td>
<td>2,902,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nomini travelling</td>
<td>31,100</td>
<td>24,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bursary fund grant</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work parties</td>
<td>10,274</td>
<td>39,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial training - not after donations and grants fees</td>
<td>7,126,583</td>
<td>7,611,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONFERENCE EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveling</td>
<td>350,644</td>
<td>805,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing &amp; stationery</td>
<td>84,644</td>
<td>533,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minutes of Conference</td>
<td>9,632</td>
<td>63,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CONFERENCE EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>454,920</td>
<td>1,403,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONNESSIONAL COMMITTEES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disciplinary committee expenses</td>
<td>38,743</td>
<td>8,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee meetings</td>
<td>804,696</td>
<td>629,371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supernumeraries attending synods</td>
<td>27,257</td>
<td>14,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas Conferences</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>77,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CONNESSIONAL COMMITTEES</strong></td>
<td>1,074,493</td>
<td>930,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Presiding Bishop</td>
<td>5,901,512</td>
<td>3,499,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Executive Secretary</td>
<td>1,481,226</td>
<td>1,191,226</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop's administration allowances</td>
<td>192,000</td>
<td>151,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>683,019</td>
<td>265,664</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lord President's expenses</td>
<td>129,950</td>
<td>38,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTS</strong></td>
<td>8,183,707</td>
<td>5,174,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRANTS</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary grants</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centralised Accounting Organisation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>290,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Unity Commission</td>
<td>58,600</td>
<td>50,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Council of Churches</td>
<td>244,807</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connexional schedules</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connexional chaplaincy committee</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Park</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information technology</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connexional school chapel</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol &amp; Drug concerns</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bolivarian Council of Churches</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Council of Mozambique</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disciple committee</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecumenical Affairs</td>
<td>160,000</td>
<td>160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Public Relations &amp; Communication</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latino Council of Churches</td>
<td>2,850</td>
<td>2,303</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 A Institute of Reuss Research</td>
<td>6,354</td>
<td>8,638</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Methodist Council</td>
<td>60,325</td>
<td>10,008</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 A Council of Churches</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Africa Conference of Churches</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>3,441</td>
<td>4,522</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL GRANTS</strong></td>
<td>1,400,268</td>
<td>1,328,434</td>
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### ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Description</th>
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<th>2016</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>9,032,996</td>
<td>8,063,837</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Superannuation Fund</td>
<td>1,179,936</td>
<td>1,089,197</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Methodist Connexion Office</td>
<td>3,777,578</td>
<td>3,350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lay Staff Pension Fund</td>
<td>92,746</td>
<td>96,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Provident Fund</td>
<td>203,158</td>
<td>175,853</td>
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<tr>
<td>- $1 per week Administration</td>
<td>3,777,578</td>
<td>3,350,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Connexion Marriage Registrar</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Expenses</td>
<td>1,822,895</td>
<td>1,350,688</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus for the Year</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,342</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,467</strong></td>
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### D. Property Protection Fund

**Page 15**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levies from Circuits</td>
<td>12,490,499</td>
<td>11,615,324</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Premiums paid</td>
<td>5,860,558</td>
<td>6,074,924</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>2,140,917</td>
<td>1,898,590</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance to Connexional property</td>
<td>1,745,843</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant towards stationing</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultants Fees</td>
<td>19,879</td>
<td>45,824</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants paid</td>
<td>3,978</td>
<td>2,500</td>
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<td><strong>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</strong></td>
<td>1,899,324</td>
<td>3,593,486</td>
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</table>
## The Methodist Church of Southern Africa
### Methodist Connexional Office

**E. Stipend Account**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2015 ($R)</th>
<th>2014 ($R)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stipend assessments</td>
<td>133,472,288</td>
<td>123,640,801</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stipends paid</td>
<td>134,716,790</td>
<td>124,629,870</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Deficit for the Year</strong></td>
<td>-1,244,502</td>
<td>-989,069</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### F. GENERAL FUND

#### Income
- Interest received on call account: R 4,644,497, R 3,866,195
- Interest received on Money Market: R 1,844,284, R 1,584,862
- Interest received on Investments: R 54,697, R 458,321
- Interest received on loans: R 204,996, R 166,791
- Profit on sale of assets: R 7,460, R 1,750
- Sundry Income: R 90,000, R 90,000
- Adjustment to Contributions: (R 43,580), (R 33,509)
- Fair value adjustment to investments: R 1,979,071, R 1,540,577

#### Expenditure
- Administration: R 2,257,549, R 2,286,390
- Provision for Bad Debts: R 902,108, R 800,000
- Discretionary supernumerary payments: R 218,520, R 455,640
- Interest paid on Investments: R (3,000),
- Interest transferred to bequests and trusts: R 516,501, R 496,031
- Sundry Expense: R 409,665, R 512,378
- Loss on sale of assets: R 13,755, R 13,785
- Sundry Expense: R 8,536

#### Surplus for the Year
- R 2,386,948, R 1,579,605
### THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
### METHODIST CONNEXIONAL OFFICE

#### G. BEQUESTS, TRUSTS AND OTHER FUNDS

**Page 18**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015 R</th>
<th>2014 R</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>346,187</td>
<td>290,655</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net payments from Bequests and Funds</td>
<td>871,829</td>
<td>139,551</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</strong></td>
<td>-525,642</td>
<td>151,104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>2015 R</td>
<td>2014 R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>672</td>
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<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Charges</td>
<td>2,601</td>
<td>2,441</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff costs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</strong></td>
<td>-2,415</td>
<td>-1,789</td>
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THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
METHODIST CONNEXIONAL OFFICE

I EXPENSES

Page 20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General expenses</td>
<td>129,029</td>
<td>118,949</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auditors' remuneration</td>
<td>222,796</td>
<td>169,688</td>
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<td>Bank charges and interest</td>
<td>200,729</td>
<td>170,645</td>
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<td>Insurance</td>
<td>121,353</td>
<td>129,837</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postages and Telephone</td>
<td>537,702</td>
<td>337,659</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing, stationery and computer expenses</td>
<td>400,700</td>
<td>387,742</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries, pension contributions etc</td>
<td>8,928,119</td>
<td>8,526,629</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff training</td>
<td>59,697</td>
<td>18,251</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance (furniture and equipment)</td>
<td>218,939</td>
<td>147,236</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>292,460</td>
<td>196,317</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property maintenance</td>
<td>159,026</td>
<td>90,019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methodist House maintenance</td>
<td>418,511</td>
<td>173,489</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruma office expense</td>
<td>1,074,676</td>
<td>865,466</td>
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<td>Less: Rent received by Presiding Bishop's Office</td>
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<td>-45,700</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12,763,738</td>
<td>11,332,127</td>
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<tr>
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<td>12,667,157</td>
<td>11,286,427</td>
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COST RECOVERY FROM FUNDS ADMINISTERED

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<tr>
<td>Circuit Assessment Fund</td>
<td>3,777,578</td>
<td>3,350,000</td>
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<td>General Fund</td>
<td>902,108</td>
<td>800,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministerial Students Fund</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property Protection Fund</td>
<td>2,140,917</td>
<td>1,898,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stipend Fund</td>
<td>3,777,576</td>
<td>3,350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay Staff Pension Fund</td>
<td>12,746</td>
<td>96,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provident Fund</td>
<td>203,158</td>
<td>175,853</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supernumerary Fund</td>
<td>1,179,936</td>
<td>1,069,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Reserve</td>
<td>225,527</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millennium Mission Resource Fund</td>
<td>74,424</td>
<td>66,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seth Mokhiri Seminary Fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supernumerary Fund Reserve</td>
<td>225,527</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay Staff Reserve</td>
<td>22,553</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stipend Argumentation Fund</td>
<td>22,553</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bursary Fund</td>
<td>22,553</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12,667,156</td>
<td>11,286,427</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INCOME</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income received on investments</td>
<td>27,072,736</td>
<td>4,460,824</td>
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<td>Interest received on bank accounts</td>
<td>1,135,473</td>
<td>352,198</td>
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<td>Contributions arising from reserves</td>
<td>123,399</td>
<td>650,872</td>
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<td>Surplus/Deficit to market value</td>
<td>21,000,000</td>
<td>3,457,766</td>
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<td>EXPENDITURE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration line - MCCO</td>
<td>1,726,783</td>
<td>370,741</td>
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<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>325,527</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant to Seth Mokotini /Methodist Seminary</td>
<td>1,256</td>
<td>1,462</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justice &amp; Service Desk</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21,105</td>
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<td>Purchase of Church property</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>165,012</td>
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<td>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>16,898</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25,345,955</td>
<td>4,290,085</td>
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</table>
THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
METHODIST CONNEXIONAL OFFICE

K: JUBILEE FUND

Page 22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INCOME</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proceeds from sale of property</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>EXPENDITURE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jubilee property cost</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8,201</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</td>
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</table>
### THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
#### METHODIST CONNEXIONAL OFFICE

## L. STIPEND AUGMENTATION FUND

**Page 23**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment received</td>
<td>1,739,144</td>
<td>1,620,370</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations received to VSF</td>
<td>35,620</td>
<td>116,338</td>
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<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stipends augmented</td>
<td>1,291,687</td>
<td>1,057,885</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stipends paid from VSF</td>
<td>15,534</td>
<td>321,790</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration fee - MCO</td>
<td>22,553</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</strong></td>
<td>449,370</td>
<td>20,895</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
METHODIST CONNEXIONAL OFFICE
SUPERNUMERARY FUND RESERVE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015

Page 24

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td></td>
<td>207,258,032</td>
<td>168,205,942</td>
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<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable and prepayments</td>
<td>3,460,463</td>
<td>22,535,559</td>
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<td>Cash Resources</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,070,365</td>
<td>1,873,396</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,390,098</td>
<td>20,662,163</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>210,718,495</td>
<td>190,741,501</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUNDS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Funds</td>
<td></td>
<td>202,861,466</td>
<td>183,563,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,857,029</td>
<td>7,177,623</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>210,718,495</td>
<td>190,741,501</td>
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</table>
THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
METHODIST CONNEXIONAL OFFICE
SUPERNUMERARY FUND RESERVE

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2016

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INCOME</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circuit Pension Contributions Received</td>
<td>49,399,446</td>
<td>40,917,034</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Received</td>
<td>27,237,212</td>
<td>25,231,670</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from Investments</td>
<td>762,279</td>
<td>612,938</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surplus on Market Value of Investments</td>
<td>5,001,697</td>
<td>3,716,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16,376,258</td>
<td>11,355,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPENDITURE</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration fee - MCO</td>
<td>30,101,855</td>
<td>8,727,635</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asset Managers Fees</td>
<td>225,527</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actuarial Fees</td>
<td>325,864</td>
<td>304,057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Charges</td>
<td>123,659</td>
<td>94,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death Benefits transferred to Supernumerary Fund</td>
<td>2,762</td>
<td>2,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Benefits transferred to Supernumerary Fund</td>
<td>301,467</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to Church Reserve due to Excess Surplus</td>
<td>21,000,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement Benefits transferred to Supernumerary Fund</td>
<td>7,914,408</td>
<td>8,126,922</td>
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<tr>
<td>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</td>
<td>19,297,590</td>
<td>32,189,397</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACCUMULATED FUNDS PRIOR YEAR.</td>
<td>183,563,876</td>
<td>151,374,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCUMULATED FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</td>
<td>202,861,466</td>
<td>183,563,876</td>
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# THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
# METHODIST CONNEXIONAL OFFICE
# LAYSTAFF FUND RESERVE

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015

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<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>2,284,707</td>
<td>2,056,503</td>
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<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Cash Resources</td>
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<td>2,097,530</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FUNDS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accumulated Funds</td>
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<td>2,077,830</td>
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<td><strong>CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>2,291,759</td>
<td>2,097,530</td>
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### Income & Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 31st December 2015

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<tr>
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<td>Administration fees MCO</td>
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<td><strong>Surplus for the Year</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Accumulated Funds Carried Forward</strong></td>
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Revised Common Lectionary 2017

Epiphany of the Lord
January 6, 2017
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Baptism of the Lord
January 8, 2017
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 8, 2017
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 15, 2017
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 15, 2017
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 22, 2017
Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

January 22, 2017
Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

January 29, 2017
Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

January 29, 2017
Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Presentation of the Lord
February 2, 2017
Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 84 or Ps 24:7-10
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

February 2, 2017
Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 84 or Ps 24:7-10
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

February 5, 2017
Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
Psalm 112:1-9 (10)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
Matthew 5:13-20

February 5, 2017
Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
Psalm 112:1-9 (10)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
Matthew 5:13-20

February 12, 2017
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

February 12, 2017
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

February 19, 2017
Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Psalm 119:33-40
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
Matthew 5:38-48

Transfiguration Sunday
February 26, 2017
Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Transfiguration Sunday
February 26, 2017
Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Ash Wednesday
March 1, 2017
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Ash Wednesday
March 1, 2017
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

First Sunday in Lent
March 5, 2017
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

First Sunday in Lent
March 5, 2017
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11
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<tr>
<td>April 9, 2017</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td>Psalm 118:1-2, Matthew 21:1-11</td>
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<td>April 9, 2017</td>
<td>OR Liturgy of the Passion</td>
<td>Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54</td>
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<td>April 12, 2017</td>
<td>Wednesday Holy Week</td>
<td>Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 70, Hebrews 12:1-3, John 13:21-32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>Acts</td>
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<td>April 23, 2017</td>
<td>Second Sunday of Easter</td>
<td>2:14a, 22-32</td>
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June 25, 2017
Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

July 2, 2017
Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

July 9, 2017
Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16, 2017
Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23, 2017
Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30, 2017
Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 6, 2017
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

August 13, 2017
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

August 20, 2017
Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

August 27, 2017
Exodus 1:8-2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

September 3, 2017
Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

September 10, 2017
Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

September 17, 2017
Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 24, 2017
Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading from Exodus</th>
<th>Reading from Psalm</th>
<th>Reading from Philippians</th>
<th>Reading from Matthew</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>October 22, 2017</strong></td>
<td>Exodus 33:12-23</td>
<td>Psalm 99</td>
<td>1 Thessalonians 1:1-10</td>
<td>Matthew 22:15-22</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>All Saints Day</strong></td>
<td>Revelation 7:9-17</td>
<td>Psalm 34:1-10, 22</td>
<td>1 John 3:1-3</td>
<td>Matthew 5:1-12</td>
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</table>
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2017  
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38  

Nativity of the Lord - I  
December 24 & 25, 2017  
Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)  

Nativity of the Lord - II  
December 24 & 25, 2017  
Isaiah 62:6-12  
Psalm 97  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20  

Nativity of the Lord - III  
December 24 & 25, 2017  
Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)  
John 1:1-14  

First Sunday after Christmas Day  
December 31, 2017  
Isaiah 61:10-62:3  
Psalm 148  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:22-40  

New Year’s Day  
January 1, 2018  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13  
Psalm 8  
Revelation 21:1-6a  
Matthew 25:31-46  

Epiphany of the Lord  
January 6, 2018  
Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12  

Baptism of the Lord  
January 7, 2018  
Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11  

January 14, 2018  
1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51  

January 21, 2018  
Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20  

January 28, 2018  
Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28  

Presentation of the Lord  
February 2, 2018  
Malachi 3:1-4  
Psalm 84 or Psalm 24:7-10  
Hebrews 2:14-18  
Luke 2:22-40
February 4, 2018
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Transfiguration Sunday
February 11, 2018
(Last Sunday before Lent)
2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>1883</td>
<td>Rev John Walton, MA</td>
<td>Rev Robert Lamplough</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grahamstown</td>
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<td>Rev John Walton, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Durban</td>
<td>1885</td>
<td>Rev Richard Ridgill</td>
<td>Rev Robert Lamplough</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>Rev Fredrick Mason</td>
<td>Rev Robert Lamplough</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1887</td>
<td>Rev Robert Lamplough</td>
<td>Rev J Smith Spencer</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>1890</td>
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<td>Rev James Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pietermaritzburg</td>
<td>1891</td>
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<td>Rev James Scott</td>
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<td>Cradock</td>
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<td>Rev James Scott</td>
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<td>Rev Theophilus Chubb, BA</td>
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<td>Rev Henry Cotton</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1914</td>
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<td>Rev William H P Clulow</td>
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<td>1926</td>
<td>Rev Andrew Graham</td>
<td>Rev Alfred A Stile</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bloemfontein</td>
<td>1927</td>
<td>Rev Theo R Curnick BD</td>
<td>Rev William H P Clulow</td>
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<td>1928</td>
<td>Rev William Flint DD</td>
<td>Rev Thomas Stanton</td>
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<td>Rev Thomas Stanton, MBE; DD</td>
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<td>1930</td>
<td>Rev Allen Lea</td>
<td>Rev Thomas Stanton, MBE; DD</td>
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<td>1931</td>
<td>Rev Ernest Titcomb</td>
<td>Rev Thomas Stanton, MBE; DD</td>
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<td>1932</td>
<td>Rev John A Allcock</td>
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<td>Rev Arthur C File</td>
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<td>1936</td>
<td>Rev A Arthur Wellington</td>
<td>Rev Arthur C File</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pretoria</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Rev William Meara</td>
<td>Rev Arthur C File</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1938</td>
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<td>Rev William H Irving</td>
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<td>1942</td>
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<td>1943</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Rev F J Rhead Marsh</td>
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<td>Pretoria</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Rev William Meara</td>
<td>Rev Alison E F Garrett</td>
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<td>1946</td>
<td>Rev Cecil C Harris</td>
<td>Rev Alison E F Garrett</td>
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<td>1947</td>
<td>Rev E Lynn Cragg, BA; BD</td>
<td>Rev Alison E F Garrett</td>
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<tr>
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Preliminary Conference Roster from 2017 onwards

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In Memoria

Jesus said ‘I am the resurrection and I am life;
those who believe in me, even though they die,
yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me,
Shall never die.’

John 11:25

I am alpha and omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.
Rev 22:13

I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I hold the keys of hell and death.

Rev 1:18
Obituaries that were not available for print in the previous Yearbook
Rev Kolokolo William Motsamai
Rev Admiral Malixole Dondashe
Rev Vincent Vakele Dandala

Ministers who have passed away since September 2015
1. Rev Johan Van Der Walt
2. Rev Stanley Mqambane Ntlolo
3. Rev Ray Lutge
4. Deacon Gloria de Klerk
5. Rev Demetris Palos
6. Rev Peter Leseba
7. Rev Andrew Mohibidu
8. Rev Karabo Mogale
9. Rev Dr Neville Richardson
10. Rev John McCreath
11. Rev Izeman Puleni
12. Rev Nkululeko Tunyiswa
13. Rev. Dr. TSN Gqubule
14. Rev Neill Robinson
15. Rev Constance Oosthuizen
16. Rev Jan Erasmus
17. Rev Colin Clarke
18. Rev Molaji
19. Rev I E M Tlholwe
20. Rev Lindsay Hayward
21. Deacon Pat Pollock
22. Rev GS Dladla
23. Rev NL Xaba

Obituaries for Deacon Gloria de Klerk, Rev John McCreath, Rev Demetris Palos and Rev Neville Richardson were not available at the time of going to print.
Rev KOLOKOLO WILLIAM “CAT” MOTSAMAI

6 July 1951-12 March 2014

The Rev Kolokolo William Motsamai was the second child and the first son of the late Peter and Mirriam Motsamai. He was born on the 6th July 1951 in Bloemfontein. His parents were loving and God fearing people devoted to the life of the church. They built a devoted family and brought up their children under God’s guidance and direction. His mother Mirriam was a Bible Woman and his father a fully accredited Local Preacher.

He started his lower primary schooling at St. Bernard Primary School in Bloemfontein. His higher primary education was at Gonyane Primary School, and his High School education at the Sehunelo High School. He then furthered his education at Strydom Teacher Training College in Thaba Nchu. He started his employment life at the Free State Provincial Administration Offices in Bloemfontein. He entered into Holy Matrimony with Kelebogile Melato in 1978. In this union they were blessed with three children, two girls and a boy. It was while working at PAO that Kolokolo experienced a call to the ordained ministry of the church and was sent to Petrusburg in the Bloemfontein Circuit, where he served as a prospective candidate for the ministry.

He was received onto probation by the Conference of 1980 and was stationed in the then Lesotho Mission at Maseru. From Maseru he was sent to the Federal Theological Seminary of Southern Africa from 1982 to 1984 at Pietermaritzburg. After his Theological training, he continued his probation in the Khunwana Circuit, which he served from 1985 to 1986. He was ordained by the 1986 Conference held in Pietermaritzburg. Kolokolo then served the following Circuits: Klerksdorp Circuit at Tigane 1987-1992, North Vaal 1993, Carletonville Circuit at Khutsong 1994-1998, South Rand Circuit at Diepkloof 1999-2006, Vryburg Circuit at Coldridge 2007. He returned to Tigane from 2009 to 2010 and this is where his health deteriorated sharply and he retired from active ministry in July 2010 due to ill-health.

Throughout his life Kolokolo was full of humour, and kept those around him amused at all times. He was an active sportsman from the time of his schooling and beyond. He was a professional Football referee and loved soccer to the end. He was also a professional coach for Ball Room Dance.

Oupapi, as he was affectionately known, was a loving and caring minister of the Word of God. He loved and respected the people that he so faithfully served. He was well received and accepted as a minister in all the Circuits he served. He was brother to all, and servant of the Master.
Kolokolo’s humour endeared him to many people both in the life of the church as well the communities among which he served. He was a very good preacher who loved and respected the pulpit and a preacher that challenged and was always touching the lives of his listeners.

Above all Oupapi (CAT), was a loving husband and father who took seriously the care of his family including the extended family. Most of his life Kolokolo’s health was of a great concern. He was a diabetic person, and during the final years of his life things became hectic. Two weeks before his passing Kolokolo was admitted to Tshepong hospital where on the 12th March 2014 in the 63rd year of his life and the 34th year of his ministry the Trumpet of the Lord sounded to his ears and he responded to the Heavenly call.

He is survived by his wife Kelebogile, (Beatrice), his three children, Neo, Kgosietsile and Tebogo; three grandchildren, Ofentse, Keitumetse and Tshimologo; two brothers, a sister and three sisters-in-law.

ROBALA KA KAGISHO MONOMPE; THUBISI, NONYANE YA GO BONWA KE MOTSOGA-PELE MOTSOGA MORAGO GAA E BONE!!!
Rev ADMIRAL MALIXOLE DONDASHE


Rev Admiral Malixole Dondashe was the first child of Mr Sangweni and Mrs Vuyiswa Dondashe. He was born on the 26th April 1955. He did his primary education at Komanas JSS; he then went to Freemantle Boys High School for Junior and Senior certificate (form 4 and 5). After matriculation he started working at Lennon Laboratories as a consultant, after which he went to work at SA Land Laboratories. In 1981 he responded to the call and became an ordained minister in Methodist Church of Southern Africa.

Ministry Journey

In 1981 he served at Nongoma circuit. In 1983/4 he served in Manzini Circuit. From 1985-7 he was sent to Federal Theological seminary where he completed his Diploma in Theology. He was ordained in 1987. He got married to Lorato Grace Dondashe the daughter of the late Evangelist J.M. Sibi and G.M. Sibi. They are blessed with three daughters Viwe, Nobuzwe and Lesego and three grandchildren. From 1988-91 he was stationed at Horton circuit in Peddie Grahamstown District. From 1992-96 he served in Matshona Circuit at Ntabankulu Clarkebury District where he built a big Church hall. In 1997 he went to Mandileni Circuit Mount Frere, and in 1998 to Nyanisweni Circuit Qumbu where he was instrumental in building a Manse. In 1999 he went to Wodehouse Forest Circuit in Cofimvaba in the Queenstown District. He was currently serving a second term as Vice-Chairperson of the Queenstown District.

He furthered his studies and obtained his honours Degree from the University of Pretoria. He served as a minister in the Methodist Church for 33 years. He was called to rest by the Most High. Uzoda ziqibela zonke kodwa yena abe ehleli at the age of 60 on the 15th May 2015. He leaves behind his father, wife, children and grandchildren, his brother and three sisters. He was a pillar of strength in his family.

During his ministry in Wodehouse the following churches have been built:

- Ncora Society, Sopili Society, Mtwazi Society, Gonqo Society,
- Kulongqayi Society, Mzola Society, Mvuzo Society, Kayalethu Society, Ngcaca, Makwababa
- Matefeni and Nowile Society were still in the process of being built

The above were supposed to be dedicated by the end of 2015.

Lorato was very supportive in her husband’s ministry journey; indeed it is true that behind every successful man there is a strong woman.
Thank you for being a loving husband, father, grandfather, and minister.

Lala ngoxolo Mcube, Madiba, Zondwa, Sophitsho, Nqolomsila, Yemyem. You have done a good job and have left us with good memories (your smile) and this will remain in our heart eternally.

GO ON, NOW SLEEP, TAKE YOUR REST!
Vincent Vakele Dandala was born on the 8th September 1949 at Dandalaville, in the district of Mt. Ayliff. He was the third of four siblings and a second son to the late Rev. Killion Ntwazifani and Mrs. Julia Dandala.

Vakele did his primary schooling at Marubeni Primary School in Libode before proceeding to Ndamase secondary and high school in Buntingville. He then proceeded to Fort Hare University where he studied for his Diploma in Social Work. During all this time Vakele showed himself to be a very brilliant student. For him the adage was true, ‘If not the best, be among the best’.

His personality bloomed when he started work as a Social Worker in the district of Mt. Ayliff. He was the epitome of simplicity, able to relate even with the illiterate in an unpretentious and affirming manner. He was loved by the communities he served. Vakele was punctilious in everything that he did, unwavering in his commitment to honesty and a first class administrator. It was while working in Mt. Ayliff that he met and married Muriel Nomabhaso Mndela. Theirs was a happy union, blessed with three children, Vumile, Thobeka and Abongile.

For a while Vakele worked for Old Mutual as a service advisor, but this work did not meet the longing of his heart. He longed to serve. Becoming a full local preacher at the Dutyini Circuit he moved to the Kokstad Circuit under the Rev. Amos Fadane who nurtured his soul, leading to the awakening and affirmation of his call to the ministry. He offered for the ministry in 1985 and was sent directly to the Federal Theological Seminary. He excelled in his theological studies gaining the Associate of the Federal Theological Seminary (AFTS) with distinction. In the course of his studies for the AFTS he was sent to Birmingham College for a three month course. In 1989 he registered for his Honours Degree with the University of South Africa which he did not complete.

In March 1989 while stationed at White River in the Nelspruit Circuit he was involved in a freak accident near Nelspruit. Tragically Nomabhaso died in that accident at the tender age of 36, leaving behind three young children with Vakele. The pain that Vakele bore at her passing was raw and heartrending. But he survived it.

He was next stationed at Witbank and it was during that time that he met and married Nomabelu Mvambo. It was to be another glorious marriage blessed with a son, Kwezi. The hallmark of this family became “togetherness” as Mabhashe (Nomabelu) embraced all as her family.
From Witbank his ministry grew from strength to strength, with his special gifts coming to the fore. A prince of the Methodist pulpit, he preached well prepared, fiery sermons. He was a keen singer and Christian Educator. But his ministry set itself apart by its power of organising and leading people to launch successful fundraising drives to build new churches. He saw no pride in leaving a circuit with a new building while having a heavy debt that had to be repaid. After Witbank Circuit he was stationed in Umngeni Circuit, Durban (Ntuzuma Section), where the exercise of his gifts proved to be the high point of his ministry. He had a special gift of keeping warm relations with those Ministers he succeeded and those who succeeded him.

Dutyini Circuit, which he had touted as his final station proved to be just that. Even here his mark of leading circuits to build respectable Church halls was ever obvious as he went to far flung societies and built churches there. His ministry was rounded and put a lot of emphasis on prayer, pastoral care, good preaching and teaching.

While he had a mind for theological thinking, his primary engagement was not in writing on African Theology, but in practising African theology. He believed in the cause of healing. He was known for his healing services that were always accompanied by liturgical practices such as sprinkling water and African medical approaches.

A passionate evangelist, the Natal Coastal District YMG elected him in 2000 to 2002 as President of the District. After a sterling service at Dutyini Circuit in 2010 his health broke down until he surrendered to the need to superannuate. He asked Conference to allow him to sit down. He settled at Kloof with his second wife, Nomabelu with whom he had a wonderful and happy marriage for 25 years.

He leaves behind his beloved wife, Nomabelu with his four children Vumile, Thobeka, Abongile and Kwezi with their spouses and four grandchildren.

Lala kakhule Bhuku, Snqasha, Nkamangana, Dubulibhara-bhara; isBhamu esinamagqabi. PHUMLA NGOXOLO MBHAMLA, umzamo omhle uwuzamile uqatso ulufezele.
Rev JOHAN VAN DER WALT

1st December 1946-15th October 2015

Johan was born into the loving home of Louis and Anna van der Walt on the 1st of December 1946 in Pretoria. He grew up in the foothills of the mountains of Lesotho and later went to school in Linden Johannesburg.

Johan became a lawyer by profession but always kept himself hard at work in the church. In 1993 he and his family moved from the Reformed church to the St. Luke’s Methodist church where they made a home for themselves. It was not long after that Johan and his son Willem candidated for the ministry in 2003. Johan, even though he was a non-itinerant non-stipendiary probationer, did not miss a day at Jabavu Training Centre, sometimes at great cost to his practice, but always knowing there are greater rewards in serving God.

Johan was a bear of a man in size, love and compassion for everyone he met. Loving without question, listening to every concern, helping without the need for reward. He was a great man that will be missed by his wife, his three boys and their families.

John 3:16 says “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” A truth that Johan always held on to.

Rest in peace.
Rev STANLEY MQAMBANE NTLOKO

15 December 1925-17 December 2015


Bane code abeyithanda utata ethi 3-1; 3-1; 1 Oko kukuthi iintombi ezintathu, ibengunyana, kuze iintombi zibentathu, ibengunyana, kugqibele intombi.


Ngo 1953 usabele ubizo lobufundisi eDurban Circuit, phantsi ko Mfundisi J.C. Mvusi no Mfundisi Vein Ntshinga no Mfundisi Abner J.R. Hlatshwayo.

Waya kwezi-circuits zilandelayo newele (Mrs. Ntloko) lakhe:

- Piet Retief (Swaziland Circuit): 1954-1956
- Fort Hare Training: 1957-1958
- Memel: 1959
- Ordained in the Kimberley Conference 1959
- Umtata Circuit: 1960-1961
- Jansenville: 1967-1968
- Healdtown Circuit: 1969
- EMqhekezweni: 1973
- Dumsi: 1974
- Palmerton: 1975-1978
- Osborn Circuit and Institution: 1979
- Chaplain Ndamase High School: 1980
- Blythswood High School: 1988
He served the church in the Grahamstown District as President of the Evangelists and as a Grand True Templar of the I.O.T.T. for many years in the Grahamstown, Clarkebury and Queenstown Districts.

He retired at the Conference of 1988 in Queenstown and settled in Butterworth Circuit. He was a member of A. M. Ngumbela Society.

With his wife (iwele lakhe) uKholeka Ntloko he enjoyed what he called the very last chapter of his life. He loved the Psalmist “Unam ebutsheni bam, Unam nasekwaluphaleni kwam”.

Koleka and Stanley gave their children opportunities in life under tremendous sacrifices to secure their future. He was a loving and devoted husband, father, a grand father and a great grand father (Ukhokho) to his family.

Ebevuka ngo 5 am ebomini bakhe; ngoku ulele, udiniwe, uphumlile uMbona!! He passed on peacefully at home with his family by his side.

He is survived by his wife (iwele lakhe) uKoleka, his daughters Phumla and Lulama, his son Mbulelo and his grand children and great grand children.

Rest in Peace Mbona!!!! Tolo, Dlangamandla, Cantsana - We will surely meet again!!!
Ray was born on a farm in the East London area on the 23rd August 1929. He matriculated from the East London Technikon in 1946 and then studied and qualified as a plumber. He had always been actively involved in the church and in 1951 he followed a calling to the mission field. In the flyleaf of his Bible he wrote “Found Christ as Saviour 1st May 1946. Called to mission field 19 August 1951. Arrived there on 3rd September 1958”. In 1954 he enrolled at the Bible Institute in Kalk Bay in order to further his theological studies.

He married during that time and in 1957 he and his wife travelled to England to study at the Missionary School of Medicine in London under the auspices of the Sudan United Mission Society. In 1958 he took up a missionary post as Superintendent at a Leprosy Mission Station in Nigeria. He was there for seven years and his three children were born in Nigeria. His heart’s desire was to be a doctor so he and his family returned to South Africa at the end of 1964 and he studied at UCT for three years. He realised that being a doctor was not his calling and he returned to his profession as a plumber. Later in his life he moved with his family to Namibia and studied to be a school teacher. In 1975 his wife left him and in 1981 he moved to Kenton on Sea and started a plumbing business. That was also the year that he married his second wife Thora. In 1989 he felt a calling to full-time ministry and he was ordained as a Methodist minister in 1992 at the wonderful age of 63.

The first wedding he conducted was that of his youngest daughter! He was called to minister in Port Alfred and in the surrounding country churches. He and his wife moved into Settlers Park, Port Alfred in 1997 and he dedicated much of his time to working with the elderly at Settlers Park and Damant Lodge. Ray was also well known for knitting fishing nets and being a fisherman!

His wife passed away in December of 2012 and in the year 2014 he moved to Cape Town to stay with his son. Even in his retirement he still continued to minister to all he knew, via visits and endless telephone calls. Two days before he died he said “It is time to say goodbye. I am going home. The Lord is waiting for me”. He then said goodbye to his children and grandchildren, told them he loved them, hugged them and gave each one a blessing!

Bishop Andile Mbete summed up Ray’s life perfectly at his memorial service. Bishop Mbete had travelled from Port Elizabeth to Port Alfred to take part in Ray’s service. He said “Ray was a Methodist Minister; his memorial service is being taken
by a Full Gospel minister in a Baptist Church and I, a Methodist Bishop, am giving the Eulogy. Ray was never called into a denomination - he was called to minister in God’s church.”

Ray’s Memorial Plaque reads:

RAY LUTGE
23/08/1929-30/12/2015

BELOVED HUSBAND OF THORA
AND MUCH LOVED DAD, BROTHER,
GRANDFATHER AND FRIEND.

ONE OF GOD’S MOST FERVENT FISHERMEN
Rev DIPHOKO ANDREW MOHIBIDU

04 April 1929-26 January 2016

Morolong, mmina-tshipi e ntsho, noto!

He was born on 04 April 1929 in Bloemfontein. He was the second of four boys born to his late parents, Monnapule Moses and Mojakgabo Ellen (nee Ramme). His parents were deeply rooted in and committed to Christianity. Diphoko Andrew spent a greater part of his childhood living with his Aunt (his father’s sister) in Durban. His three brothers have since passed on.

He received his primary education at Claire Estate, uMkhumbane. For his higher primary education he went to Lorem. He proceeded to Adam’s College for his secondary education. Here he and a number of other students were expelled after a protest. (*Chief Albert Luthuli had donated some cattle to the school. The students received neither meat nor milk and when they asked what became of the cattle the answer was not satisfactory. They staged a protest.*) As a result he did not complete Matric at Adam’s College. He studied and obtained his Matric privately.

He then went to Moroka Institution for Teacher Training. It was in his final year, at a Bible Study conducted by Mr ZSM Mosai that he felt and surrendered to God’s divine Call. He offered for the Ministry the following year. It was for him a pleasant surprise when he found that Mr ZSM Mosai was also offering for the Ministry in the same year. He held a BA (Theol.) degree from the University of South Africa.

He was joined in Holy Matrimony with Baile Lorayne (nee Mochere) on 09 October 1957. The late Rev. David Nkagisang Malotle conducted their wedding at St John’s Methodist Church, Bloemfontein. (This was a week before his acceptance as a Candidate for the Ministry). In their marriage, they were blessed with five children, 3 girls and 2 boys. Two of his children predeceased him.

He was a devoted family man. Never ashamed to provide for his family even if it meant selling live chickens and depriving himself of the niceties and luxuries that life can offer.

After his training as a Teacher, he worked at the Post Office for a year. It was in the same year that he offered for the ministry. He offered during the Superintendency of the late Rev. SJ Ditheko who was at St John’s at that time. Rev Ditheko died three weeks before the annual Conference. Rev Malotle, who had been Rev Ditheko’s assistant, then presented him as a Candidate for the Ministry. He was accepted by the
East London Conference of 1957, when the late Rev. Clifford K. Storey was President of Conference. Rev AD Mohibidu was stationed in the then Thaba Nchu Circuit as a Probationer Minister for two years. He was then sent for Theological Training which he received at Wesley House, Fort Hare. He was ordained and received into Full Connexion with the Methodist Church of South Africa in 1963 at the Port Elizabeth Conference when the Rev Stanley Pitts was President of Conference.

Rev Mohibidu served with success and great acceptance in the following appointments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Appointment</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1958-1959</td>
<td>Thaba Nchu Circuit</td>
<td>Probationer Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-1962</td>
<td>College</td>
<td>Theological Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>Youth Department</td>
<td>(Ordinand)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964-1966</td>
<td>Hennenman Circuit</td>
<td>Circuit Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967-1972</td>
<td>Heilbron Circuit</td>
<td>Superintendent Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973-1978</td>
<td>Bothaville Circuit</td>
<td>Superintendent Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989-1995</td>
<td>Sasolburg Circuit</td>
<td>Superintendent Minister</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

He also served the Church as District Supervisor of Studies during the late 1960s. He is said to have lifted the standard and ensured justice for black Probationers, who before then had failed at an alarming rate under white Supervisors.

His love for evangelism saw him involved in the initial Evangelical “Campaign” in the 1960s with Rev Seth Mokitimi, Rev David Malotle, and others. His contribution in the campaign caught the attention of the leaders of Africa Enterprise (AE). They wasted no time and appealed for him to join them in their work of Evangelism. He did. At AE, from 1979 to 1988, he was Director of the Follow-up Department. He travelled to the following countries, to name but a few:

- America: To receive training in the Follow-up Department of the Billy Graham Group.
- England: To spend two weeks with the renowned Dr Watson.

Other countries that he travelled to on missions and campaigns are:

- Uganda
- Malawi
- Holland
- West Africa

He retired from the active Ministry in 1996 and settled in Bloemfontein.

During his years in the active Ministry he was known to be a hands-on person who worked hard to pick up struggling Circuits. Known to his contemporaries as “Rooi”, he was known to be intolerant of ill-discipline, a strict person, and a disciplinarian.
He maintained and demanded high moral standards, and commanded respect from both his colleagues and congregants. He displayed the qualities of both an excellent teacher in the rudiments of Methodism, and a determined preacher with a good command of several languages.

He kept very busy even after retirement. His joys were gardening and fishing. He encouraged many colleagues, young and old, to take up fishing as a hobby. He often mentioned that he had introduced Rev. Dr. John Tau to fishing. He loved this so much that he would often travel to the coast for the sardine-run.

Rev Mohibidu had not been well for some time but his health took a down turn a week prior to his death. He was admitted to National Hospital on Saturday 23 January 2016. Throughout his life and ministry his wife “Bee”, as he affectionately called her, was such a capable and loyal support. During his difficult times she tended him with devoted and loving care. This she lovingly and patiently maintained to the very last moments of his earthly sojourn. There can be no doubt in the minds of those who knew the couple well, that she will sorely miss and deeply mourn him.

For him the Trumpet sounded on the other side and he was called to higher service on Tuesday 26 January 2016. He answered the Trumpet Call and went to be with his Master in the eighty-seventh (87th) year of his life and the fifty-ninth (59th) year of his Ministry.

He leaves behind his soul-mate of fifty-nine (59) years, Mrs Lorayne Baile “Baby” Mohibidu, daughters and daughter-in-law, son and son-in-law, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He also leaves behind many other family members and friends. Indeed he leaves a legacy of love and friendship.

He fought the good fight, finished the course, and kept the faith. He has entered the eternal realms and the presence of his Lord whom he deeply loved and served with dedication.

We praise God for the life and witness of the Reverend Diphoko Andrew Mohibidu.

May he find rest, and even his family and friends, comfort in the Lord.
Rev MOTLALEPULE PETRUS LESEBA

7 March 1963-29 February 2016

Rev. Motlalepule Petrus Leseba was born to Passman and Mapuleng Leseba on the 7th March 1963 in the dusty streets of Heilbron in the Free State. He was the 6th child of ten siblings. Growing up in a large family, his childhood was not pampered; he had to mature quickly and learn to be independent. He was raised in a highly religious family with a firm Methodist Christian foundation - prayer, worship, love for God, and respect for others, are some of the values and principles he directly witnessed and drew from his parents. Not going to church was never an option for him and his siblings living under the roof of his strict mother. He was a member of the Wesley Guild and Young Men’s Guild at a tender age - in 1980 and 1982 respectively.

Even though his growing up was not easy, he managed to navigate through his studies and matriculated at Phiritona High School. His endless love for God and the passion for working with people led to his call to Ministry in 1988. He candidated at Heilbron Circuit and proceeded to Grahamstown (Shaw Memorial Circuit) in 1990, and worked under the Superintendence of Rev. A.M. Mbete. From 1991 to 1993, he went to complete his residential training at Federal Theological Seminary of Southern Africa (FEDSEM) where he obtained a Diploma in Theology and was ordained in 1994. In his ministry he was stationed and laboured at various circuits in the Central District - Bloemhof, Wolmaranstad, Golden West and Fourways, until 2013. He was seconded to the South African Police Service as a Chaplain for the Mooi River area, serving Klerksdorp and Potchefstroom from 2004 to 2008. He was currently serving as a Superintendent for both Welkom Circuit (605) and Senekal Circuit (615).

His passion for self-advancement led him to study further to obtain a BA (Hons) in Practical Theology from the University of Pretoria, which he obtained Cum Laude. He was pursuing a Masters degree in Practical Theology with the University of Pretoria, which he hoped to complete in 2016.

His spiritual journey was supported and nurtured by many courageous stalwarts such as Rev. Molusi, Rev. Thusi, Rev. Fatyela, to name a few. He loved the Young Men’s Guild with passion and did all he could to keep the ‘Madodana’ flag flying high. He served as the President of YMG in the Central District for 7 years: first elected in 2002-2004 and re-elected in 2007-2010. At the triennial convention held in Durban from 25-29 August 2010, he was elected in absentia to lead the Connexional YMG for the term 2014-2016. This was an indication of the solid confidence the YMG had in him to take the YMG forward. He was sprinting his last mile as a General
President, ready to pass the baton to the new General President elect, Rev. Nhlapo, in May 2016. He was a staunch member of IOTT and served as a Chaplain for the Southern Gold Grand Templers. He was also the Vice Chairman of the Northern Free State and Lesotho District.

In 1992 he was joined in holy matrimony with Naomi (deceased) and they were blessed with a son, Thabo and two daughters, Matshidiso and Puleng (both deceased). He married again in 2013 to Masechaba Lebogang (nee Taunyane), the daughter of Mooketsi and Keitumetse Taunyane. Accepting an invitation to serve at the Welkom Circuit (605) in the Northern Free State and Lesotho District, was to mark a new journey for Motlalepule and his new family. He was a family man and put his family as a priority. His wife, ‘Lala’, ‘Motho wa ka’, as he affectionately called her, was his pillar of strength, his soulmate and dear friend, to the end his life - a reflection of a solid union, love, companionship, joy and divine blessing.

‘The Rock’, ‘Black Diamond’, ‘Pleasure’, ‘Mr Daddy’ as he was affectionately called by his peers, nephews & nieces; and those close to him. Funny, larger than life, whose great energy took the entire room. Not the world’s best dancer but made up for it with his incredible voice. His love and dedication was unpretentious. A devoted and loving husband and father, who would stop at nothing to spoil his family. A unifying pillar, support and advisor for the entire Leseba family. A friend to all, a father to many, and a great man of God who served with unwavering faith to the end. He was a man with a unique ability to touch all those he came across - young and old, rich and poor, educated and non-educated, Christians and non-Christians, Methodists and non-Methodists. He articulated his incredible preaching talent with his unique and powerful voice, great sense of humour and splendid story telling. He was a straight-talker, never shy to confront issues at any level in order to bring justice and righteousness.

He grew up loving soccer and played for a number of local clubs throughout his schooling years. It is that foundation and the style of play that steered him in the direction of his favorite team Orlando Pirates - Sho Baccaneer!

This dedicated, humble and meticulous servant met his untimely death on the 29th February 2016, seven days before his 53rd birthday. He is survived by his wife Masechaba, son Thabo, daughter Refilwe and grand-daughter Reatile, a brother Pule and two sisters Mabene and Matshidiso.

Robala ka kgotso letebele - mbhele, shangela, ntozini, ndlebe sikhangelanga, langa libalele!!
Rev KARABO KR MOGALE

8 May 1978-19 April 2016

Karabo Kingston Rufus Mogale was the son of Xoliswa Yvonne Zantsi and Patrick Elphus Mochubeleng Mogale, Kolobe, Mogale wa marumo. He was born in Alice in Victoria Hospital. He is the only child in the holy matrimony of Xoliswa Zantsi and Mochubeleng Mogale.

He attended his early years of schooling in Humpty Dumpty preschool (at the Presbyterian Church in Alice). He then moved to live at home in Acornhoek in Mpumalanga Province. While residing at Acornhoek, he attended school in White River primary school but was expelled because of his father’s political involvement and detention on Robben Island. He then came back to Alice and started schooling at Alice Primary school from 1986-1992.

He did his high school years at Thubalethu High school. It is at Thubalethu where he met his maker and saviour Jesus Christ. He used that opportunity to go to the nearby villages to preach and comfort bereaved families. In 2000, he enrolled at Fort Hare University for a Bachelor of Theology which he completed in 2003. In 2004 he enrolled for BA Honours at the University of Pretoria. In that same year, he candidated for the ministry in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and the Conference stationed him at the Cape of Good Hope district in the Tygerberg Circuit in Belhar and Ravensmead societies. Later that year he discontinued his studies. In 2007 he entered holy matrimony with Ncebakazi Faith Saliwa (daughter to Sheila Nonguquko and Nkosana Saliwa), umaRhoyi, intombi yaseCala, and in 2009 they were blessed with the apple of his eye, Kagiso Musa Mogale.

He re-candidated for ministry in 2009 and was accepted by the Conference which stationed him at the newly formed Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary for 3 Years from 2010-2012. After completing the seminary formation he was stationed in the Northern Free State and Lesotho District at Kroonstad Circuit in Brentpark Society. He was a Circuit Wesley Guild President and Children’s ministry Circuit coordinator. It was here that his leadership skill ripened and he was elected the district youth Coordinator of Northern Free State and Lesotho district. He also became a synod assistant secretary to the district, under the leadership of Bishop Motswenyane who loved and adored him.

He started becoming ill after his ordination in November 2015. After surviving six weeks in ICU, he went back to the Circuit in February 2016. In March 2016, he was inducted as the District Youth Co-ordinator of Northern Free State and Lesotho. After induction he fell ill again. He was called to higher service in Welkom Medi-
clinic on Tuesday, 19 April 2016 at 23:00. He is survived by his wife and life partner, Ncebakazi Faith Saliwa-Mogale, his 4 children, his mother, his brothers and sisters, his family and friends who loved him dearly.

Rest in Peace, God’s faithful Servant. You followed your name Karabo and responded to a call in ministry and when God called you, you again responded and said, yes. Sakuhlangana kwelizayo.

Bhele, Mpapantsha wa theko tsa marumo, kgosi ga e la pe go hlabanela ntwa!!!
Mthuthuzeli Izeman Puleni was born and bred in a little town called Steynsburg in the Eastern Cape Province. He was the second of six children born to Mrs Maggie Nontsomi Jenxa. His father, Mr Tukutwane Tofile, and four of his siblings predeceased him. He was raised by his late maternal grandmother, uMakhulu Elizabeth Puleni, whom he always credited for his firm establishment in the Christian rudiments.

He received his primary and secondary education at Mpumelelo Primary School and Ethembeni Senior Secondary School in the Eastern Cape. He then proceeded to Kuyasa High School in East London where he matriculated in 1984. After Matriculation he worked for the then Ciskei Government’s Department of Foreign Affairs based in Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, and Pretoria respectively for eight years (1985 to 1994).

Whilst with the Ciskei government, he worked hard at furthering his studies. He registered for the Bachelor of Arts degree with the University of South Africa, which he completed in 1991. He then registered for a Higher Education Diploma with the same University, completing in 1992. In 1994 he joined the Free State Education Department. He was appointed to Nozala Intermediate School, in Bloemfontein, where he taught for a period of ten years. When he resigned, to pursue his calling to the Ministry, he was Head of Department (HOD) in the Senior Phase.

Whilst teaching at Nozala, he satisfied his quest for knowledge by enrolling with the University of the Free State for a Bachelor of Education degree which he completed in 2000. His insatiable thirst for education led him to register for a Magister Educationis senior degree and this he achieved in 2002. He then registered with the same University for an Advanced Diploma in Theology, graduating in 2004. (He was currently registered for a Master of Theology degree with the University of Pretoria.)

Throughout his career as a Civil Servant and an Educator, he enjoyed the love and support of a young lady of the Bafokeng-ha-ha-Maotwana-finyela Clan from the Mountain Kingdom, Mamotena Alice (nee Ntshekhe), with whom he was joined in Holy Matrimony on 2 September 1989. Their marriage was solemnised by Father Moteka Ramoabi of the Roman Catholic Church at Pitseng, Leribe, Lesotho. They were blessed with a daughter, Bulelwa, who sadly predeceased him in 2009. Mamotena also became for “Shakes”, as she affectionately called him, a helpmate in the ministry and a source of support during difficult times.
This humble man of sound learning experienced and responded to the divine Call, offering himself for the Ministry in the year 2004. He was accepted as a Candidate for the Ministry by the Connexional Executive of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa in September 2004.

His training for the Ministry commenced with him being placed in Port Elizabeth West Circuit, Westering Society, for the then Phase 1 programme. Having completed Phase 1 successfully, he was sent to John Wesley College, Kilnerton, in Pretoria for further academic and formation components. The church registered him for the degree *Magister Philosophiae* (with specialization in Applied Theology) with the University of Pretoria. He graduated in 2008.

Having completed his training successfully, within record time, and having been found worthy by Conference and the Methodist people, he was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments at the Pietermaritzburg Conference of 2009 during the tenure of the Rev Ivan Abrahams as Presiding Bishop.

The Rev Izeman Puleni served with great acceptance in the Maranatha Circuit for a term of five years, 2007 to 2011. He was based at the TS Kganane Memorial Methodist Church. The Conference of 2010 appointed him the Superintendent Minister of this Circuit for 2011. From 2012 until his passing he served in the Greater Nelspruit Circuit, based at Kabokweni. He was due to complete the initial term of five years at the end of this year (2016).

Rev Puleni served in a number of other positions of responsibility. He was:

- Appointed Superintendent Minister of the *Sabie & Shatala Circuit* from 2012 to 2014.
- Appointed Superintendent Minister of *Nkomazi Mission Circuit* from 2015 to 2016.
- Script Marker for the Theological Education by Extension College (TEEC) until recently.
- Secretary of the Education for Ministry and Mission Unit (EMMU) District Committee (2009-2011).
- President of the Eastern Region of the Young Men’s Guild (YMG) in the Limpopo District.
- Additional member of the incoming Connexional Committee of the Young Men’s Guild (YMG).

He served his Lord and Master with dedication and devotion, his church and God’s people with commitment and compassion.

**He went to be with his Master:**
Rev Mthuthuzeli Izeman Puleni responded to the trumpet call and went to be with
his Master in the early hours of Tuesday 17 May 2016. He died in harness, in the 54\textsuperscript{th} year of his life and the 12\textsuperscript{th} year of his ministry.

He is survived by his wife and helpmate of 27 years, Mamotena. He also leaves behind his mother and his two sisters, Nongaziyo and Beauty, and many family members and friends.

\textbf{LALA NGOXOLO}
\textit{MQWATHI WENZOLO, NONI, DIKELA, NTSWAYIBANE!}
Rev NKULULEKO TUNYISWA

08 February 1937-27 May 2016

Nkululeko Tunyiswa was born on the 8th February 1937 in the village of Twecu near Kingwilliamstown. He was born to his parents, the late Mr Thomas (Koko) Tunyiswa and Mrs Nqatyelwa Tunyiswa (nee Mpaku). He had four siblings, Tyani, Linda (both have already departed); Nozibele, Nomfezeko (Nomagwava).

He received his primary education at Madliki Village near Kingwilliamston and later did his high school at Welsh High School in East London.

He later met and married his late wife, Mrs Nomonde Tunyiswa (nee Gwegana). They were blessed with five children: Gcobani, Lonwabo, Lukholo, Kholiwe (deceased) and Thandazwa.

He responded to the call to the ordained ministry of word and sacrament in 1968 under the mentorship of Rev S N Nondlwana. The church appointed him to serve in the following circuits: Butterworth, Ntabankulu, Fort Beaufort, Cradock, Port Elizabeth North, Mbabane, Mnceba and Kamastone.

He passed on what he received from Rev S N Nondlwana by mentoring many young people in the circuits where he was appointed and as a result many young men received and responded to the call to ministry under his mentorship. He once served for two terms as the YMG President both in the Grahamstown District and later in the Queenstown District.

He superannuated in the year 2000 and came to rest at his home at Madliki Village near Kingwilliamstown.

He succumbed to death on the 27th May 2016 after a long illness. He is survived by his four children, daughter in-law, grandchildren, two sisters and a nephew. Rest in peace Hlongwane, Masumpa, Tyani. This journey was long.
Rev Dr TSN GQUBULE
18 February 1928-26 May 2016

Simon Gqubule, born on the 18th February 1928, was a student under Rev. Seth Mokitimi, the first Black President of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, at the Healdtown Missionary Institution near Fort Beaufort, in the Eastern Cape during the years 1943-1949. He matriculated there in 1947 and qualified as a Teacher at the same institution. After graduating at Fort Hare, then Geneva, London, and Edinburgh, he was the first African student to qualify for the Ph.D degree at Rhodes University.

In 1960 he married Miriam “Jay” Mazibuko and together they were blessed with a son and two daughters.

In 1961-62 he taught New Testament and Systematic Theology at the Lovedale United Theological School (LUTS) and Fort Hare. During this period he was part of the team that prepared for the establishment of the Federal Theological Seminary which was established at Alice in 1963. For the first 4 years, he was the only Black member of the teaching staff of the Seminary. He taught Greek, New Testament and systematic Theology.

He served as President of the seminary and also as Principal of John Wesley College at the Seminary for seventeen years. His term as Principal of John Wesley College spanned the expropriation of the Seminary from Alice in November 1974, the brief sojourn of the Seminary at Umtata and the move of the seminary to Edendale, near Pietermaritzburg. As President of the Seminary, he was called upon to hold the troubled community together at the Edendale Lay Ecumenical Centre, Pietermaritzburg to negotiate with the government for a site of the Seminary. He travelled widely at home and overseas in search of funds and to oversee the building of the New Seminary, at Imbali, Pietermaritzburg.

Dr Gqubule was a very devoted theological teacher who believed that his students could go further. His contribution to Theological education was that he believed in an educated ministry. He was well known in South Africa as a teacher, theologian, activist and administrator. He taught theology for 31 years from 1961 to 1991, including in 1980, as Visiting Professor of New Testament at the Toronto University School of Theology, in Canada.

From 1980 to 1987 he was Vice-President of the South African Council of Churches and Vice-President of the S.A. Institute of Race Relations.

In 1981 to 1982, he was President of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. From 1983 to 1987 he served as President of the Natal Midlands Division of the United
Democratic Front. In that capacity he was called upon to bury young people who were killed in the conflict in Pietermaritzburg during the Seven days War in 1990.

When the leaders of the UDF were banned and restricted on the 24th February 1988, he was banned and restricted to the Pietermaritzburg Magisterial District and placed under house arrest. The restrictions were lifted in December 1989.

He left the Seminary at the end of 1991 after 31 years as Theological Teacher and moved to the Mount Coke Mission at the beginning of 1992, where he served as Superintendent Minister of the Mount Coke Circuit and Bishop of the Queenstown District of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa until he retired at the end of 1998. He retired to his home town of Uitenhage, at No 10 Gqubule Street, Kwa-Nobuhle, Uitenhage.

At the beginning of the year 2000 he was called upon to minister to the P.E. Mission Cluster which consisted of five societies including Kwa-Magxaki. Thus began his association with the Kwa-Magxaki community. In addition he has been involved with various educational projects including the Masizakhe Educational Project and the Ilitha Lemfundo Educational Enhancement Project.

From 2000 to the present, he has been President of the Convocation of Rhodes University.

As a significant contributor to theological education he received Honorary Doctorates from the Universities of South Africa, Rhodes and Fort Hare in recognition of his contribution to Theological Education in South Africa.

In recognition of Rev. Dr. Gqubule’s contribution to education within his community he also received the following awards.
- The NMMU Council Prestige Award (2012).
- The Herald Citizen of the Year (2014).
- The Old Rhodian Award at Rhodes University) (2015).

On the 28th of April 2016, the Rev. Dr. Simon Gqubule received the highest civilian award and was honoured with the Order of Luthuli Silver for his excellent contribution in the liberation struggle and in the fields of education and religion.

Rev. Dr. Simon Gqubule is survived by three children, Duma, Thandeka and Phumla and eight grandchildren.

His enduring faith is best captured in a quote from his memoir “Trial of a Pilgrim Church: the FEDSEM story”: “My Bible defines faith as ‘the assurance of things
hoped for, the proving of things not seen’; the faith of which I speak is the faith that believes in things not seen”.

LALA KAKUHLE QWAMBE, HOLOMI, TSHANABE, HINTSA, MTHEMBU KA-NGUBENGCUKA!!!
Rev ROBERT NEILL ROBINSON
24 September 1944-24 June 2016

Robert Neill Robinson was born on 24 September 1944 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He came to South Africa with his parents, Robert and Winifred (maiden name, Neill) Robinson, in 1953, when his father took up a contract with an Irish firm in Vereeniging. He matriculated from Gen Smuts High School in 1961. His parents were originally Presbyterian but they joined the Methodist Church in Vereeniging, where Neill attended Sunday School and the Youth Guild. In 1959 he had a conversion experience and began “what has been a wonderful journey of faith”. In 1960 Rev Doug Cochrane discerned a gift in young Neill and spoke to him about the possibility of becoming a minister.

After school Neill began working in the Standard Bank. He candidated for the ministry in 1965 and served his first year as a Probationer Minister in Kroonstad under Rev Ian Webber. It was in Kroonstad that he met Colleen Cook whom he was later to marry. In 1967 Neill began his studies at Rhodes University where he graduated with a BA degree in 1969. This opened up a whole new world of study for him, and he went on to do, through UNISA, a BA (Hons) in Old and New Testament, and an MA in New Testament.

In 1970 he was appointed to Westering in Port Elizabeth where he served for five years. He was ordained in 1971, and he and Colleen were married in 1972. Colleen has been a wonderful support to him and has always found her own ways of serving alongside him. Their first child, Jacqueline, was born in 1974. Neill then moved to Ficksburg in the OFS for two years (1975/6), and their second child, Andrew was born while they were there. In 1977 the family moved to Discovery in Roodepoort on the West Rand where he ministered for the next four years.

By his own admission Neill never preached “politics” (“just Christian social responsibility”) but in 1980 he took part in a protest march in Johannesburg and was one of 53 ministers who were arrested and detained for a day and a night at John Vorster Square (among them Rev Stanley Pitts and Bishop Desmond Tutu).

Neill’s next appointment was to Lombardy East in Johannesburg (1981-84), where he also had pastoral charge of Halfway House. During this time he became General Secretary of the Local Preachers Department and he immediately set about trying to improve the quality and training of our Local Preachers, who numbered about 17 000 at that time. Through the LPD he published illustrated Bible studies in Zulu, Xhosa, Sesotho and Tswana, with guide-lines about the point of each study. He
persuaded Rev Len Hulley to write a study book entitled *Wesley: a Plain Man for Plain People*, which he also published through the Local Preachers Dept, and which has been reprinted many times.

His next move was to Westville in Natal (1985-89) where again he had a very successful and fulfilling ministry. Here he got involved in Prison Ministry, commenting that he found the SA prison system, “a mine-field of intransigent bureaucracy which seemed more intent on punishment than redemption”. With the worsening political situation in South Africa, the family decided to move to the USA in 1990, where Neill ministered for two years in a United Methodist Church in the town of Ovilla, Texas. It was a good time for the family, but Neill and Colleen decided to return to South Africa, because of “our longing to be part of the changes that were about to take place, and for which we had worked and prayed”.

He contacted Rev Vivian Harris, the Connexional General Secretary, and the Conference of 1991 stationed him at Alberton, where he had a fruitful ministry for fourteen years, from 1992-2005. Alberton Methodist grew substantially during this time. He wrote a short book of Lenten studies entitled “The Suffering Servant”. He was also appointed to serve on the Doctrine, Ethics and Worship Committee, where he made a valuable contribution. Neill often referred in his services to the burning need for the church to establish a sanctuary to care for, and minister to terminally ill people suffering from AIDS, to provide a safe haven for abused women and children, to care for street children and to offer training and support for the unemployed. In 2001 that dream became a reality as a committed group of very capable lay men and women, which included his wife Colleen, purchased the next-door property and established AMCARE, a wonderful mission initiative which today boasts many vital ministries that continue to reach out in meaningful ways to the communities of Alberton and Thokoza.

In 2006 Neill decided to move to Table View in Cape Town, where again he had a successful ministry. However, after just two short years the District asked him to move to Durbanville, to heal a difficult situation which had developed there. He ministered there for four years from 2008 until his retirement in 2011.

In 2012 he moved to Kempton Park where he served on the staff in an auxiliary capacity, focusing on pastoral care in the congregation. In 2013 he and Colleen moved to a retirement complex in Shelly Beach, on the Natal South Coast, during which time he helped out for two years as a Supernumerary minister in Margate. Finally they decided to return to Gauteng in 2015, where they have lived in a flat attached to their daughter’s home in Brackenhurst.

Neill had a strong faith and straight-forward beliefs and values, and he was never short of words if he thought someone had strayed from the path of what he believed
was true and right. But he was also a man who valued the simple and important things in life: his family, his home and a simple life-style. He made a valuable contribution to our Church at District and Connexional level, but far more importantly at the local level. Every congregation he served has thrived while he was there. His two greatest gifts were his preaching ability, which he combined with a delightful sense of humour, and his pastoral care; he would spend hours caring for people in distress.

In the last eighteen months Neill contracted Motor-neuron disease which attacked his lungs and severely affected his ability to breathe and his voice. He sadly left us for those greater and more glorious dimensions of God’s presence on 24th June 2016 at the age of 71. He leaves behind his beloved wife Colleen, their daughter Jacqui, and their son Andrew, who is now also a minister.

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share in your master’s happiness” (Mt 25:21).
Constance Margaret Oosthuizen was born on the 30th March 1931, the eldest of three children of Andries (Cornelius) Oosthuizen and Magrietta (Alletta) Oosthuizen. Constance was born in Pietermaritzburg where the family lived for a year before moving to Mayville. As children Constance and her sister Thelma, played church. At the age of 15 she was delighted with the arrival of her baby brother, Andre.

Constance made her first commitment to Christ in 1946 at the age of fifteen and believed that God had a plan for her life. Not knowing of any opportunities for women to minister in the local church she thought she may end up becoming a missionary. At 19, believing that she was called to preach, but sure that women were not allowed to preach, she nonetheless prepared a sermon and prayed that if she were to be a preacher the planned preacher would not arrive. He did not, and Constance led the service and delivered a short message - thus began the ministry of a passionate preacher. She was received as a preacher on Full Plan in October 1951 and preached regularly up until only a few months before her death.

When she was assisting as a cook at a School of Religion at Botha’s Hill she met Sr Mary Caley and heard of the Order of Deaconesses for the first time. Sr Caley’s testimony spoke directly to Constance but the requirement that Deaconesses pay for their own training meant that she was unable to offer, which at the time was a relief. In 1953 Conference decided that it would assist with the costs of training Deaconesses and a decision was required. In her own words: “I now had to make a choice and I found that one could not preach about full commitment and shut your heart to God’s call.”

She was received as a probationer deaconess and served for the first part of 1954 at West Street Methodist in Durban. In August of 1954 she sailed for England and trained at the Wesley Deaconess College at Ilkley. Constance thrived on the studies and the practical work linked to them. She was grateful for the opportunity for further study which the church had provided.

Returning from college in 1956 she was stationed in the southern suburbs of Johannesburg where her work was to plant churches. Once a Society was established she would be moved to another area and a (male) Presbyter would be moved in. An additional facet of her work was the running of youth camps, an area of work which impacted the lives of many people now active in our church. She was ordained in 1957.
Constance found the work of ministry very satisfying. Some colleagues in the Order of Deaconesses felt the call to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and left. Sitting in an air raid shelter in Israel during the Six Day War (1967), Constance found herself examining her heart. She realised she was doing the work of a Presbyter and wanted to be able to administer the Sacraments. Heavy on her heart too was the awareness of the opposition faced by those who had approached the church. She also did not want to be the reason for the demise of the Order of Deaconesses. There were times after that where she did become disheartened, but she stated “I was sure God would open a door”.

In 1974 Conference opened the door and Constance saw this as the call of God. She received support and confirmation from her congregation and her Superintendent minister. She was accepted as a first year probationer and an ordinand in 1976. She remembered being told that she would not be able to administer the sacraments until after ordination, even though the first year probationer who followed her in Johannesburg received dispensation. She was not disturbed and focused on preparing for ordination. After 21 years as a deaconess and one as a Probationer Presbyter Constance Oosthuizen was ordained to the Ministry of Word and sacrament on the 17th October 1976 in Pietermaritzburg.

She was stationed at the Metropolitan Society in Pietermaritzburg for her year of probation. Stationing after ordination was not easy but the Port Shepstone Circuit was willing to accept her. She faced opposition, from male ministers and from members of the congregations - some folk left, others protested. Ecumenically she faced opposition from other denominations too. The work grew while she was there. She built the David Morgan Home (1983), the Merlwood Crèche (1991) and the Hibberdene Church. She was appointed Superintendent of the Circuit. She served the Circuit until 1997.

After she retired to Scottburgh, Rev Oosthuizen continued to serve God by ministering to the Umkomaas church and planting a church in Craigieburn.

Due to a fall and fractures, Constance took up residence in 2009 at the Pinetown Nursing Home, where she was wonderfully cared for. When her strength returned she moved to a cottage. She started ministering to the sick and taking Church services. She preached her last message and administered the Sacraments on Sunday, 6 March 2016.

She served as the Warden of the Order of Deaconesses, which later became the Order of Deacons representing the Order in the Courts of the Church. She also served as Secretary of the Synod in the Natal West District for two years.

She is remembered for her commitment to church planting, her youth camps and the way in which she worked with humility. She led the way for women in the Methodist
Church of Southern Africa, always grateful for the opportunity to serve God in the church.

Constance is survived by her sister Thelma and brother Andre and their families. Her nephew Paul has followed her into the Methodist ministry.

In her own words: “Nothing can take away the joy of being ‘chosen’, ‘called’, ‘set apart’ for God’s work.” For Rev Constance Oosthuizen, everything she did was to bring glory to God.
Rev JAN ERASMUS

9 October 1930-15 July 2016

Jan Erasmus was born on the 9th October 1930 in Thaba ‘Nchu and at a very young age responded to God’s call on his life. He candidated for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in 1955 and was ordained in 1960. In 1963 he met his wife Joyce and they subsequently got married. They had no children.

Jan was truly an ‘Anglican/Methodist’ as he loved the liturgy of the Anglican Church, but at heart he was a Methodist and found rich meaning in serving our Lord in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. He loved studying the Greek text of the New Testament and often quoted from it. He did his theological training at Rhodes University from 1958-1960. He served in many circuits around the Connexion. His last years were spent with the Bible Society, a time he thoroughly enjoyed because of his deep love for the Word of God and it was here that he was appointed Secretary for the English language churches. Jan became supernumerary at the end of 1996 and he and Joyce settled in Fish Hoek.

Jan and Joyce enjoyed travelling and they made friends all over. Jan was a very quiet person – a man of few words but when he spoke you could listen to his wisdom. Jan loved drawing. He drew, to perfection, scale models of churches and cathedrals he visited on his travels with Joyce.

Joyce passed away in 2008. They were a closely knit team and Joyce was also very involved in the Women’s Auxiliary. Now they are united together again.
Rev COLIN DOUGLAS CLARKE

9 July 1932-20 July 2016

Colin Douglas Clarke was born in Estcourt, KwaZulu Natal in 1932. The family moved to Johannesburg when Colin was a baby and he spent most of his childhood there, attending Yeoville Boys and King Edward Schools. He finished school in Kimberley, and it was while he was in Matric that he received the Lord into his life and soon thereafter he began preaching.

After school he moved to Durban, where he worked for 5 years before candidating for the ministry. As a probationer he spent time in such remote places as De Aar in the Northern Cape, Mount Frere in the former Transkei and Keetmanshoop in the then South West Africa. During a year off from his probation he worked for De Beers in the mine compound at Kleinzee. Colin loved to share his stories of these far flung places!

His studies for the ministry took him to Rhodes University in the late 50s as a student of theology. He made firm friendships with the other young ministers and this camaraderie lasted among the group all their lives in the Methodist Church.

In 1960 Colin had the opportunity to accept a vac job at the Standerton Methodist Church and that is when he met Stella, the daughter of a local farmer who was also circuit steward in the church. The spark that would last more than half a century was ignited and the long letter writing began as Colin was stationed in Manzini, Swaziland in 1961. Their time apart ended when Colin and Stella got married in 1962 and their first home together was in Mbabane.

Colin was ordained as a Methodist Minister in 1963 and his first appointment was to minister to the congregation in Oudshoorn in the Cape. The young couple settled in the Klein Karoo town for five years, long enough to start a family, and Anthony and Kathy were born.

Feeling the call of the far flung places again, Colin and the family moved to Oranjemund and life in a small diamond mining town. After four years it was the turn of the Simonstown and Ocean View congregations near Cape Town to receive his ministry. After 3 years on the southern tip of Africa it was time to move into the interior again and the family moved to Kokstad, which was then in the Cape Province but soon to be transferred to Natal province as the apartheid government started to implement its plan of homelands for black people. The resilience and steadfast kindness and humility that Colin had cultivated over the years in remote
and difficult places really came to bear in Kokstad where he was caught in the schism that happened between the Methodist Churches of South Africa and the newly formed Transkei. Colin made lasting friendships wherever he went and it was at this time that he enjoyed rewarding fellowship with such Methodist stalwarts as Dr Simon Gqubule, Dr Khoza Mgojo and the Dandala brothers. These were interesting times and the Methodist Church was always a beacon to guide its people with firm principles rooted in equality for all South Africans in the eyes of the Lord.

The beginning of the eighties saw Colin and family move from Kokstad to Ladysmith, the shortest distance ever! Colin was minister to the Ladysmith and Bergville congregations for seven years and during this time he never wavered at being a faithful servant of the Lord as well as working tirelessly for his community in both the Rotary Club and charity organisations such as Child Welfare. While in Ladysmith, Colin was also appointed as District Secretary for the Natal West District and also served a term as Rotary president.

As the children left home for the city, Colin and Stella moved from Ladysmith to the little village of Kwambonambi on the Zululand coast and this was to be his last appointment in Natal as they felt the need to be closer to the family “up country”. His last appointment was in De Deur, south of Johannesburg and in 1995 he retired from the full time ministry, but remained very active in the Mayville and Trinity churches before moving to Sinoville.

Reverend Colin Clarke was also known as Ginger, Dad, Grandpa and Uncle Colin. He was a rock of support to his extended family, keeping a sometimes unruly bunch on the straight and narrow. Everyone was always on their best behaviour when Uncle Colin was around.

Thousands of sermons, tens of thousands hymns sung, hundreds of thousand hours given in the service of God and his fellow human beings, Colin was a gentle soul who was loved by communities the length and breadth of South Africa. He was there to be a minister at your wedding, your child’s baptism, your loved one’s funerals. He visited the sick, counselled the troubled and sang like an angel. He will be remembered for his humility and devotion to his family and his Lord.

The choir in heaven is singing extra loudly today.
**Rev ISRON EDWARD MASELOANE TLHOLWE**

**31 August 1925-11 August 2016.**

Ison Edward Tlholwe was born on 31 August 1925 on the farm Rietkuil in Lichtenburg in the North West Province. His parents, Motshabisi Michael and Christina Tlholwe were engaged in farming. He commenced his schooling at Lichtenburg Amalgamated School and further on at Ga-Maloka. He completed his Secondary Education at Kilnerton Training Institution where he qualified as a Teacher.

He married Puleng Martha Mantoro in 1955 and enjoyed a marriage of 55 years, being blessed with four children, eight grandchildren and great grandchildren. He taught and became a Principal in Zeerust and also in Klerksdorp. It was whilst in Klerksdorp when he received his call to the ordained ministry, became a Local Preacher and then then a Candidate Minister in 1950.

Rev Tlholwe commenced his Theological Training at Fort Hare University in 1953 and was ordained in Cape Town in1956. He served in Potgietersrus, Meyerton, Brakpan, Springs, Alexandra and Katlehong until retirement in 1995.

He had served as District President of the YMG (Amadodana) in the Central District from1971 to 1974. He served as Superintendent Minister, District Supervisor of Studies and Vice Chairman of the South Eastern Transvaal and Swaziland District under Rev Vivian Harris. He also served as Deputy Secretary of Conference under Rev Cyril Wilkins. Rev Tlholwe also served as an Assessor in Criminal Trials in the Germiston Magistrates Court for 8 years. He did international work for the church in Kenya and Mozambique. When he served as President of the Witwatersrand Council of Churches he travelled to Florida in the USA to attend the International Religious Foundation Conference of April 1988. He attended the Emmaus Movement walk in the USA and became instrumental in bringing it to South Africa. A group of fifty five Americans came to South Africa to initiate the movement at his invitation. Rev Tlholwe attended the 250th anniversary of the formation of the Methodist Church in London in 1988 also visiting Bath, Bristol and Worcester. They stayed briefly with Rev and Mrs Basil Vennerin Dursley in England who were formerly of Springs, South Africa.

In his retirement years he served in the Johannesburg (Sun City) and Leeuwkop prisons as a Kairos chaplain and was again instrumental in introducing the American Kairos prison ministry to South Africa. In 1993 he led a group of 47 church members on a visit to the Holy Land for two weeks.

He was called to highest glory on Thursday the 11th August 2016.
Rev ANDREW RAMOGOMOTSI MOLATJI

13 April 1957-14 August 2016

Reverend Andrew Ramogomotsi Molatji was born on the 13th of April 1957 in Pretoria, Ladysalborn. He was the son of the late Ms. Matlhodi Margaret Molatji. He did his primary education at Mmabaseng Primary School in Attridgeville, and completed his Matric at Mabopane High School. He worked at Pitso Transport and later moved to Rosslyn August Leapple in Pretoria until he accepted his calling as a minister of the Methodist Church.

He entered into Holy matrimony with Nosmanga Julia Molatji in 1984 and they were blessed with 3 children, Thulaganyo, Karabo and Boipelo.

He was called to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa in 1989. He received his Theological training at Rhodes University and obtained a diploma in theology. He was ordained in 1996. He then served in the following circuits and districts:
- Central District – Bloemhof, Khunana, Central Mission and Johannesburg East (Bedfordview).
- Northern Free State and Lesotho District – Leribe and Kroonstad.
- Cape of Good Hope – Worcester and Cape Town.
- Kimberley, Namibia and Bloemfontein – Botshabelo and Namibia.
- Highveld and Swaziland – West Vaal Circuit in Sebokeng.

He was also privileged to serve as a missioner in Residence in the United States of America, Washington DC, where he represented the Methodist Church of the Southern Africa. He also served at Grace Church United Methodist in Wilmington Delaware.

He retired from active ministry in 2015 due to ill health and the Lord called him to his final resting place on the 14th of August 2016 at about 7pm. He is survived by his wife, three children, son-in-law, grandchild, sister Kedibone, brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces.

ROBALA KA KGOTSO MOKGATLA KGABA
A E JE BOREKU!!!
Rev LINDSAY ANN HAYWARD

16 July 1939-14 September 2016

Lindsay was born on 16 July 1939 in Johannesburg. When her Dad was conscripted she and her mother went off to stay with her grandparents on a farm in the Potchefstroom/Parys area. When her father returned he was a stranger to her, but they soon moved to city life and a new routine. Her father’s employment took them to different provinces and her school years were spent in Cape Town at Wynberg Girls High and Ladysmith Convent before they returned to settle in Pretoria.

She has fond memories of her Youth Group at Lyttleton Methodist Church. Many of her friends from that era have kept in touch with one another. Youth groups or Guild always held a special place in her heart.

Lindsay gave her life to her Lord soon after her 21st birthday, 19th August 1960. By that time she had worked as a sales assistant, for a Perfume manufacturer and at BASF. She loved to tell of her horse-riding days over the countryside near home, areas which are now all over-developed. She moved to Hammanskraal Mission Station where she was involved with clerical work, and to this day has used a blanket woven by people on the mission. She enjoyed telling of her experiences in the Hospital, of the staff singing and worshipping and also of seeing a child being born.

In 1966 she was accepted to study at Cliff College in England. That was a very special experience for her. Time spent at King’s Cross while involved in Mission work on the streets of London also left her with many stories to tell.

On returning to S.A. in 1969 she was youth pastor in Cape Town for a number of years where her nickname became ‘Patches’. She lived with Rev. Jack Cook and his wife Ruth, who gave her much guidance and encouragement to advance her qualifications. This was followed in 1972 by time spent in the Pretoria Central Circuit again as a Youth Pastor. Photograph albums are brimful of the fun times with young people.

During this time Lindsay received her call to full time Ministry of ‘Word and Sacrament’, which was followed by tumultuous experiences common to all women wanting to join the Ministry at that time. She did a B.Th at Rhodes in the late 70s with most men many years younger than herself, but again lasting friendships were formed. She also learnt to be frugal - telling of times when there was only Tomato sauce to eat.

1980 saw her arrive at Howick Methodist Church for her first full-time appointment and Howick’s first ever full time Minister. The Church grew steadily, the parsonage
and the Education Block built, and all was debt free. Despite a near fatal road accident en route to a Youth Convention in December 1983 she was soon on her feet and back in her pulpit. At this time she had been appointed as Connexional Youth Co-coordinator and spent much time travelling to different parts of the country.

Stationing took her from Howick to Durban, to Meyerton, to Cathcart and to De Aar, each appointment lasting approximately 6 years. In each town she saw her people grow in faith and made many lasting friendships. This is evident from the numerous messages of condolence that have streamed in from far and near. Messages from USA, New Zealand and Jakarta, Indonesia have all been very special.

She retired in December 2005, though she preferred to call that ‘retreading’ because she immediately reported for duty and continued to preach, lead Bible Studies and Local Preacher’s meetings; and do visitation which was always her first love. She continued to be involved in church ministry and especially home and Hospital visitation.

Most of these tasks she continued until her memory and her voice started to let her down. She so regretted that she was no longer able to sing and especially even lead the singing which was her great joy. Despite health setbacks there was a fixed determination in her and even in her weakened state she still was determined to get back to her work, which to Lindsay, was more about loving people than of holding down a job.

Many different memories of Lindsay will flood the hearts of all who knew her. She enjoyed fun and laughter and a special relationship with children. Teaching was her forte, always making sure that her Sunday school teachers were well prepared for their lessons. Many people remember her preaching and even many years later can recall exactly what she had said on certain topics. She was also a stickler for procedure. Right was right and wrong was wrong. There were no grey areas or bending of the rules. Lindsay is survived by a brother and an amazing friend called Jackie Murray who stood at Lindsay’s side with great love and sacrificial care at all times.
DEACON PATRICIA EVELYN POLLOCK

18 April 1943-21 September 2016

At the time Patricia was born, her father was on active duty for the army and returned home in 1945. The family moved to Crosby and then to Georgina and Patricia attended Florida Park High School. After Matric she attended a business College and then worked in Johannesburg. Later she worked at Roodepoort Motors.

Patricia and Eric started to go out in 1963 and were married in 1965. They celebrated 51 years and 4 months together.

In 1978 Patricia started to work at Discovery Primary School and retired in 2002, some 24 years later. This was some consolation for not being able to follow her dream to be a school teacher.

As a young person she attended Sunday School at the old tin Church in Roodepoort and later became a Sunday School teacher and finally retired after serving as Superintendent.

Afterwards she felt the call to spread the Gospel and become a Local Preacher. After a while she entered the Order of Deacons serving first at Horison and then at Maraisberg Methodist Church. Over the years she carried out many Bible Study courses at the Churches, as well as Summit Village and Floroma Retirement Homes.

In 1992 she attended the Emmaus Walk and then served on the Emmaus and Alarga Boards. Patricia was a tower of strength to her husband Eric as he served as the Community Lay Director. It was with her encouragement that Protea Emmaus Community stepped out in faith to run the Alarga Strolls in 2003 and Patricia served in the Prayer Chapel for Alarga Stroll No. 1. Patricia went on to serve on many walks and was the Lay Director for Walk No. 4 and then for the Alarga Stroll No. 3. Patricia presented all but one of the 15 Emmaus Talks, whilst as a Deacon she served as the Assistant Spiritual Director on both the Emmaus Walks and Alarga Strolls. It was due to her ill health that Patricia took a back seat but never failed to be a prayer warrior.

Patricia served her Lord faithfully as a Deacon and contributed to the Roodepoort Circuit by assisting and supporting her ministerial colleagues with dedication. Her commitment to Christ was an inspiration to all even when she was suffering. Patricia wasn’t just a Local Preacher, nor just a Deacon – she was a teacher of Jesus in the things she said and did, and the way she lived her life.
On the 5th September Patricia went to the Transplant Unit and was told they would put her on the programme starting the following week. Sadly on the 7th September Patricia broke her leg and after a brave fight was called to higher service on the 21st September 2016.

We give thanks for her life and what she meant to so many people.
Glenford Siteti Dladla was born on 29 December 1937 in Rocklands. He was born to Zwelibanzi Dladla and Nomalanga Skosana who have since left us. He began his education at Wisile Primary School. He then proceeded to Kabah (now Limekhaya High School) in Uitenhage, but completed his studies at Newell High School in Port Elizabeth. In 1967, he got married to his life-long partner, Angelina Mandisa Mnyazi.

He began his working career at Volkswagen as an artisan in 1964. During this time at Volkswagen, he was also a rugby player for Busy Bees and assisted with being a referee too. His intelligence later saw him getting offered a job at Volkswagen to assist with the development of skills amongst the workforce after working hours. Amidst all of this, he completed his National Diploma in Work Study Engineering part-time.

In 1993, he took a decision to retire from Volkswagen to pursue his Theology Studies. In 1995, he obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from Unisa. In 1996 he was trained to become a Minister of Religion and later got ordained in 2001. In 1997, he was a circuit leader of the Methodist Church of South Africa. He carried out his duties at the following places: Central District under the Rev Nkalitshana in Potchefstroom. He then moved on to the Queenstown District under the leadership of Rev Otto Ntshanyana. In 2002, he went to Tsojana Circuit and worked there as a Superintendent. In 2007, he moved to Mount Fletcher to continue his ministerial duties. In 2010 he decided to retire from all duties.

He was very involved with the church by being a Circuit Steward for 11 years under the wing of the late Rev Alexander Fikile Diko. During his retirement, he also offered his services by training Preachers.

His health condition started deteriorating in 2014 as he was always in and out of hospitals. His Beautiful soul peacefully left us on 9 November 2016 whilst he was in the process of completing his book on Theology.

He leaves behind his beloved wife, Angelina Nothobile Dladla, two younger sisters, Nombulelo and Nolhi, his beautiful daughters, Noluthando and Buyelwa, and his five grandchildren

Rest in peace Zotsho, Mbotho, Thoyane. We will always remember you by your wise lessons and your kind and caring nature.
Rev NKOSIYEZWE LIVINGSTONE XABA

17 April 1930-24 November 2016

Rev Xaba was born on the 17 April 1930 to Simon Sibaya and Rose Xaba (nee Ntobela) at Esgodini administrative area in the Harding Magisterial District. He grew up at Mbizana (Redoubt) in the Eastern Cape where he lived with his grandparents. He started his lower classes at eKhwezi Primary School, his junior classes at eSigodini Junior Primary and went to Wilton Secondary School where he was at school with his friend the late Rev Benson Nsimbi.

In 1957 his family moved to Port Shepstone where he continued his studies at Nsimbini Primary School. He did his high school at iNgwemabala, Mariatal and Ohlange High Schools where he obtained his Junior Certificate. He had his calling for the Methodist Ministry in the year of 1959 and he candidated in 1960 in his home circuit Harding and Port Shepstone, where he was stationed as a First Year Probationer Minister staying at Bhomela. In 1965 he was sent to Fort Hare for his Theological training. In 1968 he was stationed in the Ixopo Circuit, Umzinto section, under the late Rev Mazibuko and he was ordained in the same year. In 1971 he was stationed at Newcastle Circuit (Osizweni section) under Rev Msimang. Here his developmental skills began to manifest themselves and he built a manse. In 1973 he was stationed in the Harrismith Circuit as the Superintended Minister for four years and he built a church hall. It was also here where he completed his Matric by private studies. In 1977 he was stationed at Nyanyadu Circuit. He stayed there for a period of ten years and built a Church Hall. It was Nyanyadu Circuit where he excelled with agricultural skills, specialising in livestock and farming utilising a church glebe. In 1987 he was stationed in the Bergville Circuit where he built a manse and Church Hall. In 1991 he superannuated from the active Ministry and came back to his home place at Gamalakhe Township to look after his family business.

Rev Nkosiyezwe Livingstone Xaba was married to Mjoji Jojina Xaba (nee Mavundla). They were blessed with beloved children in their marriage. After he lost his wife his health deteriorated and he became weak. After he lost his daughter in-law Rev Cynthia Nonhlanhla Xaba he became worse and he was in and out of Hospital.

Rev Livingstone was a family man, a disciplinarian, a devoted Christian, a staunch Methodist with multiple skills, with a passion for his calling, a very brilliant man and stubborn at times. Rev Xaba died on the 24 November 2016 at the age of 86 years old, after 51 years of his ministry. He leaves behind his beloved children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and his brothers.

REST IN PEACE
SHWABADE NONKOSI LUGABHAZI NONXA SIYAKHATHALA
TOPMED LIMITED

TopMed™
Your Plan For A Healthier Life

PAYMENT OF HOSPITAL CLAIMS

All TopMed Limited members need to submit their claims direct to TopMed. They will not go through electronically. A TopMed Limited claim form should be used. The exception are Pharmacies and Hospitals. These usually are sent electronically. All Providers (except hospitals and pharmacies) are reimbursed direct to members at 80% of the total cost.

TopMed Limited: Other than the hospital account, members must first pay and then submit claims on a claim form. This includes claims for all associated providers and treatment received whilst in hospital.

In-Hospital Major Medical

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Annual Limit (OAL) R1 million per beneficiary per year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All benefits are subject to Scheme Rules and Managed Care Protocols</td>
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<td>Sub-limits and co-payments apply as per Scheme Rules</td>
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<th>Payment</th>
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<tr>
<th>Admission to Public Hospital Facility (PAR required)</th>
<th>Unlimited</th>
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<tr>
<td>Admission to Private Hospital Facility (PAR required)</td>
<td>Up to the Overall Annual Limit at 100% of Cost and thereafter unlimited through Public Hospital facilities. Individual Benefit limits apply</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-payment applies to the Hospital Account at Private Hospital Facilities</td>
<td>56% of the first R4 950 per incident for the members account thereafter 10% of the remainder, up to a maximum co-payment of R10 650</td>
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<tr>
<td>All accounts other than a Hospital Account</td>
<td>20% co-payment and individual benefit limits apply</td>
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<td>Hospital will submit claim</td>
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<td>Members must first pay and submit claims on a claim form</td>
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<tr>
<td>If on hospital account the hospital will submit claim - if not members must first pay and then submit claims on a claim form</td>
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<td>In Hospital – Pre-Authorisation Required</td>
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<td>Admission to General Ward</td>
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<td>Intensive Care</td>
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<td>Procedures, doctors and specialist in hospital</td>
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<td>Psychiatric Admission</td>
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<td>Prostheses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surgical, electronic and nuclear appliances</td>
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<td>Treatment of immunocompromise and opportunistic infections</td>
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<td>Cancer treatment</td>
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<td>Dialysis including hospital fee</td>
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<td>Pathology whilst admitted</td>
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<td>Radiology whilst admitted</td>
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<td>Blood transfusion</td>
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<td>TTO medication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casualty and Day case procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigations e.g. gastroscopy</td>
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**MATERNITY PROGRAMME**

(Registration within 12-20 weeks of pregnancy) 7 Anti-natal consultations and 2 Scans per beneficiary per pregnancy (the costs of 3D-scans are limited to the cost of a 2D-scan) M

**INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS & LEISURE TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Foreign claims are limited to medical expenses only as provided by the Scheme’s policy, limited to R10 million per family per year, subject to authorisation and applicable conditions. Maximum of 90 days cover. Travel must be declared before departure M

**CONTACT DETAILS**

Client Services, Pre-Authorisation, Case Management and Disease Management Programme Tel: 0860 00 21 58

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