



**BLACK METHODIS CONSULTATION
2010 FEBRUARY MEETING REPORT
GREENFIELDS SOCIETY, EAST LONDON
QUEENSTOWN DISTRICT**

12 -14 FEBRUARY 2010

INTRODUCTION

The following report is the account of the deliberations and outcomes of the annual February meeting of the movement. The meeting commenced on Friday, 12th. The connexional chairperson welcomed the meeting to the 2010 February meeting. Rev. M. Bosman conducted the epilogue to close day one.

SATURDAY, 13th PROCEEDINGS.

The meeting opened with a devotion led by Rev. Mtunzi Belani. He read from the book of Matthew 16:16.

The chairperson opened the meeting by calling for a roll call and apologies from districts:

Districts present:

1. Queenstown
2. Clarkebury
3. Grahamstown
4. KNB
5. Natal West
6. Cape of Good Hope
7. Natal Coastal
8. Highveld & Swaziland
9. Limpopo

Apologies noted:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Z. Jakavula | - Highveld & Swaziland |
| 2. Bishop Musi Losaba | - Grahamstown |
| 3. Rev. Sethunya Motlhodi | - Limpopo |
| 4. Rev. Sidwell Mokgothu | - Limpopo |
| 5. Mr. Filemao Mata | - Mozambique |
| 6. Mr. Sbu Nxasana | - Highveld & Swaziland |
| 7. Ms Nokuzola Mbangula | - Highveld & Swaziland |
| 8. Mr. Ernest Sekhuphela | - Highveld & Swaziland |
| 9. Ms Maureen Nkonyana | - Grahamstown |

10. Mr. Xhexe
11. Ms. Gretta Makhwenkwe - Grahamstown
12. Bishop & Mrs Noqayi - Queenstown
13. Northern Free State & Lesotho BMC Executive.

Chairperson's Opening remarks – Rev Sox Leleki

To all members of our beloved movement present here today, allow me to greet you all in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen!

Welcome to our Feb meeting here in East London. Today's meeting is about thinking and acting strategically. It is our sincere hope that this meeting will spend the bulk of our time here to think strategically about the B.M.C. and its mission.

We cannot think and act strategically without digging deeper into the Scriptures.

- **What is the Bible saying about why are we here?**
- **What drives this movement?**
- **What are we suppose to be doing?**
- **How will we approach what we suppose to be doing?**

The process doesn't end with thinking through the core fundamentals but must be followed with acting strategically. One of our weakness as the movement is failure to encourage implementation of what we stand for. The good exciting ideas, well thought through resolutions, words of counsel and wisdom, rich experiences, all those are in booklets and files gathering dust somewhere in the connexion.

This meeting must help all those present to think and act strategically for us to move forward. Some of the things that hold us back are the following:

- **leaders attitude towards transformation**
- **a lack of awareness about transformation and the transformation process**
- **a fear or suspicion of change**
- **old paradigm thinkers**
- **not wanting to take the first step**

Our movement must encourage openness to change. We hope God will bless us as we seek to serve Him through our movement called B.M.C.

The Secretary General's Report – Mr. Joe Mavuso

INTRODUCTION

We are meeting here today as District Executives and Leaders in the church, during the important month marking the 20th anniversary of the release of Mr Nelson Mandela from prison on the 11 February 1990. It is fitting that the BMC should recognise this anniversary as the milestone of hope and freedom. This occasion heralded change and gave us courage to press ahead to bring about change and transformation also in the Methodist church of Southern Africa. This course of change of events in South Africa was off course prophesied or predicted by the founders of the BMC long before, around 1975 to also bring about change in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. Therefore, fellow BMC members, we are on the right track to continue with our transformation and reform agenda in the church to encapsulate the struggles of the Mandelas and the founders of the BMC movement.

We however, need to pause and reflect on what has the 20 years of the release from prison of Mr Mandela, the 35th of existence of the BMC and the 16th year of Democracy in South Africa has yielded to us as a church? As we meet hear this weekend, we need to take stock of our mandate and reason for existence and do the introspection and reflect if we are still on course in attaining our movements' agenda of:

- Reaffirming our identity and purpose**
- Reaffirming our norms and values**
- Realigning and sharpening our strategic intent**
- Reviewing and strengthening our objectives and impact**
- Anchoring our existence in the life of the MCSA**
- Fostering unity within the black family of the MCSA.**
- Building a strong capacity to engage and contribute to the policy formulation.**

At the 2009 February meeting, during the assessment of the status of the movement by our Brother Percy Nhlapho, he alluded to the fact that the current BMC is still basking in the glory of the founders of the movement. Meaning, we are still lacking in producing new achievements post the founders achievements. Whether, the assessment is right or wrong, what is important is the message that says in order to show progress and growth as a movement let us account for the work we set out to do, year in and year out as we gather at the February meetings and at the July Consultations, taking resolutions after resolutions.

As we meet now in this 2010 February meeting let us bring progress reports and success stories from our districts to highlight current generation achievements and add on these achievements to the gains of our BMC founders. In 4 years time (2014),

this movement will be 40 years old celebrating a ruby anniversary. What do we have to show case as the BMC's success and achievement?

REPORTING

The purpose of this report is to highlight important programmes and projects that the connexional executive together with the district executives' buy in (plus districts own initiatives) will take us to 2014 the year of our ruby anniversary.

1. Laws & Discipline (L&D)

To begin to speak and act with authority as BMC members we need to first understand the Laws and Discipline of the church. It is shocking to observe at how ignorant we turn to become when engaging on matters of policy, leadership and transformation. It is obvious that the church fundamentals and rules elude us. To achieve more in the quest for our transformation agenda as BMC, let us encourage a culture of reading, conceptualisation, comprehension and promoting the Laws and Discipline of the church. This we believe is the bases for understanding the direction the church needs to follow to full fill its mission. It is clear from the low levels of debates in church forums that a large number of members are not conversant with the L&D. The BMC leadership and members at large are called upon to popularise this campaign especially in our black societies to realise the strength of the church in the L&D.

2. Training Of Trainers (ToT)

The purpose of the ToT is to build capacity of our members through training & development and empowerment. A team of trainers are in place in ten (10) districts ready to conduct workshops in the connexion. Later on, we will be briefed by districts on the progress attained and their long term implementation programme.

We need to champion and consolidate this initiative but only if the church leadership and BMC executives give their financial, material and human capital support.

We also need to agree if this is the way to take or should we spread our wings and cover more ground in replicating the ToT in other disciplines given the capacity deficiency that exists in our church, especially in black circuits.

3. Website Development

The February 2009 meeting gave us the mandate to investigate the development of the BMC website. We are happy to report that a contract is ready to be signed with the Methodist Webmaster for a trial period of six months for 20hrs per month at a cost of R6000 to the BMC, a once off payment. We will monitor and review its usefulness (the website) at the July consultation - study its value and contribution in being an information powerbase about the BMC activities, linking Districts and accessing information on continual bases.

The Executive request this meeting to vote for the budget to cover the costs of the website development as alluded above. If this is in order, the BMC website will be up and running beginning February – 31 July 2010. A committee to drive the process is made up of Ms Nombasa Hlathi, Ms Mandi Motaung and Mr Fikile Kumalo.

4. SKILLS AUDIT

We on previous occasion deliberated on conducting a skills audit among the BMC members in order to deploy cadres in relevant and skilful tasks or assignments as and when called to do so by the church. We have over the years noticed the skills that the BMC attract and pride ourselves with that and thank God for the talents and gifts in us. The aim is to put this in good use in transforming and enriching the MCSA.

We urge the Districts Executives to work with us in distributing and manage the completion of the skills audit forms and return to the skills audit committee comprising of Messrs Zandile Ngubo and Ethel Khoza at a date we all need to agree upon. We plan to report in July about the findings (list of skills). We believe this is a way to build capacity, transform and grow the church. Let us all support this initiative. The form will also be made available electronically for ease of reference.

5. Building A Brotherly and Sisterly Relationship with other Structures of the Church to Consolidate A Base and Drive of the BMC Agenda:

In order to popularise the agenda of the BMC, we need to extend a hand of collaboration and friendship to the following structures of our church by arranging exchange programmes and share platforms at each others conventions:

- Young Women Manyano
- Youth
- Women's Manyano

- Young Men's Guild (AmaDondana)
- Preachers

Notwithstanding the fact that the BMC membership finds itself in all these structures as well - but it could be a mutual beneficial relationship in enhancing each others purpose of existence for a common goal in the church.

6. Southern Africa Connexion

It is about time that we reach out to other countries of the connexion by bringing them in the fold when we plan and discuss socio, economical and political perspectives to exemplify the ones and united Methodist church in the southern Africa. We tend to emphasise South Africa too much at the expense of other countries in the connexion. The recommendation is that lets sing from their hymns of worship, read from their bibles, elect them in positions of leadership, and draft them on the agenda/programmes of our business and that of the church at large.

To demonstrate our determination on this boundary shift, we challenge the BMC (districts) to take their gatherings, conventions and consultations across the borders of South Africa. This will also grow membership of the movement in those countries.

7. The BMC as movement

The BMC needs to be schooled to comprehend what it means to be a movement and not an organisation. We often blend the two, thus have misgivings in the way we operate and expect outcomes. There is a way movements operate and it is definitely different from organisations. A scholarly unpacking of the terminology is required to know how we do things and differ from other structures in the church – most significantly maintain the difference at all costs to make a difference in our endeavours. We are oblivious to this comprehension - it determines and define who we are in finding our compass.

8. CONCLUSION

Let us return to our districts to intensify our mission and work hard towards our set goals and aims towards the BMC's 40th ruby anniversary as the year of culminations and look back with zeal and pride that we have attained bigger achievements - that we can claim as coming from the new generation of the movement, ready to pass on the baton to the 3rd generation with an African continental flair (programme) perhaps with a new agenda,

Elbert Hubbard once wrote: “One machine can do the work of fifty men. No machine can do the work of one extraordinary man” As a member of the BMC – you are that one extraordinary man.

Amen.

Response:

It will be more beneficial if the website is linked to that of the MCSA. There was an excitement in the event of the website development and echoed the empowerment that will develop as a resultant. The meeting voted for a budget of R6000 to run with the project.

The thought of the BMC acting and behaving like a movement as opposed to an organisation was attractive to follow through with a discussion paper for debate and engagement. This will be developed by the GS for more input and Umrabulo.

The BMC needs to think deep about how to celebrate its 40th anniversary due in 2015. This must be symbolic of transformational and growth achievement as a movement.

Treasurers' Report

BLACK METHODIST CONSULTATION

A formation within the Methodist Church of Southern Africa

BUDGET AND INCOME STATEMENT IN RANDS

	ACTUAL 2007	ACTUA L 2008	ACTUA L 2009	BUDGE T 2009/10	ACTUAL 2009/10	BUDGET 2010/11
INCOME	215,370	257,129	254,555	288,900	340,196	360,000
Ernest Baartman Fund (EBF) <i>Note 1</i>	105,494	103,175	90,111	110,000	135,017	140,000
Registration Fees - Annual Conference	61,460	109,460	111,200	135,000	156,150	175,000
Registration Fees - Early Bird	0	0	0	0	12,250	0
Registration Fees - February Meeting	0	0	1,840	4,000	0	4,000
Commitment Fees	20,680	21,175	13,320	18,000	22,200	21,000
Sale of Cassettes	0	0	0	1,400	0	0
Promotional Items	0	1,950	455	1,500	340	5,000
Sale of Hymn Books	285	810	365	1,000	1,700	3,000
Interest Received <i>Note 2</i>	12,451	18,371	26,264	18,000	12,539	12,000
Donations Receivable	15,000	2,188	0	0	0	0
Special Fund Raising Efforts	0	0	6,000	0	0	0
Refundable Deposit - Annual Conference	0	0	5,000	0	0	0
OPERATING EXPENDITURE	146,450	182,615	187,794	245,900	244,689	316,400
Accommodation & Catering - Annual Consultation	75,501	127,700	126,600	140,000	179,898	180,000
Accommodation & Catering - February Meeting	0	0	7,460	6,000	0	6,500
Accommodation & Catering - Executive Meeting	0	0	3,000	3,000	0	0
Audit Fees	5,800	6,000	6,434	7,200	5,000	5,500
Bank Charges	587	790	919	200	0	2,000
Capital Expenditure	8,740	0	0	5,000	0	5,000
Entertainment	1,634	0	0	1,000	0	2,000
Gifts	4,265	6,903	1,621	5,000	1,080	5,000
Gratuities to Speakers	0	0	4,610	3,000	3,000	3,000
Postage	500	97	0	400	0	0
Printing And Stationery	25,500	5,159	6,678	10,000	16,680	20,000
Telephone And Fax	0	81	0	1,100	0	3,000
Communication Line	0	0	0	0	0	10,000
Purchase of Promotional Material	0	2,945	0	2,000	3,980	5,000
Travelling Expenses <i>Note 3</i>	18,123	31,571	22,092	30,000	23,799	50,000
Conference Expenses	0	0	0	0	9,752	10,000
Production of DVD's/Video Cassettes	5,800	0	5,300	6,000	0	6,000
Conference Photos	0	129	0	0	0	0
Consumables	0	490	0	0	0	0
Special Condolencies	0	0	0	0	500	1,000
Printing of Hymn Books	0	750	1,000	1,000	0	2,400

Refund for Registration overpayment	0	0	2,080	0	1,000	0
PROFIT/(LOSS) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	68,920	74,514	66,761	43,000	95,507	43,600
NON OPERATING EXPENSES	0	0	135,000	125,000	84,778	85,000
Busaries	0	0	30,000	30,000	0	40,000
Capacity Building	0	0	0	70,000	59,778	20,000
Seth Mokitimi Seminary	0	0	105,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
NET PROFIT/(LOSS)	68,920	74,514	-68,239	68,920	10,729	-41,400
Transfer from Investments						60,000
Cash Flow Balance						18,600

The following were some of the issues raised from the budget presentation:

- Districts need to understand that the advance that the Connexional office pay to book July Consultation venues must be paid back.
- The meeting raised a concern about the negative shortfall in the expenditure. The treasurer assured members that this will be offset by calling up funds from the investment account. The negative income is also exacerbated by the Seth Mokitimi Seminary annual contribution, however, this is done so for accountability – otherwise we have to prepare two statements from the call account and operational account.
- There was a query on the travel estimation as being over estimated – the treasurer explained that this is just an estimate; it can be less – but now the chairperson has relocated to Pietermaritzburg.
- The meeting sort to understand what informed the R40 000 allocated to Bursary – it is a 30% of the 2009 EBF. There was a suggestion that the term bursary be termed Grant. The matter was referred to the Bursary Committee to make a recommendation.
- The meeting suggested that the Special Condolence line item be termed Contingency line item.
- The meeting suggested that a distinction be made between operation and non operating expenses.

July Consultation Programme

The chairperson presented the 2010 July Consultation programme for in putting. (Copy is attached as an annexure)

The chair emphasised that the programme is designed to allow ample time for deliberations and handle all topics. This year's approach is meant to enrich discussions, being focused and introduce "SMART" resolutions.

The way to attaining this, it is highly recommended that, the schools topics as outlined below, be first workshoped at district level; secondly, arrange schools of mixed districts at the consultation and thirdly, bring everything to the plenary for resolve, adoption and action plan.

In summary: He challenged Districts to bring issues that are already discussed from districts. He proposed three (3) stages to this approach:

- I. Districts do their home work – engage issues**
- II. Further engagement (bring these issues) at connexional level**
- III. Take ACTION at plenary**

The chair urged the meeting to take note of the configuration of the schools, especially the new inclusions on "education" and "Current Affairs" in our deliberations. The schools will be as follows:

- A. Transformation in church.**
- B. Leadership Excellence and Succession Planning.**
- C. Education.**
- D. Resolutions Implementation and Audit strategy.**
- E. Current Affairs.**

A remark was made that the programme is silent on HIV/AIDS given the ravaging scourge. This was noted however, the movement has in the past addressed the topic. It is important to continue discuss the topic because the problem is relentless.

The programme design sort to take into consideration the feedback received from last year's programme re gender, time etc.

Synod and Conference Issues

The Lay President was represented by Mr Mcebisi Godlo to present a report on behalf of the Lay President and District Lay Leaders.

In 2008 District Lay representatives and the Lay President (incoming and outgoing) met in Port Elizabeth, they also met with Bishops and Raised the following (concerns) questions:

- a) What does laity representation entail? It is obvious that the position of lay-representative is currently poorly or weakly defined.
- b) What are the Roles and Responsibilities of the Lay Representative?

In short this matter was taken to the conference of 2009 held in Pietermaritzburg. It was a hot and robust debate BUT the conference decided on the following:

- a) The name District Lay Representative must change to the name of District Lay Leader.
- b) Connexional Lay President and District Lay Leaders were mandated by the conference to prepare and submit recommendations on the role and responsibilities of a district Lay Leader.

The Executive Secretary of MCSA Rev Vido Nyobole addressed issues to come before Quarterly Meetings, Synods and Conference as follows:

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO LAWS AND DISCIPLINE / RESPONSE TO CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

Representation at Conference (Resolution 2.2)

Whilst the Revision Committee affirms the aspiration contained within the Resolution, we have some concerns pertaining to the scope and practical implications of it in its present form. Good intentions can be undone by laws that may, in particular situations and contexts, be unworkable or impractical. This is the danger that arises when Resolutions are too sweeping, prescriptive, or proscriptive.

For example, Resolution 2.24 demands that “all structures of the church” should have at least 40% women and 20% youth. The Resolution permits no exceptions; read in its current form, it will require all church structures, without exception, to apply the Rule. However it is clear to us that there are some instances in which the Rule would be unhelpful or impractical. For instance, should it really apply to the YMG and Women’s Manyano? We also envisage situations where it will be impossible to implement the Rule; e.g. mining Societies comprising only men, or some rural contexts where there are few youth.

The Revision Committee therefore recommends that Conference be more specific in terms of the implementation of the proposed Rule. We further recommend that it be remitted to Circuit Quarterly Meetings and District Synods for input on the most realistic ways of ensuring effective implementation of the MCSA's commitment to having all voices heard within the Church.

Divorce of Ministers (Resolution 2.27)

The Revision Committee recognises that this is a painful, difficult and complex subject within the Church. Whilst we are all aware that marriages sometimes do fail, we firmly believe that whilst the Church should always be pastoral and caring in responding to ministers who divorce, we should nevertheless be clear in our position that divorce should not be viewed as normative. This challenges our Church to strengthen its pastoral and counselling ministry in respect of family life, especially in respect of its ministers. Furthermore, in seeking to deal pastorally with ministers who divorce, we do not believe the Church should surrender to the idea that divorce should ever be an easy option.

The Revision Committee is further concerned that the present regulations in this regard are too vague, leading to inconsistency within the connexion. Ministers who divorce should be handled with equal pastoral and procedural fairness. For instance, more clarity is required regarding periods of suspension imposed on ministers who are in the throes of a divorce.

The Revision Committee further believes that the Local Church, which is directly affected by the divorce of a minister, should be included in the processes that form the Church's response. The current regulations give no voice to the Local Church.

In response, the Revision Committee proposes that the MCSA revises its regulations in terms of the following framework:

- 1. Each District shall be required to appoint a Standing Committee on the Divorce of Ministers comprising three persons skilled and experienced in marriage counselling and divorce.**
- 2. Any Minister who is considering initiating legal action for divorce, or who has been served with such action by his / her spouse, shall advise the Bishop, who shall refer the matter to the Standing Committee. Whilst it would be preferable for the minister's spouse to accompany him / her to interviews with the Standing Committee, we recognise that this may not be always possible. In such circumstances the Minister shall nevertheless be required to meet with the Standing Committee.**
- 3. The Standing Committee shall investigate the circumstances that have led to the breakdown of the marriage, the possibilities for reconciliation, and the particular implications of the divorce for the minister and his / her family, where after it shall**

present its Report and Recommendations to the Bishop within a period of three weeks.

4. When a Bishop refers the matter to the Standing Committee, the Bishop shall also appoint a Pastoral Commission to meet with the Leaders of the Society / Circuit, as appropriate, in which the minister is stationed. The Pastoral Commission shall investigate the impact and implications of the divorce on the Society / Circuit, the feelings of the church community, and the advisability of retaining / removing the minister. The Pastoral Committee should be required to finalise its work and present its Report and Recommendations to the Bishop within three weeks of being commissioned.

5. The Bishop shall expeditiously forward both Reports to the Presiding Bishop for further action.

6. The Presiding Bishop shall, having studied and given due cognisance to the Reports and Recommendations, make his / her decision and communicate such to all parties in the matter as soon as possible.

7. The Revision Committee re-affirms the current provisions regarding the suspension of ministers and strongly recommends that these should be universally applied in equal manner for all ministers during the divorce process.

Non-itinerant Ministers (Resolution 2.30)

The Revision Committee does not believe that an application to change status to full-time status should be directed to EMMU, which deals solely with probationer Ministers. It is our opinion that such applications should be directed to the Connexional Executive via District Synods. The Synod should weigh the reasons for the application and forward its recommendation(s) to the Connexional Executive.

Election of General Secretary / Bishops (Resolutions 2.43, 2.44 and 2.47)

The Revision Committee is deeply concerned that key appointments within the MCSA are becoming increasingly secular in character. It seems to us that recent developments in this regard are tearing the Church away from its essential spiritual character. We note with dismay that the proposed process for this makes no mention of prayerful discernment, assessing moral character, or seeking the will of God.

In response, the Revision Committee proposes that the MCSA be invited to engage in an open, honest, and full discussion on the issue of discerning and appointing the most suitable persons for leadership positions within the MCSA. The Committee is especially concerned that there seems to be an unspoken hermeneutic of mistrust in respect of church authority and leadership. It is our opinion that this must be addressed and restored as part of the process of implementing revised processes for electing / appointing the right people for the right position.

The Revision Committee recommends that Conference begin this conversation before sending it to Circuits and Districts for discussion and recommendation. The Committee notes that these same issues were present during the Journey to a New Land process. The fact that these are still before the Church some 16 years later indicates the need for a comprehensive response.

Some of the issues that needs to be highlighted and may come before synods are as follows:

- Same Sex Marriages (not reflected in the year book).
- That the title of “Bishop” be retained on completion of the term of office.
- The size of Districts matter.
- Youth representatives and Children’s ministries.
- Jubilee Fund.
- Enhancing benefits for Widows/Widowers of Ministers.
- Parity of Stipends
- There is a motion that seeks to suggest that the office of the Executive Secretary be advertised in case of appointment. Then the Executive Secretary becomes an employee of the church. The appointee will by implication become subject to Labour Relations regulated and yet Ministers have a calling and need space to exercise their calling in a covenant with God.
- The Central Methodist Church. The disciplinary case before the church.
- The BMC needs to help in the revision of the L&D exercise.

The meeting resolved that Districts conduct workshops in preparation – with regards to the above Synod and Conference issues. Workshops will be held as follows:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Cape of Good Hope | 24 – 25 April 2010 |
| 2. Highveld and Swaziland, Limpopo and Central | 01 – 03 May 2010 |
| 3. Kimberly, Namibia and Bloemfontein | 14 – 16 May 2010 |
| 4. Natal Coastal | 21 February 2010 |
| 5. Natal West | 27 April 2010 |
| 6. Grahamstown and Queenstown | 15 May 2010 |
| 7. Clarkebury | 18 April 2010 |

The chairperson highlighted the Connexional Grand Plan (GP) as a BMC vehicle to influence and enrich discussions at quarterly meetings, synods and conference. Therefore, districts are called upon to identify at least five (5) people who sits at quarterly meetings being BMC members and as well as those elected to be delegates at both synod and conference to lead and be champions of the issues or agenda of the movement. The starting point is the synod and conference issues discussed above.

Task Teams Reports

The meeting received the following reports:

Conflicts in the Black Methodist Church circuits Research – Convenor: Mr Percy Nhlapho.

The team reported that they have thus far progressed on a marginal 2.7 %. Out of the 11 districts population sample, only 5 districts have agreed to take part in the study. The researchers have envisaged 1100 respondents to justify the findings. The 5 districts represent only 4.5% of the 11 districts in the connexion. Only 30 questionnaires have been collected. This represent a small responds that stands to disqualify the outcome as not representative if the status core continues.

The task team requested a full co-operation from the Executives in the Districts to encourage participation in the research and return the questionnaires for analysis. The meeting approved for the employment of a part-time typist to consolidate the data as a paid position. The executive has already approved travel of the task team member(s) to Johannesburg to analyse and compile a report ready for the 2010 July Consultation.

Bursary Committee – Convenor Mr Muzi Mangengenene.

The committee received only one application this year from Rev Mkhinde a first year with the Central District. The meeting approved granting the bursary. It is however requested that the applicant present him/herself before the bursary committee for details before the money is paid.

The meeting debated the merits of granting bursaries as a once off policy as not having the desired outcome to empower out ministers. Also the meeting discussed the policy of returning money to the fiscal if there are fewer applicants whereas 30% of the EBF was made available. It was proposed that if money was not spent it should be added to the following year's budget vote. Further, to these discussions points, the meeting proposed a changed to the name of bursary to be a grant if we were to continue granting a once off fund to the applicant(s).

The committee was mandated to formulate a resolution to this effect and present it to the July Consultation

Umrabulo Project

The project is lead by the Cape of Good Hope District. The District Chairperson Mr Thobela Xhanti Mhlubulwana presented the launch of the first “Umrabulo BMC information” pamphlet. Its context is about what is the BMC, Historical background, the BMC today and district executive committees. The next issues of umrabulo will contain other information as per the next district to write the articles. Districts were called upon to give feedback about this first issue of the pamphlet for betterment and improvement.

The articles should be about the mostly frequently asked questions on the BMC, the collection of BMC historical papers, speeches and any other writings/publications.

The next umrabulo will be delivered as follows:

DISTRICT	DATE
Clarkebury	15 March
Grahamstown	15 April
Queenstown	15 May
Natal Coastal	15 June
KNB	15 July
Limpopo	15 August
Natal West	15 September
NFL	15 October
Central	15 November

The meeting did not receive reports from the Investment Committee and Leadership, Transformation and Succession Planning. It was previously decided that the latter be constituted as one. The task Team now requires a Connexional Convenor. Districts nominated the following to lead the task at District level:

1. Clarkebury - Zanele Didiza
2. Cape of Good Hope - Ncumisa Mfaza
3. Highveld & Swaziland - Mmemme Mekane
4. KNB - Mamiki Moremi
5. Limpopo - Sebotseng Malebye
6. Natal Coastal - Magugu Sithole
7. Natal West - Gedion Nyokana
8. Grahantown - Lu Williams
9. Queenstown -

NB: District Convenors are suppose to follow the 2009 July Consultation Minutes and pick up the resolution of the said Task Team to determine and formulate a district position and implementation as progress report to the 2010 July Consultation. We would like to have a district that will volunteer to lead this task at connexional level.

Districts Reports

Districts presented their reports to the meeting with regards to their activities. It emerged from reports that there is some degree of activism in districts with regards to the agenda of the movement. Districts are varied according to these activities. Some have placed a lot of energy and visibility in their work and some are casual about it. The connexional agenda should be the basis, mandate and agreed programme of action as adopted by the July Consultation.

In many districts numbers are dwindling and very few indicate growth. However, it was reported that come July there is level of activism and dormant after the consultation.

One success story that is emerging is the Training of Trainers programme that is becoming effective in about 70% of the connexion.

Challenges that are a common trend in all districts are the declining membership, resources to drive the programmes of the movement and lack of commitment from members.

Attached as appendices, it is the copies of the districts presented and also submitted as an electronic copy.

NB: Reports of the district that are not attached it means they have not been submitted despite requested to do so.

The February meeting ended with a Devine Service conducted by the Rev Vuyani Nyobole, the Executive Secretary of the MCSA.

End,