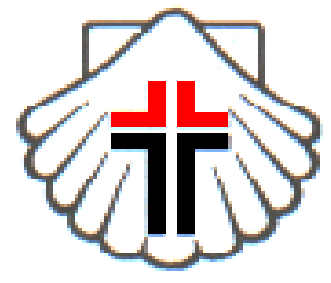




BMC

Black Methodist Consultation

[A formation within the Methodist Church of Southern Africa]



ANNUAL FEBRUARY CONNEXIONAL EXECUTIVES GENERAL COMMITTEE HELD 20 – 22 FEB 2015 AT CLERMONT METHODIST;
CLERPINE CIRCUIT 708; NATAL COASTAL DISTRICT.

KEY NOTES AND DECISIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

AGENDA ITEM	TASK/ACTION/DECISION	RESPONSIBLE	TARGET DATE
1. Chairpersons Address	- That , the BMC carries the hopes/aspirations of God's people was noted; - The challenges facing SADC and need for prayer for Lesotho upcoming elections was also noted; - State of the Nation Address incidences in RSA, Xenophobic attacks, rising inequalities were reported; - Increase in prosperity gospel driven by the demand 'hunger for religion in particular amongst Blacks as observed in people drinking petrol, eating grass, etc.'; - Rise of Black faces in high places accompanied by contestation for election amongst Blacks as well as the voice of the BMC as a base often contested for narrow ethnic gains, was noted; - Urgent need for women emancipation was noted " Out 12 MCSA bishops; Zero Female; 1 women in history has ever had that position"; Chair recommended that, - Fights amongst Black Churches needs attention; - The need to explore resourcing of Black Churches must be explored; - Holding each other accountable for good governance as Black Leadership must be confronted with intellectual agility and resilience; - Motivation, Skilling and Empowerment of Black Ministers, Superintendents and Stewards needs - BMC must rejects Cynicism and be in solidarity with the marginalised;	ALL – NOTED "Build into BMC fiber/DNA – forward'	Continuous

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	○ BMC vision must be intolerant to sexism, xenophobia's, tribalism's, all forms of exclusions and isms ○ BMC can no longer afford to only appears during Bishops Elections as that comes at a cost of being viewed as merely a lobby group where loyalties to individuals as opposed to the vision of the movement surface; ○ There is a great need to better resource BMC vision and programmes as the BMC can no longer exist for Annual Feb and July Meetings.		
2. Organisational Report	• HP 'Hewlett – Packard' 500 Laptop Computer with Serial Number – CND6471ZWf – 10 years old, must be on power 24hours/7days, non-functional without power, ○ Meeting resolved – to Dispose Laptop Computer – clear viruses and donate or condemn; Treasurer to budget for a New Laptop, purchase and there must a plan to get a new one every five years or so; • HP Office jet Printer 5610 - All in One 'Copy, Fax, Scan' – also 10 years old, has not been functional for the past 6 years, ○ Meeting resolved – to Dispose Office jet; not to be replaced instead Treasurer to budget for printing and stationery as well as hire a printer during July Annual Consultations; • Data Base Solidification and Clean Up Project Rationale, importance and district responses to the call was tabled, ○ All Districts were sensitised to digital divide and encouraged to communicate effectively employing all means not simply relying on emails exclusively; ○ Provide Physical or Postal Addresses for members without email access on registration every July; ○ Data Bases to be kept up to date per district • Members were encouraged to ensure commitment fees were given for all members given printing and stationery costs • Connexionally 285 Members committed in 2014 as compared to 368 in 2013, decline was noted; • Increasing costs of conferencing stationery and printing were reported and the fact that R50.00 current commitment fees does not meet the demand, ○ Secretariat suggested exploring writing conference packages on CD-Roms and only printing for those who	ConnX Secretariat and Treasurer ConnX Secretariat and Treasurer Districts EXCO's District EXCO's	31 March 2015 31 March 2015 July 2015 Consultation July 2015 Consultation

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	cannot access through CD-Roms (<i>who is bringing laptop</i>); - BMC Institutional Capacity Challenges were raised, in particular unsustainable conferencing current model financial implications for hosts as well as costs of administration in the office given the need to visit districts and implications was reported; - The BMC Website www.methodistbmc.yolasite.com that was launched in 2010 was reported to be dormant and at publishing stage since the launch; - Website status related to costs of maintenance as well as costs of hosting website – no provision was made since; The Meeting Resolved that ConneX-EXCO to explore costs of website maintenance and detail the plan for updating and upgrading website All members encouraged to donate information towards ‘Building BMC Archives’ in particular from 1999 backwards – themes, speeches, minutes, Video Cassettes/VHS, Photos/Pictures; etc.	on RSVP ConnX Secretariat and Treasurer All Members	31 March 2015 Immediate and On-Going
3. Treasury/ Finances	2015/2016 Incremental Budget was tabled and approved; - Expenditure for the period June 2014 to January 2015 was also tabled for Noting; - A <i>Special Project Itemised Budget to resource</i> the extra-ordinary ‘<i>BMC 40th Anniversary, 1975 - 2015</i>’ was considered and approved totaling R149,00.00; approval may necessitate treasury to tap into investment accounts; - Commitments Fees as from 2015/2016 set at R80.00 Per Member, effective July 2015 Consultation was approved; - Registration for July 2015 Consultation set at R660.00; 10% increase per annum in line with previous resolutions; was agreed upon - Total Per Member July 2015 = R740.00 [660rands and 80rands, that’s registration and commitments respectively] All districts encouraged to make a meaningful effort towards EBF	ConnX Treasurer All Members All Members All Members All Districts	31 March 2015 July 2015 July 2015 July 2015 July 2015
4. Bursary Task Team	- R6,800 bursary for Rev Ntshuntsha – B.Th., UNISA was recommended and approved; - Bursary Policy Prescripts were reviewed and 1 application was declined based on policy; - Bursary Committee given mandate to adjust application seasons in the policy to accommodate semester registration, however fund allocation is dependent on annual revenue, availability and budget,	Noted Bursary Committee	Immediate July 2015

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	that's a limitation and control; Bursary Committee mandated to investigate with the MCSA – MCO practicalities of recovering funds from bursary recipients who failed to complete studies in compliance with policy prescripts and report in July 2015.	Bursary Committee	July 2015
5. Hosting Logistics Task Team	- Highlights of responses from districts given and noted as per issued questionnaire; - Importance of accommodation and catering rated high - Reasons for members to attend Annual July Consultation included :- - Personal Growth and Development - Preferences included sleeping same place and conferencing in a hall - Admin – to be centralized; - Contrasting responses between amount members prepared to pay, less than R1,000.00 and expectations regarding conferencing were noted; Full report to be tabled in July 2015 Events management expertise to be explored for input into final report.	Hosting Logistics Task Team	July 2015
6. Elections Calendar and Discernment Committee	- MCSA Elections Calendar was tabled, challenges pertaining to District Lay Representatives reported; corrections made and approved; - Discernment Committee Nominated Mandated 'to facilitate/coordinate discernment process for the MCSA – PB due for elections in 2016 Synods'; office term beginning January 2018'; - Discernment Committee to observe and adhere to the following principles:- - Impeccable Integrity - in the face of many forces, voices and at times turbulence, - Courage to reject any attempts of undue influence including BMC Current Executives, etc. - Privacy, Confidentiality and Secrecy – working with names and lives of people 'their integrity must be protected'; - Discernment Committee to be project base going forward as opposed to a set term of office; Discernment Committee Nominated:- - Rev Mbatu Bosman (Convenor) - Mr Joe Mavuso - Mrs Nubuntu Madwe - Mrs Nombasa Hlathi		

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	○ Promote event – use dimensions, other media incl social ○ Building BMC Archives ▪ Find themes around the past chairperson's terms of office which the presenters could prepare their lectures and work around. ▪ Check if there is any work done by districts (books, autobiography/speeches/presentations) available for profiling purposes. ▪ Collect BMC material from individuals, willing to share ○ DVD 40th Production highlighted and related challenges for resourcing given geographic sparsity of previous EXCO's; ○ Planned Gala Saturday 11th July 2015 at 18:00 – all 12 Previous Chairpersons and their collective teams invited.	ConneX EXCO All Members; District EXCO's Coordinate – Material Donations to Archives District EXCO's & ConneX EXCO	31 March 2015 Immediate, On-Going, July 2015. 30 April 2015
8. MCSA 2014 Conference Resolutions	• Resolutions tabled as per the Year Book 2015; ○ Stationing Process Resolution discussed – noting that previous suggestions were rejected by some District Synods, BMC resolved to nominate its own committee '<i>to track developments, to research and advise BMC on response</i>' – Nominated were:- ▪ Rev Ayanda Nyobole (Convenor) ▪ Ms Mmamiki Moremi ▪ Mr Mandla Gwambe ▪ Mr Tello Khodumo ▪ Rev Seekoei	Stationing Sub-Com	30 April 2015 Progress – for Synods; July 2015 – Table Recommendation
9. BMC Lekgotla Outputs	• Lekgotla Report tabled and noted ○ Key Focus Areas of the Lekgotla were:- ▪ INFLUENCING AND TRANSFORMING THE MCSA • Critical involvement and participation at Decision Making Levels (from Local Church) • Strategic Recruitment of key decision makers - Class Leaders; Society Stewards; Circuit Stewards; Org. Leaders; etc • Aligning BMC to Organisations and Units that inform the agenda of Conference and have masses	NOTED	-----

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	○ LPA/WM/YWM/WG; ○ X7 UNITS “EMMU/SMMS; Ecumenical Affairs; HR; Communications, Finance; Mission Unit; YU” ○ DEWCOM, STRUCTURES; TRUST & PROPERTIES; REVISIONS ○ DC’s; ARBITRATIONS AND MEDIATIONS • Front-end Analysis – “BMC definition/concept through debate of what transforming MCSA means” • Timing of July BMC and its resolutions not finding way to conference [Synods; Units; Committees; Org – inform agenda of Conference] ▪ GENDER EQUALITY • Lack of awareness on Women’s MCSA Policy position and Gender issues in general • Lack of Policy Implementation • Underrepresentation of women (only 19/127 Women Ministers are Superintendents; 0/12 Bishops; 4/12 Lay Leaders; ...) • Leadership Models in Black Context (role of spouses) • Can the BMC advocate for gender equality? ▪ CULTIVATING CULTURE OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE • Purpose of Membership • Connexionalism and accountability (constants and variables that define MCSA) • Assess Governance Deficits - Internal and External Outlook? ▪ ORGANISATIONAL DIRECTION • Interpreter of Black aspirations • Empowerment of Blacks to lead • Create moments of thinking together (liberating		

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	each other) • Develop Value Content as drivers • The depth of the dream; clearly define goals; objectives and milestones • Clarify BMC Vision and Workshop it • Publications and Newsletters ▪ DEVELOP THEORETICAL HANDLES ABOUT BEING BLACK AND BLACKNESS • Analyze theoretical underpinnings for the BMC and the MCSA including doctrines • Interpret theories about being Black and blackness • Research, share, workshop and disseminate information on theories of being black ○ The Meeting resolved that BMC must have shadow/parallel structures to the MCSA in order to be proactive, mainly tasked to track developments, responsible for research and tabling findings to the BMC with recommendations ○ Connexional Executive mandated to <i>appoint or coopt the respective committees, allocate committee bases to districts and may coopt members outside the district base</i> to be a member or convenor based on skills and availability; Committees include – Revisions; Doctrine Ethics Worship Committee – DEWCOM; Structures; Ministerial Formation etc ○ Connexional EXCO to also <i>appoint members to further engage 'BMC understanding and or meaning of Transformation</i> in the context of where the Church is to date Or Context and challenges of the day'	ConneX EXCO ConneX EXCO	31 March 2015 31 March 2015
10. District Reports	• District Reports Tabled and noted X 10 Districts • NFSL, HI&SWA, Natal Coastal to email to Secretariat presented reports • Grahamstown, apology was noted	NFSL, HI&SWA and Natal Coastal EXCO's Grahamstown	31 March 2015 31 March 2015

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	○ To submit electronic report using standard template	EXCO	
11. July 2015 Consultation	• Programme Overview given and noted • Dates confirmed as 9,10,11 and 12th July 2015; • Central District Hosting, at University of Johannesburg, Bunting Road Campus, Auckland park, Johannesburg; ○ R 660 – incl. conference registration, accommodation and catering ○ R150 - once off linen hire fee (optional) ○ R80.00 Connexional Commitment Fee ○ <u>Pre-registration is strongly encouraged</u>, in blocks per district ▪ Early registration with confirmed payment of registration (from 01/06/15 @ 9h00 to 30/06/15 @ 17h00) – has following advantages • Pre-allocated conference packs and access cards • Pre-confirmed and allocated accommodation ▪ On-site registration with confirmed payment (from 08/07/15 @ 10h00 to 10/07/15 @ 10h00 – has following consequences • Late allocation of conference packs and access cards • Late allocation of accommodation ○ Residence accommodates close to 700 people ○ Tight security (follow the rules) ▪ No electric appliances allowed (incl. but not limited to kettle, heaters, stoves etc.) UJ has the right to confiscate all appliances; ▪ No mattresses allowed except as provided by the institution ○ All require access cards (lanyards) to enter residence foyer / reception – UJ Security has the right to deny access to buildings if authentic conference identification is not produced ○ To bring own linen and blankets [note option above]		
12. Spirituality	• The February Meeting that took place from the 20th to the 22nd February 2015 at Clermont Methodist in Natal Coastal District observed a deep sense of spirituality:- ○ Rev Monwabisi Moses opened the meeting with a scripture 2nd		

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	Kings 5: 1-17; message being on the “Choice of seeking a solution”. Using leprosy as disfigurement, he challenged the audience on ‘where and how disfigurement is experienced and pointed out ‘there is a choice for a solution’; ○ Ms Nwabisa Mabandla for the evening devotions day 1, read Philippians 4: 4 – 7; she challenged the audience ‘not to worry for anything, to let go and let God, surrender to him for He cares and He knows all our needs and anxieties’; ○ Rev Kubu Seekoei, morning devotions day 2; read Ezekiel 34: 23-24; He started from Adam and his mandate from God to be a shepherd; presented Ezekiel narrative of Shepherds who were not in good standing ‘Obsession with self and own’; shared that ‘God chooses own Shepherd’; presented Jesus as a model of a shepherd, John 10 and concluded with ‘Samuels visit to the house of Jesse and anointing of David as a Shepherd’; ○ Mrs Nombasa Hlathi, evening devotions day 2; read Nehemiah 2: 1-5; she used the discomfort of Nehemiah for the destruction of his heritage, to challenge the BMC on the state of the Nations, does being disturb drive BMC to action ? as it did for Nehemiah; to pause and pray as Nehemiah did, consult the Master, transform and announce justice’; ○ Rev Ayanda Nyobole, lead final divine service on Sunday, day 3 – 22nd Feb; text based on – Ezekiel 34: 23-27 and St Matthew 6:33; Message “Together as the BMC striving for excellence in the Kingdom of God” ▪ To strive for excellence, ▪ To have values that drives choices, ▪ To stand for a cause, ▪ To surround self with passionate people and ▪ To face own demons and forgive.		