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THE BLACK METHODIST CONSULTATION

2012 MINUTES

UMTATA, CLARKEBURY DISTRICT

Prepared by Joe Mavuso & Ethel Khoza

12

Black Methodist Consultation
(A formation within the MCSA)
2012 CONSULTATION MINUTES
Umtata, Clarkebury District

Theme: Transforming Economic life Through Faith Lev 19:9-10

DAY 1, 12 July

1. Opening Devotions and Welcome

DEVOTIONS

Rev Andile Mbethe represented the Clarkebury District Bishop, Rev Abel Mnaba.

The 2012 Consultation is hosted in the historical town of Umtata, he said. He gave a brief rich history of Umtata as the host area. The area boasts the chieftainship of amaXhosa namely, the King Sabatha Dalindyebo whom the local municipality was named after - who died in exile. Further, the area is home to the former state President Nelson Mandela in the not so distant village called Qunu.

In opening the consultation Rev Mbethe read from the book of Luke 16:19 – The parable of a rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine lined.

This man was clothed in purple, the clothing and color of the top range, and he was eating well. His house has a gate which indicates the prohibition of access or entry.

Lazarus was described as a burger. Then a huge question begs, where do beggars like Lazarus come from, was he punished or was he a victim? He was not buried when he died, but the reach man was buried. In his conclusion he warned the Consultation that Spirituality without economic power is foolish.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CHURCH LEADERS IN ATTENDANCE

- | | | |
|---|---|------------------------|
| • Executive Secretary MCSA | – | Rev Vuyani Nyobole |
| • Gen President WM | – | Mrs Nobuntu Madwe |
| • Lay leader Queenstown district | – | Mr Mcebisi Godlo |
| • Lay leader Elect Highveld and Swaziland | – | Mr Sibewu Ndlumbini |
| • EMMU Director | - | Rev Norman Raphahlele |
| • Lay Leader Grahamstown | – | Mr Sikhumbuzo Nofemele |
| • General President Elect YWM | - | Mrs Zim Nyembezi |
| • Connexional Youth Cordinator | - | Rev Luxolo Mantini |
| • Bishop of the Queenstown District | - | Rev Mongameli Noqhayi |
| • Umtata Circuit Superintendent | - | Rev Andile Mbete |

Welcome by the BMC District Chairperson

Sister Ayanda Mjali extended the word of welcome to the BMC delegates in the Clarkebury district.

A SPECIAL WORD OF WELCOME TO NEW BMC MEMBERS ATTENDING THE CONSULTATION FOR THE FIRST TIME: Ms Evergreen Rulumeni.

Ms Rulumeni welcomed in a special way all new BMC members. She requested these delegates to live up to five (5) ‘F’'s – which is being:

Fruitful,
Friendly,
Fearless, and
Faultless.

Fraternal Greetings

Womens Manyano : Gen President ,Mama Nobuntu Madwe conveyed greetings to the Consultation on behalf of the Manyano in the connexion. She applauded the chairperson for his theme that is talking to the Economic life of the church.

2. CONSTITUTION OF THE CONSULTATION AND APOLOGIES

Roll call and Apologies

The Consultation General Secretary and the Recording Secretary Mr. Joe Mavuso and Ms. Ethel tendered apologies for late arrival.

The following apologies were recorded:

1. Mr. Zandile Jakavula
2. Ms. Noncedo Makwenkwe

The following districts were represented:

- Queenstown
- Grahamstown
- Natal Coast
- Limpopo
- Kimberly, Namibia & Bloemfontein
- Highveld and Swaziland
- Natal West
- Central District
- Cape of Good Hope
- Northern Free State & Lesotho
- Clarkebury

3. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

- Mr Philani Dlamini-
- Mr Krexe
- Mrs Mzana
- Mr Skumbuzo Nofemele

LISTENING COMMITTEE

- Mr Sakie Baba- Convener
- Mrs Ntontela
- Mrs Zulu
- Mr Nxasana
- Mr Mathagane

PRESENTERS

- Mr. Zola Makhatini- Convener
- Ms Tembo Khoza
- Mrs Khosi Thwabana
- Rev Makhumsha
- Rev Likhi

LETTER WRITERS

- Ntombozuko Mkefe- Convener
- Dr Chris Dali

NOTICES OF MOTION

Notices of motion were presented as

Noting that:

1. The 37th BMC Annual meeting of 2012 in Umtata notes with sadness the reported state and challenges faced by the SACC.

Acknowledges the central role the SACC plays in the ecumenism and the invaluable contribution in the struggle for freedom in SA

We therefore resolve that:

- To write a pastoral letter to the Gen Secretary Rev Mantji Pataki encouraging him at this difficult time.
- To urge the MCSA to strengthen its role to support the SACC at the National ,Provincial and local levels
- To make a donation of R20 000 to save the SACC fund.

Proposed: Rev Sydwell Mokgothu

Seconded: Rev Mzwandile Molo

Response:

Accepted – that, the BMC make a donation of R20 000 to SACC.

2. Black Methodist Consultation gathered in Umtata on the 12-15 July 2012

Note with appreciation the work done by Rev Otto Mbangula and his committee in 1985 of Black Pioneers within the Methodist Church of Southern Africa which was installed and unveiled at the then Federal theological Seminary at Imbali in Pietermaritzburg.

Also notes with both concern and disappointment that such valuable history was destroyed during the unfortunate violence in the late 1980's.

We therefore resolve that:

The BMC connexional executive Committee considers re-installing similar plaque of black Methodist pioneers at the Seth Mokitimi Seminary in Pietermaritzburg.

Mover: Brother Mdu Dlamini

Seconded: Balungi Makhathini

Response: Accepted

4. MINUTES OF THE 2012 CONSULTATION – SECRETARY GENERAL

Minutes of the previous consultation were presented on behalf of the secretariat. They were read and dealt with, corrections were done and the minutes were adopted:

Matters arising:

Land restitution – the matter will be dealt with later in the programme of the consultation.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS – REV SOX LELEKI

The Chairperson Rev Sox Leleki addressed the consultation and unpacked the theme: “Transforming Economic Life through Faith”

Reflections on the address

Why can't we get ourselves to be financially viable as a (black) church?

Why don't we look at rebranding our agenda, get our candidates to be visible

We need to learn from our mistakes and reprimand our people

We need to work on SMMS President Issue and a person that as a BMC need to support

Appoint (5 people to form a task team) to come with the analysis of the dynamics of the whole issue. The group should engage on the process of recruitment that is up and running with the post having been advertised.

The following were nominated:

1. Rev. S Mothlodi
2. Ms N Hlathi
3. Rev Bosman
4. Rev S Mokgothu
5. Rev N Nomqolo

The full address is attached (appendix A)

6. FINANCIAL REPORT – LINDI GININDZA

The Connexional treasurer presented the financial statement and the budget for 2012-2013.

The consultation engaged the report for clarification and the budget was adopted.

7. PRESIDING BISHOP'S OFFICE – REV VUYANI NYOBOLE

Executive Secretary's address:

He conveyed fraternal greetings from the Presiding Bishop and wished the BMC well as it proceeds with the work of God.

He addressed the following connexional issues:

- Economic state of the church,
- Structures review process,
- Transformation (alive or dead),

The Secretary alluded to the issue of pension fund that the church principals were alleged to have irregularly managed its finances. An adjudicator was appointed to investigate the allegations.

On Structures Review: He highlighted the following three issues:

- Structures – how we reconfigure
- Leadership - continuous improvement
- Resources – Human, financial and infrastructure

He further warned the Consultation not to be the prisoners of its own processes.

On Transformation: He invited the BMC to be a church:

- That has Authentic African poise - not colonial
- That has Meaningfully integrated cross cultures
- That is all inclusive in terms of gender ,youth and the vulnerable group
- That is mission driven and reaching out intentionally.

The Secretary invited all the black Methodists to make each and every community church a center of healing and transformation, and also challenged the BMC to change the mindset.

He shared the Presiding Bishops' Dream as:

Seeing his role as that of serving His Master and the Church as best as he can.

The PB's focus is:

- To create platforms for discerning Gods will together
- Instill a sense of belonging, mutual support and accountability
- Encourage life giving conversation
- Rekindle passion for mission and ministry
- Promote collaborative actions
- Amplify the MCSA's voice in public discourse
- Being Visible and available

8. BURSARY COMMITTEE REPORT

Recipients for 2012 are:

Rev Kedinone Mofokeng	BA Hons	New Testament	Pretoria University	R17 500	R17 500
Rev N Geja	Masters			R13 000	R13 000

- Rev. K Mofokeng has given us her progress results.
- Rev. L Mandindi was issued a bursary but did not continue with studies due to Circuit commitments.
- Philani Dlamini applied but his application was rejected because he is not an ordained minister.

Mr. Sibusiso Nxasana was nominated as the Bursary Committee Convener to relieve Mr. Muzi Mangengenene. The chairperson thanked the outgoing bursary committee for the good job over the years.

9. MEMORIAL SERVICE

Hymn 16 Sesotho ‘Ke a go boka Morena” ushered the preacher.

The service was led by Rev M. Morokane in memory for the dearly departed members of the movement in between the consultations of 2011 – 2012.

The scripture reading was taken from John 17: 20 – 26.

“We speak to people who are grieving; sometimes there are no words that can comfort them.

Sometimes they need you to just come and sit with them.

Sometimes the feel of heart beat is all what they need.

Sometimes we speak useless words that do not heal, go to the thorns so that you can feel the hurt.

Jesus felt that praying for them is enough to go deeper to their sorrows”.

May the Souls of the departed Rest In Peace!

DAY 2, 13 JULY 2012

10. BIBLE STUDY

The study was conducted by Rev. Dr. Mvume Dandala.

Hymn 9 BMC book was sung.

Opening Prayer by: Rev. Nyembezi

Scripture reading: Exodus 20:1-10 (The Ten Commandments)

The bible study was opted from the Ten Commandments to make the BMC to re – think, reflect and re-brand.

The Ten Commandments is the fundamental statement for building a nation from the remnants of the oppressed.

The Israelites encountered problems (that faced them) and they said, “Let us go back to the land of oppression”.

As they saw their enemy they became afraid, but God at that time was with them.

Joshua leads them to war and Moses stood on the mountain each time - he joins the army when the Israelites have lost. Until he realized that he had to stand on the mountain and raise his hands they conquered and when his arms were tired they had to be supported.

As he prayed he said punish me anyhow but do not let me fall in the hands of a man but on your hands.

The Israelites started to feel hungry and God provided them with manna.

When they were thirsty in Mara and encountered the bitter water, the Lord provided for them.

They had conflict among themselves. Moses was trying to solve the disputes - his father-in-law Jethro advised him to establish a judicial system appointing judges and follow principles.

Justice should be accessible to everyone

Do not allow the system to depend on one.

Choose capable people who fear God, trustworthy and who distaste dishonesty.

Moses' responsibility is of being a representative of the people to God and be an intersector.

Show them how to live and the duties they have to perform.

At the desert of asylum called the mountain he explained why he set them free, as a motivation of the deliberation of Israel.

God does not emphasize what He liberated them from, but for Himself

The purpose of the people is to live for him. This is the God who always says the sky is the limit, so ***“they need not to make any other gods.”*** He challenged the BMC to stand up and tell people that the Messiah is coming, so they need to clean their back yards. He also emphasized that the BMC was not formed to fight the white people but to stand for the blackness and encouraged all black people to be proud of that, which they are.

Moses also reminded them ***“not to misuse God's name”***. We must be strong and never underestimate our ability and strength. In emphasizing this one, he shared with us the book where Nelson Mandela says. “You must build still in your souls”.

Kingdom of Christ and the Holy Nation.

Time must be spent in molding you to the person I want you to be.

After 18 years of liberation we still use apartheid as excuse for our failures

We need to find purpose in our liberation.

What is it that God is calling his people to be?

If South Africa forgets the purpose of liberation then the BMC's task is to keep upon itself the purpose of the liberation of the people to be alive by reminding the church to be worthy of its calling and redeem SA to remember its purpose.

Transition requires more than setting up institutions, beyond institutions we need particular type of people to lead the people to the future.

People who will remember that they shall not have any other God than Him.

Exorcise them to the system of oppression.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it Holy. This says stop, rethink and reflect on the direction, God's call of your life.

“Honor your father and mother”. This say remember where you come from, think of who created you. Think and be mindful of your origins. He alluded to a book by Ngugi Wa Thiongo who warned us as Africans “to speak English but do not forget the origins”.

“Do not commit adultery, respect other nations and don’t take or steal from your neighbor.

In conclusion Rev Dandala invited the BMC to recap and go back to the manual of life, the Ten Commandments.

11. IN RECOGNITION OF OUR PAST LEADERS: Memorial Lecture on the Rev ER Mahabane by Rev. Prof. Itumeleng Mosala.

A memorial lecture in honor of the late Rev Mahabane revealed his riches as an unfearful and a strong leader in our church hence the title of his presentation as, **“Fighting a good fight”**.

“He was brilliant leader. He would face the white people without fear although the police would always look at arresting him, several times he was arrested whenever there is a student boycotts. He died in 1971. He was born in ThabaNchu and was a MCSA Minister for 63 years”.

Mahabane the priest

He was a priest who dedicated his life fully to the church.

He delivered a lot of speeches - he delivered them at different gatherings and it became clear from his speeches that he was a good shepherd who always cared about his sheep. As John claims that Jesus said, “I’m a good shepherd, as I know them, my father knows me, they will listen to my voice and they will hear me”

He understood that he needs to live out his priesthood instead of being un- priestly Priest. He was a revolutionary minister with experience in the work of the church.

This great fighter was not a black theologian though. He lived to defend Christianity. “No God, no life, this is one of Rev Mahabane’s mantra.

He was convinced that we are legislated to freedom, because of the salvation, spiritual and otherwise.

He concluded by saying we must celebrate the leadership style that he was able to provide.

Reflections:

- Rev Mahabane’s theoretical foundation of his ministry
- Appreciation of the character shared with the Consultation
- A shepherd in our days - Do we really protect the sheep

- Are we Methodists because we are Christians or Christians because we are Methodists?
- What informs questioning the relationship between Christianity and politics
- Consultation applauded the BMC leadership for this vision of honoring the past leaders of our church
- Memorial talks to be organized to honor more of our leaders who passed on
- We need to balance in our lectionary
- Comparison between being radical but relevant un-priestly priests

Rev Mosala presented the BMC with Rev Mahabane’s manuscripts of speeches he delivered in his time.

Rev Mosala’s full presentation paper is herewith attached as Appendix B.

10. STHETHESCOPE REVIEW OF THE SMMS

A report from the committee was presented.

Recommendations that were put before the Consultation by the Research committee were all agreed upon with the amend that:

An accounting committee was suggested, but only a convener must be appointed to investigate the poor accounting at SMMS and he will co-opt other members to assist.

Rev Nyembezi was appointed as the convener.

Rev Kapiyana led the Consultation in devotions ending the second day with the hymn, “Thixo ulilanga lethu”. He read from Acts 3:1-10

12. CONSULTATION ISSUES – SCHOOLS REORT BACK

SUCCESSION PLANNING – Facilitated by Rev Molo

1. Develop Training Programme that is both formal and informal.
2. Assignment of responsibilities (exposure) for performance.
3. Identifying individuals – nominated from consultation /districts
4. Ensure BMC shadow in all structures of the church.
5. Revisit the “grand plan “ (be represented at all levels of the church)
6. Guard against and /or minimize manipulation of the process.
7. Long term plan for youth participation.

How: the process to identify: Use of a template

(A) Use terms of reference as outlined in the template developed from previous engagements and resolutions.

What kind of church leader we want?

- Transformational leader.
- Listener.
- Someone who is engaging.
- Able to harmonize.
- Put black course at the center of the church.
- Must show competence.
- Pastoral caring.
- Leader who is inclusive in leadership.
- Visionary leader.
- Must be able to articulate.

(B) Processed by discernment committee.

Time should begin 18 months prior to elections.

Nominations from districts must be are sent to the February meeting.

Discernment committee will receive these nominees with the power to recommend at least one name.

One name will be submitted to July consultation, and those who did not make it will be consulted and appreciated for their availability.

Discernment committee must canvass the nominations by engaging black organizations outside the BMC.

Discernment committee should comprise of

- People with integrity
- Experience –elders within the church.
- Any person who is in the committee who has an interest must excuse himself/herself.

For the elected member

- Also develop/have support system towards the people we have elected.
- Elected members are accountable to BMC.
- Must be critiqued consultatively.

The consultation nominated Mr. Xhanti Mhlubulwana to convene the Discernment Committee.

MINISTERS PENSION FUND – Facilitated by Mr. Kid Sithole

Report not received.

STRUCTURES REVIEW – Facilitated by Mr. Mteteli Caba

The school did not have sufficient time to conclude the business and were mandated to carry the work beyond the consultation and report at the February meeting ready for MCSA Conference.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY – Facilitated by Rev Monwabisi Moses

Report not received. The school ran out of time.

13. BIBLE STUDY

Prayer by Mr. Ndlumbini

Scripture Reading - Exodus 35:30, 36:70 Jezebel and Oholio

A temple was a place where priests were meant to be

- Israelites carried the Ark of God and set a tent of meeting whenever they are.
- The institution of a temple had a significance and in the taking care of it.
- In Deuteronomy it is stated how to look after the temple.
- BMC has a responsibility to restore the significance of the temple in the lives of people.
- In the book of Revelation John sees vision of the temple /the whole creation/the word had become the temple of God.
- At the end all will be like a temple, not a place of worship. But has more meaning, more in those who behave as temples themselves.
- Why the temple has to be built?
- Think of your own church building.
- A temple signifies the sanctity of God, of the story of God, of the future of God's people.
- The temple houses the memo ring of God and the story of the people of God. And they keep the story to remember what God has done to his people.
- Psalms where people recall their suffering near the rivers of Babylon (abducted psalm by the rivers of Soweto)
- People make you sing your song in suffering.
- Songs of liberation were forced to be sang in "Afrikaans" how can we sing the songs of our fore fathers and mothers in Afrikaans which is another language.
- How many of us do tell our children in Sunday school how our fore fathers walked with God and how God walked with our heroes.
- Suggestion to BMC the story of spiritual journey of our people belongs in the sanctuary of God. That is the Lebanon sanctuaries.
- BMC made possible for not being happy only about Seth Mokitimi but also ZR Mahabane .there is a balance about these two people in our church. Their stories need to be placed in the sanctuary.
- The question is your sanctuary as representative of your people.
- We do not tell our children what the church is for, the heritage, story that we are following.
- Worshipping is not about relying on emotional feeling it is about sitting down and listening to your story "Khanya emehlweni ethu"
- There is no dignity in our churches about our story, the church is not a place for entertainment but a center for our story ,our encounter with God who is the custodian of our future, resilient of our stories and our dignity.
- The church houses the vision of the future.
- We should read and debate and know the story of the freedom charter

- We must allow the bible to be in dialogue with the Bill of Rights. How the world be blessed from the temple.
- Be in dialogue with Amathwasa (story of Nongqawuse)
- Moses called the people and asked them to build the temple of the Lord taking in consideration of their skills of building.
- Challenge is put on the BMC in the use of EBF.
- Differences should be there but the word of one Party should echo to the other side of another party so as to govern the country in a correct and fruitful manner for the sake of its people.

END,

Mr. Jakes Sefatsa thanked Reverend Dandala for presenting the bible study.

QUESTIONS

Q: How to deal with Ethnicity

A: Ethnicity is a common trend holding black people together it needs way to be harnessed for positive utilization.

Q: Nzondelelo home mission.

A: It is a part of our heritage and BMC can learn from it.

Q: Inability to hold each other accountable:

A: There is a need to build structures to assist us not to be led to corruption.

Q: Church not belongs to ministers and talk about BMC destroying the movement.

A: The church does not belong to the minister it is for everybody including the minister.

Q: Power of BMC is measured with intellectual capacity.

A: BMC need to develop papers and a lot of thinking needs to be done not about qualifications but about debates.

Q: Vision of the BMC now.

A: Integrity of the black people not to be afraid of standing tall in the face of the earth /world
Q: Remedy the not letting go on positions.

A: Acknowledge Bishop Malinga for her job well done, other people in position should learn from her.

14. RE BRANDING BMC DISCUSSION – REV. DR. DANDALA

- ❖ The BMC never focus on itself
- ❖ The Slogan: 'ilifa labazali bethu' should be "MCSA Ifa Labazali bethu" not for BMC.
- ❖ BMC should be an instrument to reclaim our heritage to transit ideas from the needs of black people.
- ❖ Force towards questions that were not asked.
- ❖ Impact decisions in conference
- ❖ Confront missions on issues that need to be debated, that are issues of the day.
- ❖ Circuits to send delegates that understand issues of circuit to synods and prepare them for conference.
- ❖ Goals to have people with understanding of issues raised.
- ❖ Blacks to be elected to correct racial imbalances.
- ❖ Driven by key principles.
- ❖ Define goals, strategies and commitment.
- ❖ Weakness is to associate black face with good leadership.
- ❖ Strategy of BMC is to hold black leaders accountable and cherish the privilege of being accountable.
- ❖ Black people to fulfill their responsibilities in society.
- ❖ Lead well in order to be followed.
- ❖ Prioritise the task of saying black people should excel in positions that they are holding.

15. ERNEST BAARTMAN FUND

Programme directors: Ms Madwe and Ms Peega

1. Queenstown :	R33349.00
2. Grahams town:	R25 587.00
3. Clarkebury :	R23305.00
4. KNB:	R21105.00
5. Natal Coastal:	R16 786.00
6. Highveld & Swaziland :	R15636.00
7. Limpopo :	R14714.00
8. Natal West:	R7 914.00
9. Cape of Good Hope:	R6811.00.
10. NFS& Lesotho:	R 2 300.00
11. Central:	R1 408.00
12. Umkhongezelo	R1402.00

Total **R171 169.00**

16. GALA DINNER

Programme Director: Mr L. Toni

Opening prayer: Mr. Mpongoma (District Lay Rep)

Welcome: Rev. V. Tshangela (Bishop Elect)

Keynote address: HON: MEC for Local Governance and Traditional Affairs Mr. M. Qoboshiyane.

- He opened his address by quoting from 2 Corinthians 12:9.
- He said that it is a month of mourning in the province due to the initiation schools
- Requested that BMC should be the vessel of the word of God.
- BMC should discuss about leadership that is in our country
- Discuss about the change of the negative portrayal that is happening in government.
- Regression is the order of the day.
- Prayer for the country not to fall on its knees.
- Becoming rich at the expense of the poor.
- Time to point fingers has passed.
- Young people not to complain but roll up their sleeves and dirty their hands.
- Hope where there is hopelessness.
- Unity of purpose among all organizations including the church to make the country a better place.
- Past, present and future of the church and its role cannot lose sight of the great religious leaders.
- He concluded by quoting Hebrew 11:6

Vote of thanks by Ms.M. Konyana

Benediction Prayer by: Mr. Mpongoma

DAY 4, 15 JULY 2012

16. DEVINE SERVICE AND HOLY COMMUNION

The service was led by the Presiding Bishop Rev S.iwa

Scripture Readings taken from: Exodus 10:3-11 and Luke 16: 19-26.

Hymn Xhosa 16

God spoke to the consultation through the PB to:

- Pray for the healing of the economic blindness
- Release “my people so that they can worship me”.
- Watch out for the locusts are coming even to your garden.
- Liberation is contrast in the list of who will enjoy it.
- God is in the stench.
- Who drives the system?
- We have not done what we were supposed to do.
- We feed the stench.

AMEN!