

BANTU METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

86th CONFERENCE HELD IN LADYSMITH CIRCUIT WITHIN THE KWAZULU – NATAL DISTRICT AS FROM THE 7th OF OCTOBER 2019 TO 11th OCTOBER 2019

TREASURER'S REPORT

Presiding Bishop Gqwa, General Secretary, District Bishops, Secretariat unit, Treasury unit, Statistical Secretary, Presidents of various Departments of our Church, Delegates from various Districts, I greet you all.

It is a pleasure indeed to be afforded such an opportunity to stand before this gathering and present this important report guided by our Church Constitution.

1. Administration

Our Church finances are faced with huge challenges of administration, consequently management, accountability and control. Our 2018 Conference at Umthatha came with an idea of holding Workshops which were successfully conducted early in the year (2019) but to no positive results.

It has since become good tendency that each time we encounter difficulties we misdirect our shortcomings. Let us admit that lack of innovations and results management are our problem and need drastic change. Let us first indicate to the house that in the 2013 Conference at Fort Beaufort a resolution to phase out pledge system was passed. The one currently known as UMNIKE (Central Fund).

This form of offering:

Unemployed and social grant pensioners: R370.00 and broken down as follows :

- Tithes (Ministerial Support) R240.00
- Connexional Assessments are R130.00 Including :
 - R50.00 Missionary fund
 - R20.00 Connexional Purpose Fund
 - R10.00 Pension fund
 - R20.00 MT Ramushu Theological fund
 - R20.00 Trust fund
 - R10.00 Ministers Insurance fund

Employed / Self employed / Other pensioners : R710.00 and broken down as follows:

- Tithes (Ministerial Support) R480.00
- Connexional Assessments are R230.00 including ;
 - R50.00 Connexional Purpose fund
 - R100.00 Missionary fund
 - R20.00 Pension fund
 - R20.00 MT Ramushu Theological fund
 - R20.00 Trust properties fund

- R20.00 Ministers Insurance fund

All monies collected to be deposited as follows:

- Account for Ministerial Support is Absa Bank account No. 925 840 2091
- Account for Connexional Assessments is Absa Bank account No. 926 570 6444
- Circuits are to note that 2016 Conference came up with an offspring of the ABC format that of R 2,000.00 plus Circuits, R 1,500.00 Circuits and the R 1,000.00 Circuits.
- Conference had also requested that Districts contribute a sum of not less than R 5,000,00 towards Rona wamathambo in 2018 most Districts failed dismally to meet their budgets.

- **Envelopes and Calendar.**

Our Constitution talk of the latter as ways and means of raising funds for our Church. In 2017 we printed Calendars at a tune R 60 000.00. Less than R10 000 was received as turnover.

- **Volunteers**

Our Youth in one of their Connexional Conference came with this idea. Young and old employed and business people with a dream should have joined the scheme. Bazalwane, let us allow ourselves to dream. A Church without members dreaming do not grow. You read that from their building structures and its total wellbeing. A big bravo to those ladies and gentlemen who since the introduction of this scheme in 2011 are still part. Their steady income had since kept the fire burning till now. Nawe lapho ukhona ngena endizeni (get into the aeroplane). Koze kube nini Umholi wenu webandla ehamba ngepublic transport eze kuwe kwiDistrict nase seketheni.

- **Connexional Departments: Club R 10,000.00**

Here we are faced with another challenge that is far from being overcome. In our church this structure is put to enrich individuals which is contrary with other denominations. With the latter it is a structure that assist the Church to grow in terms financial resources, human development, physical resources and do community outreach programs. In many instances Conference receive left overs or none if it's not Connexional year or money deliberately not being submitted to the treasury unit.

- **Grocery , Transport , Sacrament , Sunday collection**

This is one section of our which is lacking behind. Use of coins here is seen as a norm. Progressive Church denominations are no longer using the latter because the highest is R5.00. An appeal is made that R 50.00 each for grocery and transport and R10 and more each for Sunday collection and sacrament.

- **Roll books**

The Church provided each Circuit with a tool to administer and control finances and membership but that had since failed to bear fruits.

That tool end of the year is submitted back for control and filing. Circuits are required to make deposits and fax names of people who contributed money. That is also no longer happening.

2. Contributing Circuits

Monthly through out

Western Transkei: Dutywa and Macosa

KwaZulu Natal: Mehlomnyama, Bergville, Newcastle, Durban, Estcourt, Ladysmith

North West, Wits and Botswana: Mableskraal. Sometimes Pochevroom

North Western Cape: Upington

Central Transkei: Umthatha, Qumbu / Mt Free

Eastern Transkei: Mt Free

- The above situation Presiding, is solely caused by lack of accountability and don't care attitude among certain Ministers and Circuits.

3. Internal Auditing Committee

It is very unfortunate that our church is faced with so many challenges while it had in place such a structure. It is this structure that is supposed to inspect all church documents in the entire Connexion and enforce accountability. Accountability is what killed our organization. We wish to make an appeal to these officers to begin doing justice to our institution.

4. Current Economic state of Country

The rate of unemployment and poverty in the Country is huge and unbearable but not in our Church only Presiding. Recently the President of the Republic pronounced that it is high and unbearable. In our Church that is exaggerated. A certain Methodist Minister in this province over a certain radio station pronounced that elderly in his Circuit are the ones that shouldered Umnikelo out of social grant. Better paid people and business are ducking and diving. There are Circuits Presiding Bishop with delegates here in this house who do not pay Umnike but remains full members of our church. Uma ngikhula ngangazi ukuthi ubulungu bomuntu ebandleni busethikithini. Some even made claims from Districts and Connexion but cannot use that to pay Umnike instead think of family needs than our church.

5. Back to the Basics

As long as we shun use of Quarterly and Leaders meeting to make proper judgement of our state of being in our Circuits nothing will improve. Those structures will assist with information about the current state of our membership and end thumb sucking. Abakhokheli will motivate and beg people to share the little that they have with the Church unlike now. Conduct classes and do home visits, in that finances and membership will improve. Establishing Sunday schools of all ages and teach young people in the Church to fear God and tell them at an early age about the Tithe not ithikithi so that when they grew up knows exactly what to contribute.

6. External Auditing of Financial Books

Again this year we sent our books for auditing though we currently unable to craft budget as a requirement. Finance committee is urged to comply otherwise it becomes difficult for Auditors to point direction under such conditions.

We have since got assistance on the Crafting of the long expected Trust Deed document from our Auditors. A big question now is What assets? You are therefore required to assemble asset registers and value amounts. Our Audit report is incomplete when do not talk to assets and building structures.

Wishing this Conference success in her deliberations.

MZ RADEBE
General Treasurer