



UNITING REFORMED CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
CHRISTIAN MEN'S MINISTRY
CAPE REGIONAL SYNOD
c/o P O Box 522, Hermanus, 7200



CHAIRPERSON: Br M Bathembu
email: mongezibathembu007@gmail.com
Mobile: +27(0)837391762

SECRETARY: Br M Menziwa
email: mhmenziwa@gmail.com
Mobile: +27(0)826639076

CCM Cape Regional Executive strategic session jointly held with respective Sub Regions and Presbyteries at URCSA Gelvendale, Gqeberha on 6 November 2021

Herewith please find the minutes of the subject matter as indicated above for your perusal.

Present: See the attached attendance list.

Apologies: M Ndziba (Treasurer Cape Region); L Qenge and B Tyesi (Fish River Presbytery); L Faroa and A Masimala (Worcester Presbytery); Brother Mayise (Bhofolo Presbytery) and K Ncandana (Deputy Chairperson Masakhane Sub Region).

1. The screening process of the Candidates was conducted on their arrival to comply with the Covid-19 regulations.
2. **Opening and devotion:** Brother K Giba (Umthatha Presbytery) led us with a short prayer and then after Brother BA Madumane (Monti Presbytery) read from 1 Peter 2: 9-10, "But you are the chosen people, a royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." vs 10, "Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God, once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." And he also quoted Ephesians 4:10, "He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the Heavens, in order to fill the whole universe". Jesus revealed God to us. We are not without a direction. Our impact as the Ambassadors of Heaven on earth. We became the inheritance while dwelling on earth. Jesus on His resurrection from the tomb, He conducted a forty (40) days sermon after he conquered death. Jesus introduced God to us and He lives.
3. **Moment of silence:** The Deputy President Cape Region, Brother Abie Petersen led the remembrance service and invited Reverend M Wabane to officiate the moment of silence due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In remembrance of our dear late members and friends who succumbed to this virus.
4. **Constituting:** The announcement of the present was made as follows; Cape Region Executive (4 members); 4 x Sub Regions Executive (with 8 members); 11 x Presbyteries (with 26 attendees). A total of **38** CMM members all inclusive. The Guest Speaker, Reverend HH Tromp (URCSA Cape Region Moderature: Scribe); Reverend M Wabane and his spouse.

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The clearance was concluded that the article of the Church Order to constitute the structure of the meeting should always be quoted to convene the sitting. Hence the strategic meeting undertaken should be noted pertaining to the CMM attendance. Therefore, nobody should be taken as the Observer. Reverend M Wabane sponsored a guidance to the Observer status, is ONLY granted when there are credentials to effect. But in this case everyone in attendance has equal opportunity right to participate. A move to accept for the constituting of the sitting was proposed (Mthatha Attendee) and was seconded by the Sarepta Attendee. Then the President duly declared the sitting as officially opened.

5. **Welcoming:** Reverend M Wabane on behalf of the Chairperson of the Kariëga Presbytery, Brother T Klaas. He mentioned that our meeting was scheduled in the midst of the terrible global pandemic - Covid-19. As a psychological paralysis in our Society. He wrote a paper. Damaged caused by the pandemic. He quoted from the book of Jeremiah 18:7, "As the clay in the hands of the Potter, broken vessels in the hands of the mighty hand. A new vessel was created / crafted (brought into existence)." He invited the CMM not to panic and not be afraid. A new climate that the change to look at the new normal - revival of the Church. To reach the stage of renewal as the Ministry; the spiritual and financial approach to keep the Ministry alive with the new approach. How to keep the Branches vibrant and burning? He extended a word of welcome to everyone present to the wonderful URCSA Gelvendale Congregation. And also invited everyone to give self a round of applause for having the privilege to be in attendance.
6. **Guest Speaker:** Reverend HH Tromp presentation - URCSA Cape Region Scribe. See the attached self-explanatory slides depicting / display the position of the Cape Region pertaining to the Covid-19 intervention. 3 Key Principles that he mentioned for the Church to embark on to sustain for a meaningful recovery as:
 - (i) Rapid response;
 - (ii) Recovery and rebound;
 - (iii) Re-imagining (thinking) [see the attachment A].

Comments and remarks were shared by the members from the floor. It was unanimously noted that the embracing of Intelligence Technology (IT) to catch up for the Ministry to move with the fourth industrial revolution. The engagement and promotion of the Integrated Ministries for the training and developmental introduction within the Ministry is crucial. Revisiting of the timeframe of the administration of the Ministries. The crafting and drawing of the Church Order to be appropriate to cater and address the situational unforeseen challenges such as the possible pandemics, destructions (social, financial and spiritual) and/or disasters without only focusing on the procedures (judicial affairs) per se.

Brother B Diniso [Chairperson of the Emmanuel Sub Region] was asked to extend a word of acknowledgment to the Speaker. He quoted from the evangelist of Mark, where the lame man was channeled through the ceiling by four men. In order that he got the attention of Jesus Christ, who was surrounded by many in the house.

7. Any Other business item on the proposed agenda, a consensus was reached that to be removed. Hence they should be planning about the re-imagining and the minutes of the previous meeting held in Cradock, was not appropriate to the concerned session.
8. **Chairperson:** Invited the sitting to have Commissions assigned to discuss and unpacked the three principles as the CMM that Reverend M Wabane endorsed as consistency, uniformity and continuity. Four groups were allocated to analyze different topics they were assigned with and present their deliberations afterwards for consideration as well as their recommendations to be made in line with the Guest Speaker's outline.

Lunch Break [13H30 - 14H10]

Second session: Resumed after lunch and Mrs Wabane was called upon to lead the session with a short prayer. The Deputy Secretary of the Cape Region, Brother Anton Meerka he extended a word of gratitude to the former Executive members of the Cape Regional Synod, Brother BA Madumane, Brother TJ Konki, Brother M Swaartbooi, Brother B Mateta and (Brother Z Gcoyi, Brother JD Bosman, Brother Baartman and Brother S Nene in their absentia). He applauded them for their magnitude role they played during their administration term.

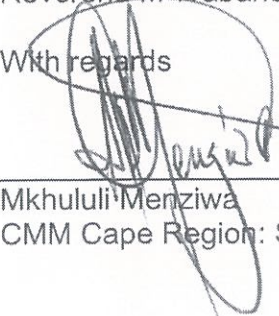
- 7.1 The presentation of the four groups and their recommendations made (see the attachment B).
- 7.2 Comments and suggestions were made by the members from the floor. Consistent consultation processes and the document discussion compiled for the alignment was raised. The Covid-19 pandemic was acknowledged hence the re-introduction on how to administer and become business inclined (this to be more accountable orientated).

Vote of thanks: Deputy President, Brother A Petersen expressed a word of appreciation and gratitude on behalf of the Executive members to many who have made this day successful and real. He wished for everyone safe trip back to their various destinations.

Chairperson: President Brother M Bathembu declared the session as officially has come to an end.

Reverend M Wabane conducted the benediction and the session was adjourned.

With regards



Mkhululi Menziwa
CMM Cape Region: Secretary



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Attachment B

Commissions report and recommendations at the CMM Cape Regional strategic session held jointly with Sub Regions and Presbyteries at URCSA Gelvendale in Gqeberha on 6 November 2021

Tasks assigned for discussions and recommendation proposals by the respective Commission groups.

Group 1.

- 1.1 In-basket exercise to view 2021/22 year of activity.
The analysis of the CMM Dash Board systematically:
 - 1.1.1 *This meeting is in fact the **New Beginning** which serves as a **Catalyst** to move the CMM forward.*
 - 1.1.2 *Congress 2022 (before September).*
 - 1.1.3 *Extend the terms of Office to the Congress.*
 - 1.1.4 *Register of this meeting (6 November 2021) to be made available to ALL; for networking and improvement in Communication.*
 - 1.1.5 *The presentation of Reverend HH Tromp to be made available (via email addresses).*
 - 1.1.6 *CMM working Committee - responsible for the remedial intervention.*
 - 1.1.7 *The scribes of the Presbyteries to compile a status report of ALL Branches; send to the Cape Region via the Sub Regions.*
 - 1.1.8 *Focus on the resources must be towards Branches and the Presbyteries.
We need active Branches.*

Pillars:

1. *To improve Communications (Language needs to be attended to).*
2. *Promote **Active** CMM Branches.*
3. *Align with the smooth flow of the Conferences and the Congresses (Branches, Presbyteries up to the Sub Regions and Synodical level).*
4. *Provide relevant updates on the status quo of the **Wards** and the **Branches**.*

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Group 2: What must we do to revive CMM activities.

2.1 What made our CMM to collapse.

2.1.1 *Lack of information about the Covid-19.*

2.1.2 *Lack of leadership.*

2.1.3 *Lack of management of plans.*

2.1.4 *Lack of the implementation plans.*

2.1.5 *Lack of commitment from the CMM members.*

Recommendations -

1. All the CMM members must take up responsibility and own their ministry.
2. Develop implementable management plans.
3. We can use voice note (system) in case the disaster comes up again.
4. We must use each an every opportunity that comes our way to do any activities.
5. CMM should be encouraged to pay their monies whilst they are sitting at home.
6. Our Church Order should be received to accommodate any eventuality that affect our CMM.
7. We need to do skills audit so that we can utilize the members who are skilled and do skill development to those who need it.
8. We need to have interrelations with our sister Churches (in support of the integrated ministries model) to encourage support one another when they have their activities to attend.
9. To improve communication from the top to the bottom (and vice versa).

Group 3. State of readiness to the next administration term, i.e. Congress preparations / Sub Regions / Presbyteries and the Branches.

We need to acknowledge the Branches for their commitment to select Executive to continue the work of the ministry.

But our recommendations are:

- a) *For the Branches to have their elections between January - March 2022.*
- b) *For the Presbyteries to have their elections between April - May 2022.*
- c) *For the Sub Regions to have their elections between June - July 2022.*
- d) *For the Regional to have their elections not later than late in February 2023.*



CHRISTIAN MENS' MINISTRY
GALILI SUB-REGION SYNOD
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REPORT: Commission 4

Interrogating the finances of the URCSA CMM.

Problem statement.

The Christian Men's Ministry is plagued with financial constraints at all management levels a situation that has persisted for a number of years.

Findings and Recommendations

FINDING	DISCUSSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
1. The election problem :	1. The elections do not afford the opportunity to put skilled members in the finances of the CMM.	CMM and perhaps the entire URCSA has to change the manner in which members are elected into the different structures
	2. Fundraising skills and management of finances lack.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members with the requisite skills must be elected into positions that require special skills. Consistent training especially where such skills are not readily available must be planned and implemented. CMM must embark on a succession plan

FINDING	DISCUSSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
2.Sources of income	2.1 Traditional levy collection and distribution is insufficient	1. Different fundraising projects must be an alternative
	2.2 The levies target the same persons. [Those that are committed to the CMM] hence they are proportional to the few that pay levies. Levies will not sustain the CMM.	
3. Inefficient collection and distribution	3.1 The collection form is not understood by contributors.	3.1 Establish an office to deal with all finances for the various ministries. This will promote stability in the finances of the CMM. Idea as done by the CWM at regional level. 3.2 Levies to be fixed for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congregation • Presbytery • Sub-Region and • Region and revised when necessary at the Regional conference.
	3.2 Sub-regions are overlooked in the distribution of levies	
4. The structural arrangement of CMM	4.1 Do we need all these current structures 4.2 As the main cost drivers what is their Efficacy and Value.	Re-imagining and re-engineering the current structures on the basis of the value added and efficacy.
5. Re-skilling	Need to employ other means of generating finances for the CMM.	Re-skilling in financial management, project management and finance policy development.

Thanks

Complied



SE Ramashala

Commission Scribe.