

PRESBYTERY OF TSHWANE

The minutes of the Executive of Tshwane Presbytery held on Thursday 20 July 2006
at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church at 15H00.

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1. Constitution

Theo Groeneveld welcomed all present and constituted the meeting with prayer at 15h15.

2. Present - Apologies - Associates

1. Present -

1. Ministers: G. Goyns, T. Groeneveld (Acting Moderator), S. Mamabolo, D. Nanyane and P. Nyauza (Clerk)

2. Elders: L. Fourie, E. Stopforth (Treasurer) and M. Thompson

2. Apologies –

1. Ministers: None

2. Elders: None

3. Associates – S. Hodgson (Administrator)

3. Nelspruit

Having read the letter from Roy Wilson, Theo Groeneveld also gave additional information which shed some light and helped the Executive to have a better understanding of the situation. The letter from Roy is attached in the Appendices.

After a discussion, Eddie Stopforth moved the following proposal:

P_3.0.1. The Executive approves a grant of R700 (seven hundred rands) to the Nelspruit congregation as from July to December 2006 and that this action be reported and condoned at the next meeting of Presbytery. It was seconded and agreed.

P_3.0.2. Furthermore it was proposed, seconded and agreed that a Consultation team be appointed to visit the Nelspruit congregation. The following people were nominated, namely, Theo Groeneveld (Convener), Violet Mashao and Peter Fourie (co-opted because of his experience though he is not a Presbyter)

29 **4. Letter of Appeal**

30 The Clerk read the two letters of appeal from Gillian Dintwe (St. Thomas-
31 Hammanskraal) and moved the following proposal:

32 **P_4.0.1.** "...The Executive receives the letters". It was seconded and agreed and open
33 for discussion.

34 1. Sello Mamabolo as Interim Moderator of St. Thomas explained the events that led
35 to the first suspension of 21st January 2006 and that she was restored as an Elder
36 on the 21st April 2006.

37 **P_4.0.2.** As there were no clear reasons given for the second suspension of 24th June
38 2006, and that Executive found no valid grounds for this action, it was then
39 proposed, seconded and agreed that the Session of St. Thomas be instructed to
40 revoke the suspension with immediate effect.

41 **P_4.0.3.** It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Executive appoints Sello
42 Mamabolo, Patrick Nyauza, David Nanyane and Ruben Kgopong and mandates
43 them as a Pastoral Mediation Team to go and resolve this tension problem
44 between Gillian Dintwe and the Session of St. Thomas.

45 **P_4.0.4.** Furthermore the Executive felt that the following should be emphasized:

- 46 1. Sessions should practice good governance and follow the policies and
47 procedures of this Church when handling any case brought to their
48 attention.
- 49 2. Sessions should at all times find satisfactory solutions to their domestic
50 problems so as to avoid unnecessary involvement of Presbytery and
51 consequently a bad reflection on them as the leadership of congregations.

52 **5. Resolutions of the Executive Commission**

53 The Clerk reminded the Executive about the four outstanding replies to the remits and
54 that this has now become a matter of urgency. These remits are as follows:

- 55 1. Elders Term of Office
- 56 2. Payment of assessments and Commissioners attending General Assembly
- 57 3. Rescinding of decision in respect of number of elders to attend General Assembly
- 58 4. Response to chapters 2, 4, 8 and 10 of the Manual of Law and Procedure

59 Presbyteries are expected to respond by either accepting, rejecting or amending.

60 In view of the fact that these remits will have serious implications should they become
61 final decisions of General Assembly, the Executive felt it has no mandate to decide on
62 behalf of the entire Presbytery.

63 **P_5.0.1.** As Tshwane Presbytery has not dealt with the remits, it was proposed,
64 seconded and agreed that the Executive instructs the Clerk to communicate the
65 following reasons and apology to the Clerk of General Assembly:

- 66 1. Change in administration system has caused delays in dealing with the
67 remits.
- 68 2. There were urgent pastoral issues that needed the attention of Presbytery.

- 69 3. Challenging work load of consultations and commissions to congregations
70 was another contributing factor.
- 71 4. Presbytery meets quarterly to discuss its own business and therefore the
72 amount of work generated by these remits could not be handled promptly.
- 73 5. Tshwane Presbytery apologises for its lack of response and promises to be
74 diligent in future and will do justice to these remits as they are sent down to
75 Presbyteries.

76 **6. Commissioners to General Assembly**

77 The Executive noted the names nominated at the last meeting of Presbytery (20th May
78 2006 at Saints).

79 Ministers	Elders
80 1. A. Cameron	1. G. Hartley
81 2. G. Duncan	2. V. Mashao
82 3. S. Mamabolo	3. P. Rathebe
83 4. P. Nyauza	4. E. Stopforth
84 5. G. Sinclair	5. M. Thompson

85 **7. Administration**

86 Theo Groeneveld gave a report that the Clerk has moved house and Telkom is slow in
87 installing landlines in this new area. That has affected the work of Clerk in terms of E-
88 mail and connection to a Fax machine.

89 The Clerk gave the undertaking that the situation will soon be normalized as he will now
90 work from the church office after security has been improved.

91 **P_7.0.1.** It was proposed , seconded and agreed that an additional R200 per month
92 travel allowance be made available to the Clerk for Travel to Emmanuel where the
93 Administrator works.

94 **8. Closure**

95 The meeting was closed with prayer by Sello Mamabolo at 16H30.

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97 Confirmation of the Minutes

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99 Confirmed this day _____ of _____ 2006

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103 _____
Clerk

Moderator

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11 July 2006

**The Moderator of Presbytery, The Presbytery Clerk, and The Ministry Committee
convenor**

It is with deep concern that we, the minister and Session of the Nelspruit Presbyterian Church request that Presbytery urgently send a consultation to us in Nelspruit.

Last year the person who processed the books for the church somehow failed to give us the whole picture of the situation of the church's finances. Therefore we appointed a new book-keeper to help us gain a more accurate perspective. This obviously took a few months to get in order due to trying to work out what was outstanding. We discovered some vital payments were long overdue, such as PAYE and UIF and Pension contributions, etc. Over the last few months it has become evident that we find ourselves in a crisis situation regarding our financial position and also our ministry position. I, the minister, Roy Wilson, am in the process of being called to Mount Faith Congregation in Krugersdorp, and this also puts added strain on the congregation. We have recently lost five committed families who were very supportive, both financially and to the ministry. This has had a negative impact on the morale of the church as well as the financial position. We include copies of our financial statements for last year and statements for the year to date in order to assist in clarifying our situation.

The situation is very unstable at the moment and we need help to try work out the best way forward through these matters. This is a matter of urgency!

Thank you for your assistance.

In Christ's Service

Roy Wilson