

PRESBYTERY OF TSHWANE

The minutes of Tshwane Presbytery Executive meeting held on Thu 22 March at Emmanuel Presby

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1. Constitution

The Moderator welcomed all present and opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Present and Apologies

- **Present:** Glynis Goyns (Saints & Moderator), Theo Groeneveld (Emmanuel & Clerk), Ewald Moerman (St John's), Eddie Stopforth (St Francis & Treasurer), Margie Thompson (Saints), Graham Duncan (Mamelodi East/TUKS), Tobie Steyn (MWC), Susan Hodgson (Administration)
- **Apologies:** Chris Moore (Highveld)

The apology was sustained...

3. Calls

The Clerk reminded the Executive that Presbytery granted the Executive permission to process these calls.

3.1. to Tobie Steyn to St Stephen's, Van Der Bijl Park

The Clerk reported on the call documents:

1. The call was signed by a healthy proportion of the congregation.

2. The Emoluments were as follows:

Stipend	3713	Medical	2000
Housing	2500	Travel	2310
Pension	880	Benevolent	500
Telephone	500	LongLeave	135
TOTAL :		12538	

3. All seemed to be in order except for Tobie's letter of "No undue influence." He agreed to write this.

After prayer and discussion the following were passed.

P_3.1.1. Presbytery approves of the call to Rev Tobie Steyn and notifies the Lekoa Presbytery accordingly. This was *Proposed, Seconded and Agreed.*

29 P_3.1.2. Presbytery transfers Rev Tobie Steyn to the care and discipline of the Lekoa Presbytery.
30 This was *Proposed, Seconded and Agreed.*

31 3.2. *Call to Zwai Mtyhobile to Beach Mission, Durban*

32 As Zwai was a probationer, the Presbytery was not sure that it was authorised to process the call as it was
33 usually done, but it was agreed to follow the normal process. In addition, the call documents had been
34 sent to Patrick and there had not been an opportunity to get them from him.

35 After prayer and discussion it was agreed that:

36 P_3.2.1. The call to Probationer Mzamadoda Mtyhobile by the Beach Mission Congregation in
37 Durban would be sustained subject to the Moderator perusing all the documentation and
38 satisfying herself that all was in order. *It was Proposed, Seconded and Agreed.*
39 ***(UPDATE: The Moderator examined the Documentation and approved.)***

40 P_3.2.2. Probationer Mzamadoda Mtyhobile be transferred to the Thekwini Presbytery.
41 *It was Proposed, Seconded and Agreed.*

42 **4. Vacant Congregations Project Suggestions**

43 Theo expressed some concerns about the slow progress of our project in terms of moving forward with
44 the filling vacancies. Here is some of the discussion that followed:

- 45 ● Church Growth, Mission and Congregational Committee should be asked to prepare a roster for
46 the Vacant Congregations to report to Presbytery so that we don't get so many reports at each
47 meeting especially when the reports are "thin" and Presbytery does not have time to discuss each
48 one. With a roster congregations would report less frequently and in greater depth.
- 49 ● Training for Interim Moderators was needed:
50 Graham presented some pertinent points from the Interim Manual.
51 Interim Moderators are:
 - 52 ● 3.16(i) responsible for the oversight of pulpit supply
 - 53 ● 5.20(e) has the right of delegation in all matters save those relating to the filling of the
54 vacancy.
 - 55 ● 5.20(f) is responsible to Presbytery for adequate pulpit supply and to see charge filled
56 with undue delay.
 - 57 ● 5.29(f) Briefs candidates preaching with a view to a call of the Presbytery's perception of
58 the needs of the congregation/
 - 59 ● 5.31 Satisfies himself that the baptismal register and roll are adequately kept.
 - 60 ● 5.32 Through session **elects a call committee** which holds meetings and reports progress
61 to congregation and presbytery.
 - 62 ● 5.33 Must preside over session meetings, call committee meetings and congregation
63 meetings when the business of those meetings relate to a call.
 - 64 ● 5.44.1 Forwards any objections to a proposed call to the Presbytery Clerk without delay.
- 65 ● Theo shared a discussion he had with Hosia Nkoana who had suggested that Vacant
66 Congregations pay Minimum Stipend or some other amount into a Presbytery fund where it could
67 grow and serve as a start-up fund.
68 This would motivate congregations to fill the vacancy more quickly to get value for their money.

69 Proposals:

70 P_4.0.1. Presbytery requests the Church Growth, Mission and Congregation Integration Committee to
71 set up a roster for vacant congregations to report back.
72 *It was proposed, seconded and agreed.*

73 P_4.0.2. Presbytery urges Interim Moderators to take note of the requirements listed above
74 *It was proposed, seconded and agreed.*

75 P_4.0.3. Presbytery discusses the idea of vacant congregations paying a minimum stipend amount into
76 a Presbytery Fund in the Indaba time at the next meeting.
77 *It was proposed, seconded and agreed.*

78 **Update: As there will not be time in the May meeting to have this discussion, Graham has**

78 formulated a proposal which will be discussed in August.

79 **5. Unfinished Business**

80 *1. Vacancies and Interim Moderators*

81 Bearing in mind the comments that came from the Indabas at the February meeting, the Executive made
82 the following decisions. On interim Moderators.

<i>Congregation</i>	<i>Interim (old and new)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1. Garankuwa:	Mansi Mohapi (More than 2 years) Patrick Nyauza (May'07-May'09)	
2. Khayakhulu:	Bonga Bosiki (More than 3 years) Mandla Hlongwane(May'07-May'09)	
3. Mamelodi East:	Graham Duncan (Two years) -----	About to call...
4. Mamelodi Gardens:	Theo Groeneveld (Two years) Theo Groeneveld to Dec 2007)	Supervisor of Probationer.
5. Nelspruit:	Harry Munnings (Oct'06-Oct'08)	
6. Phola:	Gary Sinclair (Two years) n/a	(Consultation coming - viability?)
7. Ruighoek:	Tobie Steyn (1 Year) Mantsi Mohapi (May'07-May'09)	
8. Rustenburg:	----- Chris Moore (Feb 2007-Feb 2009)	
9. St Andrews, Pta:	Danie van Zyl (Oct'06-Oct'08)	
10. St Columbas:	Dennis vd Spuy (June'06-Aug'08)	
11. St James:	Micah Nthali (More than 4 years) Micah Nthali (May'07-May'09)	No one else nearby
12. St Marks:	Andries Combrink (Jan'06-Dec-07)	Supervisor of Probationer
13. St Pauls:	Harry Munnings (More than 4 years) Harry Munnings (May'07-May'09)	No one else near by.
14. St Peters:	David Nanyane (2 Years) David Nanyane (Jan'07-Dec-07)	Supervisor of Probationer
15. St Thomas:	Sello Mamabolo (More than 2 years) Graham Duncan (Aug'07-Aug'09)	
16. Thumedi Makgahlela:	Willem Bezuidenhout Zolani Makalima (Oct'06-Oct'08)	

83
84 UPDATE:
85 Mandla Hlongwane is very sick and has relocated to Matsulu.
86 André van Blydenstein has indicated a willingness to help with Ruighoek.

87 *5.1. UPWF Report*

88 Presbytery received the report.

89 **5.2. Doctrine Report**

90 Presbytery passed proposals 1,3 and 4 of the report.

91 **5.3. Uncirculated reports: Children's Ministry, JSR, St Thomas**

92 These were approved.

93 **5.4. Notice of Motion 5 – Procedure for changeover of Interim Moderators**

94 Presbytery instructs current Interim Moderators who come to the end of their term to introduce their
95 successors to the congregation and hand-over by 30 June. (With the exception of StThomas – end of
96 Aug.)

97 *It was proposed, seconded and agreed.*

98 **5.5. Commissioners to ExComm**

99 Glynis Goyns and Violey Mashao
100 with David Nanyane and Lentikile Mashoko as alternates.

101 *It was proposed, seconded and agreed.*

102 **6. Two matters raised by Ewald Moerman**

103 Ewald had driven through especially from Middleburg to bring two requests:

- 104 1. To obtain permission to miss the May Presbytery meeting due to a sensitive pastoral function.
105 This was discussed and Presbytery agreed that it represented exceptional circumstances.
- 106 2. To give notice that he would not be attending the ministers conference at the end of May *if* the
107 P&R Committee had not fulfilled the requirements of the Assembly Decision that adequate details
108 should be circulated before the conference. He was pains to assure the Executive that he wanted to
109 be obedient to the courts of the church, but that this had become an issue of conscience and
110 principle to him.

111 Proposals:

112 **P_6.0.1.** Although he had also missed the February meeting, the Executive **agreed** to sustain Ewald
113 Moerman's apology for the May Presbytery meeting.

114 *It was proposed, seconded and agreed.*

115 **P_6.0.2.** Presbytery agrees to sustain Ewald Moerman's apology for the Minister's Spirituality
116 Conference at the end of May if he feels conscience-bound to abstain from the conference
117 because of an inadequate response from the P&R committee.

118 *It was proposed, seconded and agreed.*

119 **7. Letter from MCG Member**

120 A letter had been received from Mr Nxiwa complaining about the conduct of Rev Mohapi at a recent
121 meeting where he had insulted Mr Nxiwa. The letter and the circumstances were discussed in detail.

122 **P_7.0.1.** The Executive agreed that the two parties were urged to resolve the matter according to
123 Biblical Principles (that we should go to the person concerned and attempt to resolve the issue
124 before bringing in other people.)

125 *It was proposed, seconded and agreed.*

126 **UPDATE:** We have received a second letter from Mr Nxiwa stating that he has met with Rev
127 Mohapi who has apologised and that the matter is completely resolved.

128 **8. Closure**

129 The meeting was closed in prayer by the Moderator.

130
131 Confirmed this day _____ of _____ 2007

133 _____
134 Clerk Moderator