

PRESBYTERY OF TSHWANE

Notes from the Planning Workshop held on 28 May 2022 at Emmanuel Presby

1. Constitution:

The Meeting was constituted by the Moderator opening with devotions and prayer.

He made three points based on 1Cor16:5-18:

1. Set Goals and be Flexible (v.5-7) (James 4:13-15)
2. Capitalise on Open Doors (v.8-9)
3. Take care of People (v.10-18)

2. Present and Apologies

2.1. Present

Wayne van Heerden, Frikkie Botha, Lentikile Mashoko, Zwai Mtyhobile, Craig Morrison, Glynis Goyns, Allan Paskwababiri, Nomasonto Simelane, Thupelo Motokolo, Freddy Makgahlela, Zola Matutu, Theo Groeneveld, Dennis van der Spuy, Graham Duncan, Gumbi Tyelela, Nonceba Mashalaba, Louise Ruch, Harry Bopape, Matshidiso Piroe, Roger Tem, Buhle Mpofu, Vivian Agyei, Zolani Makalima.

2.2. Apologies

Thando Mpambani, Stephen Kriel, Dion Tappan, Sue Tappan, Tshinanne Mutshatshi, Kevin Nkitseng, Kokkie Smit, Middleburg Elder commissioners.

3. Notes from the Discussion

The morning consisted of the discussion of a number of points. This included a brief presentation about the "Going for Growth Campaign" explaining some of the suggested actions that could be taken by Presbyteries and Congregations. (See Appendix A).

Coming out of the Discussion, the following key matters were raised:

3.1. THE CHALLENGES WE FACE:

- Coming out of COVID 19
 - After covid people have been slow to return and some are not coming back at all.
 - There are numerous "Covid Aftershocks." The Economy, people's delayed trauma around bereavements, children's setbacks resulting from isolation, and many others. (Youth experts are talking about a "trauma tsunami")
 - Congregations have had financial losses over Covid.
 - Members have lost jobs or had wage cuts.
- Appointments to Vacant Congregations:
 - The appointments being made to congregations are not missional
 - Ministers are taking up appointments to earn pocket money
 - We have maintenance instead of mission

- 39 • Some of our congregations have transitory membership, people only live in
- 40 the neighbourhood for a short time and then move out or are transferred.
- 41 • We are struggling with our identity
- 42 • Racism continues to be a large factor.
- 43 We are struggling to be multicultural
- 44 • Theological challenges
- 45 There is a “theology of the head” and the authority of Scripture is
- 46 compromised.
- 47 • There is a lack of Commitment – leads to inconsistency
- 48 • Finance challenges:
- 49 Costs of Ministry and Buildings combined with Poor Economy has forced us
- 50 into austerity.
- 51 • There is still poverty and inequality especially around technology.
- 52 • We are losing our young people
- 53 through lack of relevance and lack of outreach
- 54 • Many are more Congregationalist than Presbyterian
- 55 • There is a lack of information, tools and skills especially for our members
- 56 • Communication continues to be very challenging
- 57 • There is “outside interference” going on in some congregations
- 58 • Teaching is sometimes (maybe often) “One way”
- 59 • The emphasis on technology – especially during Covid – threatens our “Body
- 60 Life.”

61 **3.2. The Opportunities we have**

- 62 • Coming out of Covid
- 63 - Churches survived and there was a sense of church beyond buildings
- 64 (*But how do we capitalise on this greater reach?*)
- 65 - Online services are a resource: A library and an outreach
- 66 - We realised that people are hungry for relationships
- 67 • To Refocus and Clarify our identity with the shake-up Covid has given us.
- 68 “Don’t waste a good crisis.”
- 69 We should be thinking about:
- 70 - Decoloniality and Integration
- 71 - Models of Ministry – How do we do ministry – Head-Heart-Hands model.
- 72 • Greater Racial and Multicultural spreads in some congregations
- 73 • Fellowship of Presbytery
- 74 A place for Wisdom, Stories and Conflict Resolution
- 75 Learning to Listen, Work and Learn together
- 76 • Pulpit exchange is a positive
- 77 • Technology should be used to connect people.
- 78 But we must help equip people.
- 79 • We need to facilitate more interactive ways of learning
- 80 • Embrace Ubuntu principles.

81 **3.3. Conclusion**

82 In conclusion, it was felt that the morning had been very beneficial even though the
83 stated goals had not all been reached. The consensus was that the fellowship had
84 been meaningful, the interactions honest and that people had felt heard.

85 While no specific next steps had been articulated, it was felt that the Presbytery
86 Business Committee would be able suggest future steps.

87 The Moderator asked Buhle Mpofu to close the meeting with prayer at 12h15.
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89 **APPENDIX: GOING FOR GROWTH** 90 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

91 **1.Presbyteries**

- 92 • Create awareness of the project through the promotional material and videos
93 provided by Communications and MaD.
- 94 • Do a survey of congregations classifying them as:
95 Outstation, New Worshipping Community, Developing Congregation and
96 Calling Congregation.
97 Also classifying them as: Growing, Stable, Stuck or Declining and formulating
98 plans around that.
- 99 • Look for opportunities to SOW (Plant new work) GROW (Get congregations
100 unstuck) and REAP (Joint evangelistic and service outreaches)
- 101 • Familiarise themselves with various resources provided by MaD for bi-
102 vocational ministry and shared ministry and consider running a Pioneer
103 Incubator project.
- 104 • Ask Congregations to use the self-evaluation tool provided by MaD when it is
105 due for a Presbytery visitation.
- 106 • Collaborate with the Fellowships at Presbytery level to run outreaches and
107 revivals.
- 108 • Promote the Order of Lay Ministries to equip local leaders.
- 109 • Consider running a Fresh Africa Missional Church Introduction or an
110 L10Transformation course to equip people in Missional Church and Outreach.
- 111 • Ultimately, each Presbytery should set goals around Sowing, Growing and
112 Reaping.

113 **2.Congregations**

- 114 • Create awareness of the project through the promotional material and videos
115 provided by Communications and MaD.
- 116 • Use the Sowing/Growing/Reaping paradigm as a discussion and self-
117 evaluation tool at session level.
- 118 • Use the self-evaluation tool provided by MaD
- 119 • If a congregation feels “stuck” it could invite MaD to arrange a visit from a
120 facilitator who could help them get “unstuck”

- 121 • Take Sessions through the Mission Shaped Introduction course by Fresh Africa
122 which is a primer to missional church.
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Moderator

Clerk

Date