



The Methodist Church of Southern Africa

Tel: +27 11 615 1616
Fax: +27 11 615 1499

Methodist Connexional Office
33 Ernest Oppenheimer Ave
Bruma Office Park, Bruma
Private Bag X11
Garden View 2047

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TO: ALL SYNOD SECRETARIES OF THE ORDER OF EVANGELISM, LP SECRETARIES, AND CIRCUIT SUPERINTENDENTS

CC: SYNOD BISHOPS, EMMU REGISTRAR, EMMU GC MEMBERS,SSS

RE: GUIDELINES FOR ORDER OF EVANGELISM AND LOCAL PREACHERS DURING COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has been felt all over the world. As the countries forming the MCSA connexion, we have not been spared the restrictions that have been imposed in an attempt to contain and flatten the curve of infections. Under the prevailing conditions we have been forced to consider developing some new guidelines for handling the business of the Order of Evangelism and Local Preachers as outlined below.

We are aware of the challenges that you may be experiencing at this time. It therefore becomes necessary that we work together in order to achieve the maximum output with minimum disruption in the training of our laity. Any difficulty experienced in applying these guidelines should be communicated to the Unit for a speedy resolution.

ORDER/LP	GUIDELINES
<p>Order of Evangelism</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Evangelists & B/W not recognized</u></p> <p>This practice of some circuits robing Evangelists and Bible Women but not following proper procedures in terms of registering them has come to the attention of conference as a serious concern. The Order of Evangelism Secretaries consultation that took place on the 18-19th February addressed this issue and came up with a recommendation.</p> <p>Guidelines: All those Evangelists and Bible Women falling under this category and commissioned before 2012 to undergo a 2 -year training that will be fully financed by the circuit concerned. Let's remove the conversation around allowances and finances; it is more of a matter to be discussed by finance unit/ circuits involved and the warden. Let's stick to the training conversation.</p>

A Christ-healed Africa for the Healing of Nations

Presiding Bishop: Rev Purity N Malinga
e-mail: presbish@mco.org.za

General Secretary: Rev Michel W Hansrod
e-mail: gensec@mco.org.za

General Treasurer: Mrs Thini Ngonyama
e-mail: finance@mco.org.za

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Studies</u></p> <p>Guidelines: Assignments for both 1st and 2nd year to be submitted on the due dates. Secretaries of synods and Superintendents are to offer academic support and assistance to Bible Women and Evangelists where possible. Any difficulties with submitting assignments during COVID-19, must be communicated with the office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>1st year training</u></p> <p>Considerations: Candidates who are received by synods 2020 will ordinarily have proceeded to a 1 week training which is held annually in October. The utilisation of technological means to facilitate training will not be accessible to a majority of the members of this order.</p> <p>Guidelines: The nature of the training is contact and oral based. The 1st year of training is therefore impossible at this point. 1st year training will resume in 2021.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Candidates 2020</u></p> <p>Considerations: Screening of those coming into the order have not taken place in all Synods. With a great number of Synods having not held screening interviews for those coming into the order, it would be unfair to proceed with half the candidates and leave out the rest.</p> <p>It would also be a futile exercise to receive candidates and be unable to train them this year because of the nature of our training which is oral and contact based.</p> <p>Guidelines: Freeze candidature and proceed in 2021 picking up from whichever phase the candidate was in on their journey. This should be communicated to all Circuits.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Graduation 2020</u></p> <p>Guidelines: Postponed until further notice.</p>
<p>Local Preachers</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Amnesty For Preacher’s Recognised without Accreditation</u></p> <p>Considerations: There exists within the Connexion, preachers who were recognized and or robed in circuits without having undergone studies and training. These preachers have not been accredited by the Church as they have not fulfilled the requirements</p> <p>Guidelines: It is required that such preachers register with the appropriate body for studies in 2021 and complete these studies by the end of 2022. The years 2021 and 2022 will be amnesty years. Preachers who take advantage of these years of amnesty will not have their local preachers status revoked.</p>



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FCM

Considerations: The nature of the course requires contact sessions and oral examinations. These cannot be done whilst on lock down.

Guidelines: There will be no FCM intake for 2020. Examinations for those engaged in studies cannot take place. A freezing of the course until 2021 is necessary.

CCM

Guidelines: Students engaged in 1st semester studies are to submit their assignments so that the semester is closed as smoothly as possible. Difficulties with the submission of assignments must be communicated to the office.

CCM second semester registrations cannot be processed till further notice as we are unable to post study material

Wesley Studies

Guidelines: Students are to continue submitting their assignments. All difficulties must be communicated to the office.

SMMS and TEEC Students

Considerations: EMMU has communicated with TEEC and SMMS on the struggles that COVID-19 poses to our preachers in their institutions.

There has been an agreement that struggles with submission will be taken into consideration as many preachers rely on internet cafes in sending their assignments.

Guidelines: All assignments must be submitted on their due dates. Difficulties with submission must be communicated with the relevant institution.

Quarters Travelled

Guidelines: All quarters to be frozen until it is possible to meet.

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