



PROJECT 4 LET'S UNPACK

RAE M

WHAT IS A CONGRESS!

- A **CONGRESS** IS A FORMAL MEETING OR ASSEMBLY OF REPRESENTATIVES, DELEGATES, OR MEMBERS OF A PARTICULAR GROUP OR ORGANIZATION. THE PURPOSE OF A CONGRESS VARIES DEPENDING ON ITS CONTEXT BUT GENERALLY INCLUDES DISCUSSING, DELIBERATING, AND DECIDING ON IMPORTANT MATTERS, POLICIES, OR ISSUES.

- **TYPES OF CONGRESSES**

1. **POLITICAL CONGRESS:** IN MANY COUNTRIES, SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES, A CONGRESS IS A LEGISLATIVE BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING LAWS AND GOVERNING.
2. **PROFESSIONAL CONGRESS:** ORGANIZATIONS, PROFESSIONS, OR INDUSTRIES OFTEN HOLD CONGRESSES TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS, SHARE KNOWLEDGE, AND NETWORK.
3. **RELIGIOUS OR COMMUNITY CONGRESS:** GROUPS WITHIN A RELIGIOUS OR COMMUNITY SETTING MAY HOLD CONGRESSES TO ADDRESS SPIRITUAL, SOCIAL, OR ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS.
4. **ACADEMIC CONGRESS:** SCHOLARS AND RESEARCHERS GATHER AT ACADEMIC CONGRESSES TO PRESENT FINDINGS, DISCUSS THEORIES, AND COLLABORATE ON STUDIES.

IMPORTANCE OF A CONGRESS

1. **DECISION-MAKING:**

- Provides a platform for representatives to debate and decide on significant issues or policies affecting the group, organization, or society.

2. **KNOWLEDGE SHARING:**

- Facilitates the exchange of ideas, innovations, and expertise among participants, especially in academic and professional congresses.

3. **NETWORKING:**

- Offers an opportunity to establish relationships, partnerships, or collaborations among individuals with shared interests or goals.

4. **STRATEGIC PLANNING:**

- Enables organizations to set goals, review achievements, and plan for the future collectively.

IMPORTANCE OF A CONGRESS

1. REPRESENTATION:

- Ensures that diverse voices and perspectives within the group or organization are heard and considered.

2. ADVOCACY:

- Creates a unified platform to promote specific causes, policies, or objectives to a broader audience or governing body.

3. COMMUNITY BUILDING:

- Strengthens the sense of belonging and unity within a group, fostering collaboration and mutual support.

4. ACCOUNTABILITY:

- Provides a space for reviewing and reporting progress, ensuring transparency and accountability in leadership or operations.

- BY BRINGING TOGETHER INDIVIDUALS OR REPRESENTATIVES, CONGRESSES PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN FOSTERING DIALOGUE, MAKING COLLECTIVE DECISIONS, AND ADVANCING SHARED OBJECTIVES.

SECTION A: ORGANIZING THE MISSION CONGRESS WORKSHOP

○ **Planning the Workshop**

1. **Invitation Letters**

- Draft formal letters inviting participants from all demographics (youth, adults, mission groups, church leaders, etc.). Mention the importance of the workshop in shaping the future of the MCSA's mission and its relevance for the Mission Congress 2025.

2. **Advertising Methods**

- Utilize church bulletins, WhatsApp groups, posters in community spaces, announcements during services, and social media platforms.
- Gather evidence such as screenshots, physical posters, and announcements.

3. **Gatekeepers' Consent**

- Obtain formal consent from the Circuit Superintendent, Society Stewards, and other relevant leaders.

4. **Participant Demographics**

- Prepare an attendance register capturing age, gender, and church roles. Ensure data is signed off by the Circuit Superintendent.

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2. **Workshop Programme**

- **Opening Devotion and Introduction**
- **Review of Previous Mission Congress Resolutions**
- **Group Discussions on Key Themes**
- **Theologies Emerging Today**
- **Recommendations for Mission Congress 2025**
- **Feedback and Closing Session**

3. **Evaluation Report**

- Document the facilitator's feedback on participation, insights, and the success of the workshop.

SECTION B: WORKSHOP OUTCOMES REPORT

- **1. Evaluation of the 2004 and 2016 Mission Congresses**
- **The 2004 Mission Congress introduced the Mission Charter, focusing on the four imperatives: spirituality, justice, evangelism, and empowerment. It birthed resolutions addressing holistic mission practices, such as:**
 - **Healing Ministries: Promoting spiritual and physical well-being.**
 - **Empowerment: Training in evangelism and combating socio-economic disparities.**
 - **Inclusivity: Encouraging diversity across race, gender, and age.**
- The 2016 Congress emphasized listening and inclusivity, fostering dialogue across Methodism's diverse communities. Challenges remain in implementation:
 - **Successes:** Introduction of HIV/AIDS initiatives and deeper ecumenical cooperation.
 - **Challenges:** Resistance to change in some Circuits and lack of resources for broader mission work.

2. THEOLOGIES EMERGING IN TODAY'S CONTEXT

- The church continues to engage with pressing socio-political and spiritual issues:
 - **Liberation theology**: addressing systemic inequality and poverty.
 - **Eco-theology**: recognizing the environmental crisis as a spiritual issue.
 - **Contextual theology**: embracing african spiritual traditions within the christian framework.
 - **Mental health ministry**: responding to the rise in psychological distress, promoting care within communities.
- These theologies reflect the mcsa's ongoing commitment to transformation as articulated in **obedience '81**.

IMPLEMENTATION FOR 2025 MISSION CONGRESS



- TO ENSURE THE 2025 CONGRESS ACHIEVES TANGIBLE IMPACT:

- **THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS:**
 - Empower Circuits to address mental health, youth unemployment, and ecological challenges.

- **PRACTICAL STEPS:**
 - Develop resource-sharing platforms for Circuits.
 - Train facilitators in contextual theology and mission imperatives.

- **MONITORING AND EVALUATION:**
 - Establish quarterly check-ins for resolution implementation.

- THE FOCUS SHOULD BE ON ALIGNING EFFORTS WITH THE CHURCH'S VISION OF "A CHRIST-HEALED AFRICA FOR THE HEALING OF NATIONS".

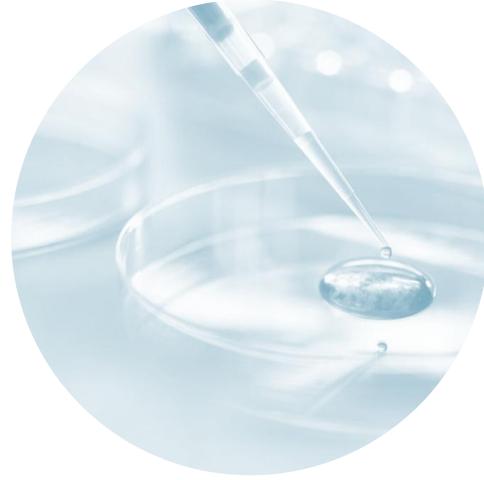
- **CONCLUSION**

- THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA HAS A RICH LEGACY OF MISSION, REFLECTED IN OBEDIENCE '81, THE JOURNEY TO THE NEW LAND, AND THE MISSION CHARTER. BY LEARNING FROM PAST CONGRESSES AND EMBRACING CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES, THE CHURCH CAN REAFFIRM ITS COMMITMENT TO TRANSFORMATION AND HEALING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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QUESTIONS



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