

**THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**



**Management of Church and Personal Finances  
Superintendent Training  
20 August 2025**

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# SOURCES

- Money web articles
- MCSA Book of Order – 2016 edition
- MCSA Year-Book
- Illustration - MCSA Compliance Documents (MCSA Website)



# The impact of the economy on Church Finances



## The global economy's strange crossroads

China's leaders love slogans. From 'supply-side reforms' to 'housing is for living, not speculation'.

By Francois Stofberg · 19 Aug 2025 ⌚ 04:07



### Avoiding the debt trap: Household conversations you should be having

SAFM Market Update



### The steady decimation of SA's middle class over the last decade

Moneyweb

Most South Africans had 53% less disposable income in 2024 than in 2016 ...

**Ninety One** | **Women & Investing**  
In partnership with **Moneyweb**

### Ninety One webinar

### WATCH: Ninety One Women & Investing Seminar, in partnership with Moneyweb

Moneyweb

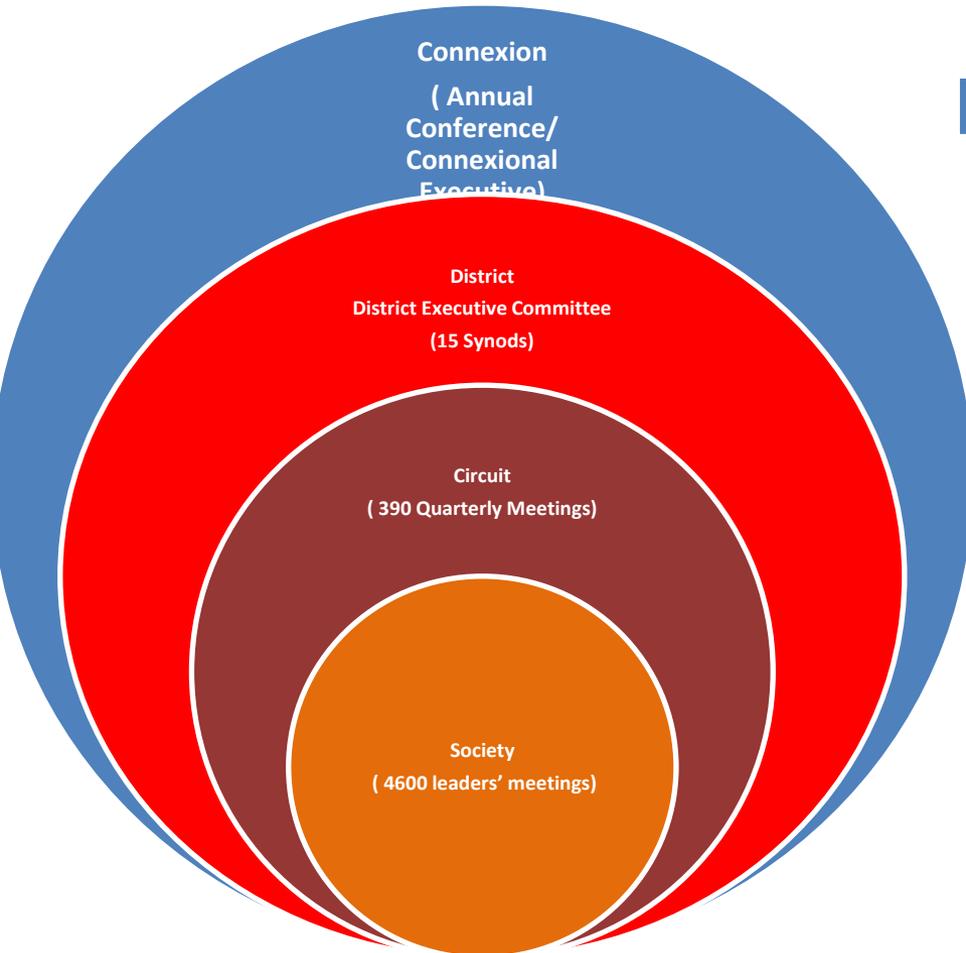
Watch Moneyweb and Ninety One's free virtual seminar to take charge of your financial future – featuring expert insights, real-life stories and practical strategies tailored for every woman.



The next economic phase will favour realistic policies that restore demand, align capacity with needs, and build lasting growth. Image: Brian Jackson/AdobeStock



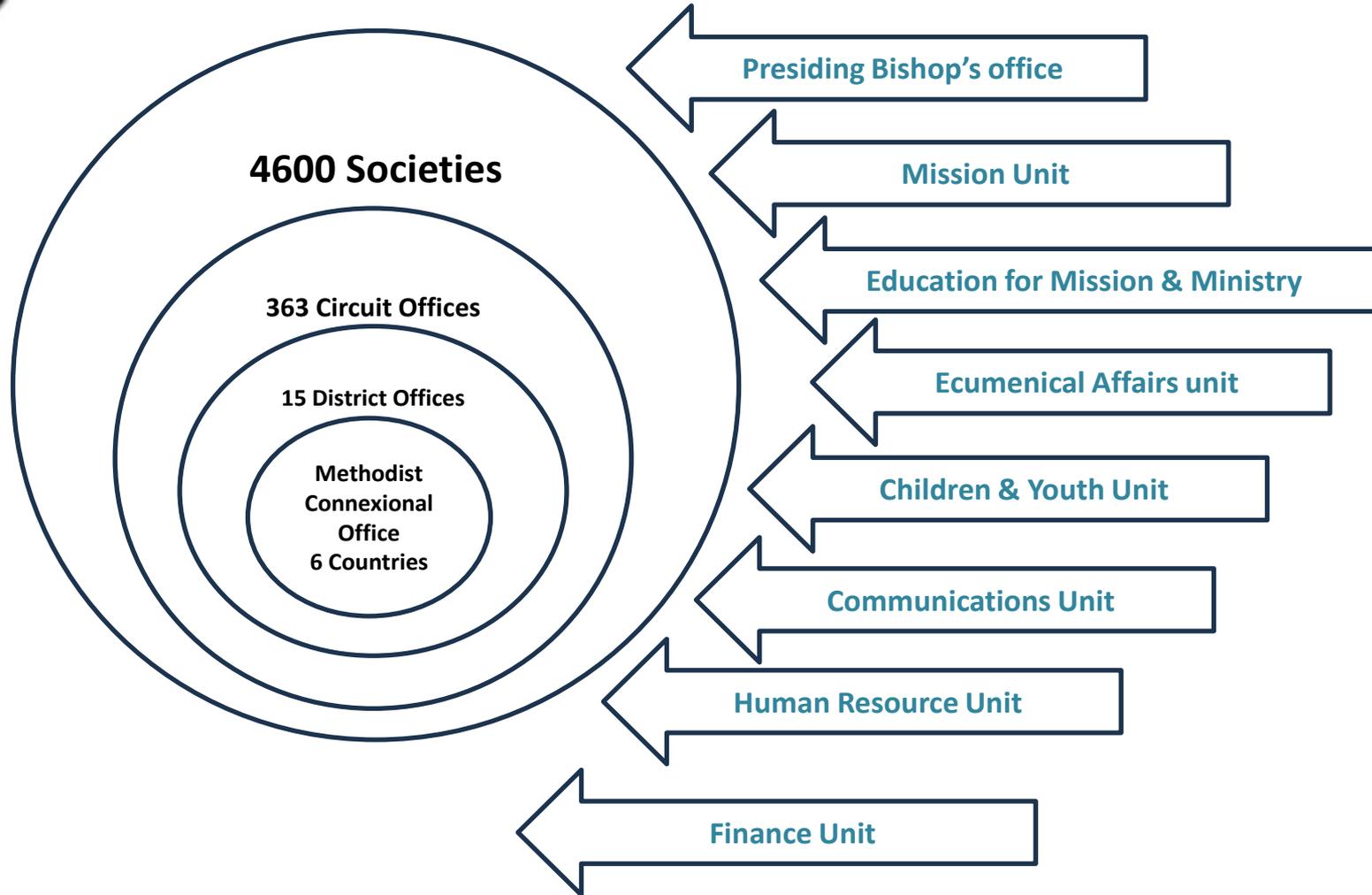
# Structures and Units of the church



- Mission Unit
- Finance Unit
- Education for Mission and Ministry Unit
- Communication Unit
- Ecumenical Affairs Unit
- Human Resources Unit
- Children and Youth Unit



# Structures and Units of the church





# MCSA FINANCE UNIT



The Finance Unit has responsibility mainly for the following  
(Book of Order 8.7)

- 8.7.1.1 Pension/Providend funds
- 8.7.1.2 Payment of stipends and pension
- 8.7.1.3 Insurance of church properties
- 8.7.1.4 Medical aid
- 8.7.1.5 Property

NB: Without proper management of finances at Circuit and Society level the church cannot be able to provide the above benefits.



# WHY DO WE NEED FINANCES IN THE CHURCH

## Vision

A Christ healed Africa for the healing of nations

## Mission

God calls the Methodist people to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ for Healing and Transformation

## Mission Imperatives

- 1) Spirituality
- 2) Development and Economic Empowerment
- 3) Evangelism and Church Growth
- 4) Education and Christian Formation
- 5) Justice, Service and Reconciliation



# MANAGEMENT OF CHURCH FINANCES



# QUARTERLY MEETING AND CHURCH FINANCES - BoO



7.10. *The powers and duties of the Quarterly Meeting are inter alia:*

- 7.10.7. to appoint a Circuit Auditor and, if considered necessary by the Meeting, a Circuit Treasurer;
- 7.10.8. the Circuit Treasurer shall be appointed after careful consultation between the Superintendent Minister and the Circuit Stewards and ratified at the October Quarterly Meeting. The appointment shall be for a 3 (three) year term renewable up to a maximum of 3 (three) terms;



# QUARTERLY MEETING AND CHURCH FINANCES - BoO



- 7.10.9. to appoint, if considered necessary, a Circuit Finance Committee to assist in the management of Circuit finances. Such a Committee shall be representative of the Societies in the Circuit;
- 7.10.10. to make provision for Circuit expenses and to pay, through the Circuit Stewards, all claims on Circuit funds including traveling expenses within the Circuit, the amounts due to Connexional Funds and the stipends and other allowances of the Ministers;



# QUARTERLY MEETING AND CHURCH FINANCES - BoO



- 7.10.11. to consider paying an allowance in lieu of rent to Ministers who provide their own accommodation;
- 7.10.12. to receive reports of contributions of the Circuit to Connexional Funds;



# SUPERINTENDENTS AND CHURCH FINANCES - BoO



*7.18 The powers and duties of the superintendent are inter alia:*

7.18.7 to decide whether to permit any appeal for funds made by or on behalf of organisations from elsewhere in the Connexion, or made by external organisations. Such permission must be in writing;

7.18.8 to hold in safe custody and to keep with accuracy the Circuit records and registers of people and property and, on moving from the Superintendency, to submit these to the new Superintendent;



# SUPERINTENDENTS AND CHURCH FINANCES - BoO



7.18.10 to ensure that an exact inventory of the furniture, belonging to the Church, in each Minister's house is prepared and periodically corrected by the Circuit Stewards and the Minister in residence;

7.18.11 to prepare and forward, after being approved by the Quarterly Meeting, the Reports and Schedules required by Synod or the Committees or officers appointed by the Connexional Executive;



# SUPERINTENDENTS AND CHURCH FINANCES - BoO



7.18.13 to ensure that all monies held by organisations or departments in the Circuit are reported to the Quarterly Meeting, and the accounts audited before being presented to Synod;

7.18.14 to ensure that all collections and assessments for Connexional Funds are made and remitted according to the directions of the Connexional Executive.

7.18.15 to report all Bequests to Synod;



# SUPERINTENDENTS AND CHURCH FINANCES - BoO



## ***Circuit Finances:***

- 7.23 The chief sources of Circuit income are: Assessments levied by the Quarterly Meeting on the Societies, Donations, and the Offerings of the people whether in pledged giving, weekly collections, or contributions in the Classes.
- 7.24 The funds of the Church shall be operated only through a Bank Cheque Account in the name of 'The Methodist Church of Southern Africa, ..... Circuit', and shall be managed by the Circuit Stewards under the direction of the Quarterly Meeting. The Church's financial policy as recorded in the Policy Manual which is obtainable from the Methodist Connexional Office shall be strictly adhered to. In no circumstance shall any monies of the Church be placed in the account of a Minister or anyone else.
- 7.25 No Circuit, Society or organisation shall overdraw any account of the Church or enter into a hire-purchase agreement in the name of the Church without the permission of the General Treasurers.



# SUPERINTENDENTS AND CHURCH FINANCES - BoO



- 7.26 Financial statements prepared for Societies and Circuits by a person other than a registered accountant shall be audited by a person with an accounting qualification, whose qualifications shall be stated in the audited financial statements.
- 7.27 A Circuit which does not meet its assessment or any other financial commitment for three consecutive months shall, until it meets its obligations, lose control of its finances, choice of ministerial assistance, and the right to have a Minister within the Circuit as its Superintendent. The Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Bishop, is empowered to appoint a Commission to supervise the finances of such a Circuit, and to institute an investigation to examine the viability of the Circuit with a view to amalgamation with or incorporation into another Circuit, or disbandment if necessary.



# SUPERINTENDENTS AND CHURCH FINANCES - BoO



- 7.28 No financial appeal by or on behalf of any Circuit or Methodist Institution shall be made without the consent of the District Finance Committee and the Bishop. Any financial appeals, to a Circuit, from outside the Church, shall be made through the Superintendent and with his/her *written approval in order to expedite the process of such appeals*.
- 7.29 All organisations within the Circuit making any donation to, or conducting business with an outside organisation shall do so only with the written approval of the Superintendent.



# SUPERINTENDENTS AND CHURCH FINANCES - BoO



- **7.30 Affiliation with other Organisations**

No Organisation within the Church shall affiliate with an outside organization without the approval of the Superintendent, who may consult the Bishop if necessary.

- **7.31 Loans**

No loan from Circuit or Connexional Funds may be made to any private person or body.

- **7.32 Matters Referred to Quarterly Meetings**

Superintendents and Circuit Stewards are to ensure that all matters sent down for debate in Quarterly Meetings be so debated and that failure to do so is a breach of our discipline.



# CIRCUIT STEWARDS AND CHURCH FINANCES - BoO



- 7.21.1 to provide for the effective operation of the Circuit subject to the directions of the Quarterly Meeting;
- 7.21.2 to manage all Circuit funds on behalf of the Quarterly Meeting and in conjunction with the circuit finance committee where it exists. No other person shall perform this duty and the Circuit Treasurer, where appointed, shall operate under the direction of the Circuit Stewards.



# CIRCUIT STEWARDS AND CHURCH FINANCES - BoO



- 7.21.3 to open a Banking Account in the name of 'The Methodist Church of Southern Africa, ..... Circuit' and jointly to operate thereon. The signatories on the Banking Account may include the Superintendent or a duly appointed deputy;



# CIRCUIT STEWARDS AND CHURCH FINANCES - BoO



- 7.21.4 to pay to the Connexional Office the amounts due to the Connexional Funds and the stipends and other allowances of the Ministers, and all other claims on the Circuit funds;
- 7.21.5 to keep proper accounts of income and expenditure, and to submit them to each Quarterly Meeting;
- 7.21.6 to have the annual financial schedules audited and to submit them to Synod;



# SOCIETY STEWARDS AND CHURCH FINANCES - BoO



- 7.49.3 to ensure that all approved Collections are duly made at the proper time;
- 7.49.4 to take charge and keep an account of collections for Circuit and Connexional funds, and to remit to the Circuit Stewards without delay;
- 7.49.5 to pay to the Circuit Stewards all funds due to the Circuit;



# Personal Financial Wellness



# Personal Financial Wellness



## Wellness Is Personal

Just as physical wellness looks different for a marathon runner than for a retiree, financial wellness varies from person to person. A young graduate starting their first job will have different financial needs and goals than a parent raising three children or a small business owner nearing retirement.

Yet despite these differences, financial wellness can be understood through **universal principles**:

- **Clarity:** You understand your financial situation.
- **Control:** You manage your money intentionally.
- **Confidence:** You feel secure about your financial future.
- **Capacity:** You can handle financial shocks and pursue opportunities.

## The Myth of the Financial Expert

Many people believe that financial management is the domain of professionals—bankers, accountants, or economists. But here's the truth: **if you earn, spend, save, or plan, you are a financial manager.**

You may not wear a suit or carry a calculator, but every decision you make—from buying groceries to choosing a job—has financial implications. And every person who engages in economic activity has the **capacity and responsibility** to manage their finances.



# Personal Financial Wellness



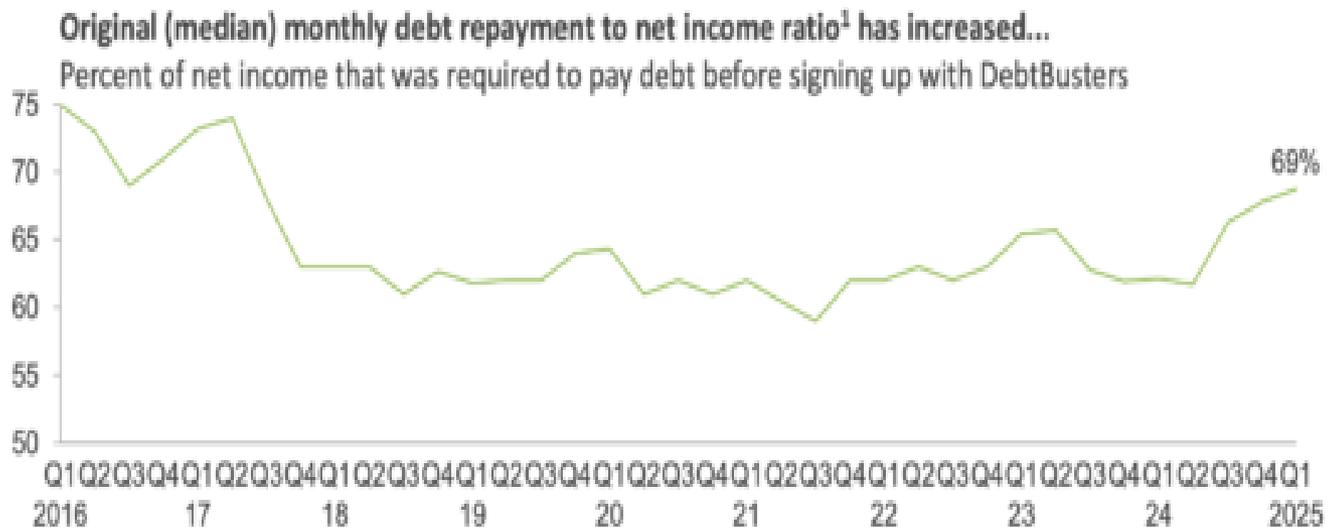
Over the past five years bread and cereals prices have increased by 44%, while the household cost of domestic worker wages has increased by less than 20%. Image: Leon Sadiki/Bloomberg



# Personal Financial Wellness



Overall, one can see that the overall “debt service ratio is higher where consumers need 69% of their take-home pay to service debt, which is a significant increase from previous quarters and is at the highest level since 2017.”



Source: DebtBusters Q1 2025 Debt Index



# Personal Financial Wellness



## Retirement in actual rand values

When discussing retirement with potential clients, this wealth manager and investment strategist always begins his presentation with a single figure: R2 310.

13 August 2025 04:04 / By [Schalk Louw - PSG Wealth Old Oak](#)



If you know you won't be able to live on this amount post-retirement, you do need to keep reading. Image: AdobeStock

When discussing retirement, I always begin my presentation with a single figure: R2 310.

I can guarantee it will raise a few eyebrows among those I'm speaking to. The message is simple: if you can live on R2 310 per month in today's purchasing power, then there's no need to read any further – you're ready to retire right now.

This is the amount the government provides if you're over the age of 60 (it rises to R2 330 per month if you're over 75). However, if you know you won't be able to live on that amount and have made little or no provision for retirement, then unfortunately, you do need to keep reading.



# Personal Financial Wellness



In other words, you need to set aside about 8% of your income and ensure your salary grows at least by inflation each year to reach your goal.

Capital required in today's value to cover consumption expenditure over different time periods, well as how much you would need to save monthly

Withdrawal Rate	4.90%
Inflation	5.00%
Growth Rate	8.00%

	Consumption expenditure				
	R12k p/month	R24k p/month	R36k p/month	R60k p/month	R120k p/month
Before Income tax	12 122	27 532	44 834	84 035	188 226
Income before tax to cover 70% consumption expenditure	17 143	34 286	51 429	85 714	171 429
Capital needed today to provide income	4 198 251	8 396 501	12 594 752	20 991 254	41 982 50



# Personal Financial Wellness



Years until Retirement	What I will need to save per month to reach my goal				
45 Years	R438.82	R877.65	R1 316.47	R2 194.12	R4 388.24
40 Years	R685.39	R1 370.78	R2 056.17	R3 426.95	R6 853.89
35 Years	R1 085.80	R2 171.60	R3 257.39	R5 428.99	R10 857.98
30 Years	R1 753.20	R3 506.40	R5 259.60	R8 766.00	R17 532.00
25 Years	R2 907.07	R5 814.14	R8 721.21	R14 535.34	R29 070.69
20 Years	R5 013.11	R10 026.22	R15 039.33	R25 065.56	R50 131.12
15 Years	R9 206.22	R18 412.45	R27 618.67	R46 031.12	R92 062.24
10 Years	R18 988.76	R37 977.52	R56 966.29	R94 943.81	R189 887.62
5 Years	R52 135.73	R104 271.46	R156 407.19	R260 678.65	R521 357.29



# Personal Financial Wellness



## The real cost over time

Here's what 6% annual inflation does to R20 000/month in purchasing power:

Year	Real value of R20 000/month (in today's rands)
Year 5	R14 920
Year 10	R11 130
Year 15	R8 300
Year 20	R6 190

Without inflation-beating growth, that R20 000 pension will feel more like R6 000 two decades from now.



# Personal Financial Wellness



**Tax-free savings account (TFSA):** This is an obvious one for any investor. You are allowed to invest R36 000 per year and up to R500 000 over your lifetime. These limits apply only to your contributions – the portfolio itself is allowed to grow to any limit, and all proceeds are completely tax-free.

It will take you 14 years to “fill up” the investment. Ideally after this, if you can allow the investment to compound, the benefit also compounds. Our view on this product is to invest it in 100% equity given that you need to employ a longer-term mindset. In addition, you won’t have any of the downside with tax payable on growth earned.

For example, if you invest R36 000 annually for 14 years, assuming a 12% average return (100% equity exposure), your investment could grow to approximately R1 166 133.69. If you then make no withdrawals and allow it to compound for another 10 years, you could end up with R3 621 834.22. It’s important to note that if you invest the R36 000 at the beginning of the year, rather than at the end, it will have a different outcome in values.



# Personal Financial Wellness



**When and about, among others, should retirees have ‘the talk’ with family?**



*Thank You*

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