

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA  
IN LIMPOPO

DIOCESE OF ST MARK THE EVANGELIST

*Minutes of SESSION 4 and 5 of the ELEVENTH DIOCESAN SYNOD  
held at Christ Church Cathedral, Polokwane,  
on the 22nd August 2015*

1. **Morning Prayer and Bible Study** commenced at 08h00 led by Mopani Archdeaconry. The theme was "Development using Church resources".

**Session 4**

2. The Registrar confirmed that a **quorum** was present and Synod resumed at 9h00. Bishop Martin opened the proceedings in prayer and then welcomed all those especially present for the day including members of the Legal Team.

3. **Presentation and Reading of Petitions**  
None were presented.

4. **Notice of Motions** (arising from Bishop's Charge/Additional Motions)

The following additional motions were presented:

- 4.1 **Motion 10**

Proposer: Michael Mokosholo      Seconder: Bertha Gowera

This Synod, whilst appreciating the various "Growing the Church" initiatives which have developed in our Diocese, recognizes that there is often a lack of accountability and a failure to implement on the part of the leaders and Parish reps, and so respectfully requests the Bishop to remind clergy and lay reps who attend various trainings and workshops that they are expected to communicate back to their parishes what they have learnt and to implement any new ideas and skills which they may have gained.

- 4.2 **Motion 11**

Proposer: Solomon Makololo      Seconder: Gail Blunden

This synod, recognizing the goal of every parish is to have a stipendiary rector, team of self-supporting clergy and many lay leaders, notes that problems may arise in these parishes if the leaders do not meet together regularly, and so requests the Bishop to set in place procedures which compel rectors to have regular staff meetings and to create other opportunities, apart from the parish council meetings, for sharing and communication to happen.

- 4.3 **Motion 12**

Proposer: Gail Blunden      Seconder: Ishmael Mokgoloboto

This Synod, acknowledging the need to engage with the youth on every level, and recognising their love for and involvement in technology, requests the Province to consider providing an "app" for cell phones and tablets that would enable people to have instant access to the

Prayer Book as they already do for the Bible, so that youth may engage with and get to know the prayer Book alongside the Bible as a resource for their Anglican Spiritual Formation.

5. **Notice of Questions**

None

6. **Measures to amend Diocesan rules: 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.**

Synod received the Report from Committee of Synod outlining the final wording of Rule 26 as follows:

**Rule 26**

In exceptional circumstances, in every chapelry or parish where the numbers are either very small or where there are no new people to serve on the new council, those who have served for more than six years may continue serving- provided that vestry has:

1. Been made aware that every effort must be made to find fresh members,
2. Has agreed on a two-third majority vote that Rule 26.2.1\* cannot apply,
3. The bishop has given his prior consent.

*\*Renumbered accordingly for rules 27, 28 and 29*

7. **Motions submitted in advance**

7.1 **Motion 3 :**

**Community Development & Social Responsibility**

Proposed by: Rev Shearsby Mupfudzapake

Seconded by: Rev Philip Moseki

Emerging from the discussions at the DFB Lekgotla on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2015, this Synod notes that:

- 1) It is imperative for all parish and chapelry councils to consider community development and care of the environment as an integral part of their responsibility, in keeping with Canon 28. 4 of the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and the Diocesan Rules 28.8.1 and 29.12.1;
- 2) This is in keeping with the example and teaching of Jesus, highlighted by his stated mission in Luke 4:18-19 and his warning in Matthew 25:31-46;
- 3) Many church properties are under-used: land that could be used for vegetable gardens, buildings that could be used more effectively for community needs, and roofs that could help harvest rainwater;

This Synod therefore:

- 1) Calls on all chapelry and parish councils to develop ways to use their land and buildings to serve the wider community, and to include their young people in these projects;
- 2) Directs that Archdeaconry meetings should take on a wider and more exciting, functional role in the life of the Diocese in this area. Archdeaconry meetings should be the formal forums for monitoring and coordinating Community Development as well as the Orphans and Vulnerable Children and the Rooted in Jesus programmes.

**Motion 3 was approved by Synod.**

7.2 **Motion 4 :**

## **Youth Volunteers**

*The following motion arises from Diocesan Youth Synod held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015*

Proposed by: Rev Pat Lennox  
Seconded by: Rev Kwena Makgoka

This Synod notes that:

The youth of the Diocese at the Youth Synod held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015 recognise that the role of the church includes reaching out to the needy (spiritually, materially, emotionally, socially and educationally) in the surrounding communities. Church buildings and land can be used for vegetable gardening, child care, homework clubs, support groups, drop-in centres and many other community and family support activities.

In the light of this and especially in the light of the teaching of Jesus, the Youth Synod calls on Diocesan Synod to adopt the motion below:

Therefore:

This Synod respectfully requests the Bishop to set up a formal programme for young interns and volunteers. This should involve training and opportunities to help churches to serve their local communities, for the purposes set out above.

### **Motion 4 was approved by Synod**

#### **8. Motion 10 (see 4.1 above)**

Proposer: Michael Mokosholo      Seconder: Bertha Gowera

### **Motion 10 was approved by Synod**

Synod adjourned for tea at 10h50

Delegates returned to Conference at 11h15 to discuss the Development Reports.

#### **9. Midday Prayers**

At 12h15 members of the Bernard Mizeki Guild led us in our Midday Prayers.

Synod resumed at 12h30.

#### **10. Debate : Development**

A short discussion followed.

#### **11. Motion 7 (refer Session2, 8.4)**

The editorial changes requested were presented to Synod by Bishop as follows:

### Report on **Motion 7: Co-opted Members of Council.**

The editorial work has been done, and the following should replace the existing rules:

*Rule 28(7) Anything in this Rule to the contrary notwithstanding, a council shall have power to co-opt one member of council who shall be a communicant. Such co-opted member shall have the power to speak but not to vote.*

*Rule 29(10) Anything in this Rule to the contrary notwithstanding, a council shall have power to co-opt one additional member of council who shall be a communicant. Such co-opted member shall have the power to speak but not to vote.*

Synod accepted the report

Synod then adjourned for lunch at 13h05

### **Session 5**

Synod reconvened at 14h05. †Martin welcomed Wardens and Treasurers to Synod.

#### **12. Financial Motions**

Audited copies of Finance Board and Board of Trustees 2014 Financial Statements, with a clean audit report, were made available and approved by Synod.

†Martin welcomed Freda Chigumadzi to her first Synod and thanked both Freda and Felicity Roberts for their assistance with the compilation of the financial statements.

The Report was duly received by Synod.

Proposed by : Abby Ledwaba    Seconded by : Robbie Novella

#### **13. Appointment of Diocesan Auditor (nominated by Finance Board)**

The appointment of Sizwe, Ntsaluba, Gobodo was approved by Synod.

Proposed by : †Martin    Seconded by : Malin Mokou

#### **14. Motion 8**

##### **Musina Mission Arrears**

Proposed by: Ven Robbie Novella  
Seconded by: Dean Luke Pretorius

This Synod, noting that Musina Mission:

- 1) Has successfully kept up to date with their pledges to the Diocese since the beginning of 2014;
- 2) Is still faced with municipal debts as a result of their ministry to Zimbabwean refugees in 2008 and 2009;

Therefore resolves to write off their arrears to the Diocese prior to 2014.

**Motion 8 was approved by Synod**

15. **Presentation of a Summary of the Proposed Diocesan Budget for 2016.**

The summary budget was presented by Diocesan Administrator, Freda Chigamudzi and was received by Synod.

Proposed by : Thembeke Gwija-Mothiba    Seconded by : Ron Reiners

Synod broke into Conference for the detailed Budget Presentation and Governance.

Tea followed at 16h13.

Synod resumed at 16h30

16. **Minutes of Sessions 2 & 3**

The Minutes of Sessions 2 and 3 were duly approved.

17. **Debate : Governance**

There was no discussion on the budget or governance. Members were reminded that the Diocesan Office and Officials are available for any queries that may arise.

18. **Motions of which notice was given earlier during Synod**

18.1 **Motion 11** (see 4.2 above)

Proposer: Solomon Makololo    Seconder: Gail Blunden

**Motion 11 was approved by Synod**

18.2 **Motion 12** (see 4.3 above)

Proposer: Gail Blunden    Seconder: Kwena Makgoka (replacing I Mokgoloboto)

**Motion 12 was approved by Synod**

19. **Unopposed Motions:**

19.1 Proposer: Malin Mokou    Seconder: Philip Moseki

This Synod, noticing the absence of Ven Jack Maropeng Kudumela, and being aware of the reason for his absence, requests the Bishop on behalf of Synod to convey to his wife and children our support and assurance that we are with them in prayer as he continues to recover and wish him a speedy and full recovery.

The motion was approved.

19.2 Proposer: Rev T L Gwija-Mothiba. Seconder: Rev L Ackermann.

This Synod congratulates our Archbishop Thabo Makgoba and his foundation for ploughing back to his home province Limpopo, by donating R 100,000 to the Skills and Rural Development Department of the University of Limpopo.

The motion was approved

20. **Notices**

20.1 The Chancellor advised that nominations for the various committees will close on Sunday morning.

20.2 †Martin advised that the Diocese has two vehicles for sale. Contact Freda Chigamudzi for full details;

20.3 Dean Luke Pretorius and Willie Mphele from Christ Church Cathedral offered to assist delegates to initiate a My Anglican database.

Synod adjourned at 17h25

Evening Prayer commenced at 17h30 and was led by the Western and South Western Archdeaconries.

The day's proceedings were concluded at 17h52.

Minutes approved

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Bishop

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Date