

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
IN LIMPOPO

DIOCESE OF ST MARK THE EVANGELIST

***Minutes of SESSION 6 of the ELEVENTH DIOCESAN SYNOD
held at Christ Church Cathedral, Polokwane,
on the 23rd August 2015***

1. **Sunday Eucharist** service commenced at 08h00.
2. Synod resumed at 10h30 when Bishop Martin opened the proceedings in prayer .
3. The Registrar confirmed that a **quorum** was present.
 - Bishop reported on Matsaro Semenya's absence due to illness – diagnosed Saturday evening with shingles;

and

 - Rev Kaleka Selepe absent due to a death in the family.
4. **Presentation and Reading of Petitions**
None were presented.
5. **Notice of Motions**
None were presented
6. **Notice of Questions**
None were presented.
7. **Measures to Amend Diocesan Rules : 3rd Reading**

The amendment was approved
8. **Motions submitted in Advance**

Motion 1 :

Practical Discipleship and Base Line Study

Proposed by: Abby Ledwaba
Seconded by: Ven Robbie Novella

This Synod notes that:

- 1) Many of our people are looking for practical teaching and guidance on how to live in the real world as disciples of Jesus Christ;
 - 2) This is particularly important in reaching out to young people.
- Synod therefore requests:

- 1) Diocesan Chapter to develop a simple questionnaire to help us do a “base line study” of the areas in which people believe they need such teaching and guidance;
- 2) Parishes and Chapelries to scan their immediate social and economic environments to identify the needs of their communities in order to respond to them;
- 3) Parishes and Chapelries to explore ways to make our worship services more attractive to people of all ages, especially the youth, to help educate and convey our heritage of Word and Sacrament in worship.

Motion 1 was approved by Synod.

9. Elections

Mrs Pam Oberholzer , with the assistance of the Legal Team and Jacky Machaba, conducted the elections.

The results of the elections were as follows :

DIOCESAN TRUSTEES	
LAY REPRESENTATIVES	CLERGY
Solomon Makololo Edwin Nyatlo	Rev Philip Moseki Rev Pat Lennox (Alternate)

DIOCESAN FINANCE BOARD	
LAY REPRESENTATIVES	CLERGY
Abby Ledwaba Edwin Nyatlo	Rev Pat Lennox Rev Mike Makosholo (Alternate)

PROVINCIAL SYNOD	
LAY REPRESENTATIVES	CLERGY
Tshaka F Motshudi Gayley Maburimisa Freda Chigumadzi John Galane (Alternate) Solomon Makololo (Alternate)	Rev Malin Mokou Rev Shearsby Mupfudzapake Very Rev Luke Pretorius Rev David Maubane (Alternate) Rev Thembeke Gwija-Mothiba (Alternate)

PROVINCIAL STANDING COMMITTEE	
LAY REPRESENTATIVES	CLERGY
Freda Chigumadzi Kgabo Ledwaba (Alternate)	Very Rev Luke Pretorius Rev Thembeke Gwija-Mothiba (Alternate)

ELECTIVE ASSEMBLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE	
LAY REPRESENTATIVES	CLERGY
Anna Shivambu John Galane Abby Ledwaba Charles Luther Rebecca Shika (Alternate)	Rev Shearsby Mupfudzapake Rev Malin Mokou Rev Gail Blunden Rev Olive Senyatsi Rev Thembeke Gwija-Mothiba (Alternate)

10. Unopposed Motions

10.1 Proposed: Rev Gail Blunden; Seconder: Rev Robbie Novella

This Synod gives thanks to God for the many years of faithful service given by the late Mrs Maureen Le Cordeur, who played the organ at many Synods and other Diocesan events, and who passed away into higher service last year.

We send greetings and condolences to her husband John, wishing him strength and peace in his bereavement.

The motion was approved.

10.2 Proposed: Rev Gail Blunden; Seconder: Dean Luke Pretorius

This Synod sends greetings to Rev Moses Nemakhavhani & Mrs Nemakhavhani as Moses has recently had to retire for medical reasons. We give thanks for his many years of faithful service and we wish them both God's healing and blessings in their retirement.

The motion was approved.

11. Vote of Thanks

Dean Luke proposed a vote of thanks to all who helped to make this Synod an uplifting and spiritual time as well as achieving all required of it, in the following words:

Bishop Martin and Members of Synod.

It gives me great pleasure to stand before you today and propose this vote of thanks.

We have arrived at the end of another eventful and wonderful sitting of this the eleventh Synod of the Diocese of St. Mark the Evangelist. It also marks another eventful year in the ministry in which we are joined through the love and calling of Christ.

It is therefore to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ that I wish first to express our profound praise and thankfulness for his never-failing love, grace and leadership.

We must also express our appreciation to you, Bishop Martin, for your love and leadership in this Diocese. Without your support, encouragement and example we would never have achieved all that we have achieved. Neither would we be as enthusiastic for the ministry potential which lies before us. I know that with your continuing guidance and leadership we will meet all which God places before us. Thank you for being who you are; precious and godly and loving.

We thank you too for your chairing of this Synod and of all the preparatory work you do before it. You have a gentle touch with a profound ability to hear from God and to guide us in the way of Christ. Thank you.

I wish also to acknowledge the leadership and support shown by all members of this sitting of Synod. The debate and decisions taken have been, as always, of a high calibre and fittingly moves this Diocese forward in obedience to God. To those who presented motions and measures and the budget for 2016 a big thank you for your hard work. I am sure we all are happy we can now go home!

I must also acknowledge the vitally important, supportive and wise role played by our Diocesan Chancellor, Ms Matsaro Semanya, and Registrar, Ms Pam Oberholzer. Two incredibly wise and competent ladies, whose legal expertise guides us all through the minefield that is Canon Law. Your calm and reassuring knowledge and practice of the law makes us all immeasurably richer. Thank you.

There are many who were an integral part of this Synod but who remain largely unseen. They are the unsung heroes who kept us fed, prayed for and equipped with agenda books and sundry pieces of paper. So, to the Mother's Union for their tea and meals, to the intercessory prayer team who unfailingly prayed over each of us through each sitting, to the diocesan staff who quite literally slaved in the diocesan office to get ready the agenda books and distribute them, and to those who set up the registration tables and strived to keep us orderly, presentable and registered; a very, very big thank you. May God bless you all for your willing and helpful hearts.

Our grateful appreciation to all those who agreed to stand for election to the various boards and institutions of this Diocese and of the wider Anglican Church of Southern Africa. Congratulations to those who have been elected to these positions of responsibility.

Thank you to those who took our minutes and to those who scrutinised them. You are all fantastic! To the runners and assistants who distributed and collected and counted; you helped make this Synod a success and you should deservedly be proud. Thank you.

To those who led our worship; thank you for the time and effort you so diligently put into this. We appreciate you all and love you for it.

I wish as Dean to express my gratitude to the staff of the Cathedral. They toiled hard to make ready this church for us to meet in. They will toil again after Synod to ready it for our next service. To our administrators and verger staff a very big thank you. To our Church Wardens who took responsibility to ensure the availability of this church and for their role in the opening Eucharist, and to the media personnel who made sure the microphones and projectors were working and ready for us. To those who unlocked the church and opened the doors and windows for us, please accept our grateful appreciation.

To you all, your commitment and servant heart helped make this Synod the success it was. Thank you.

Finally, should I have inadvertently neglected to mention someone I take full responsibility and apologise unreservedly. You too have been of immeasurable worth to this Synod and we thank you.

I accordingly ask that my vote of thanks be received and accepted.

The vote of thanks was received and accepted unanimously

12. **Minutes of Sessions 4 and 5**

The Minutes of Sessions 4 and 5 were approved

13. **Promulgation of Synod**

Bishop declared the promulgation of Synod at 12h30.

Minutes approved

Bishop Martin Breytenbach
Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist

Date