



BAPTIST CONVENTION OF SOUTH AFRICA

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“IMPACTING LIVES”

BCSA 2023 Assembly Business Minutes

BCSA Headquarter: Thusong Centre 08 – 09 December 2022

Day 1: 08/12/2022 from 11h00 – 18h30

1. Opening and welcome:

Before the official opening of the Assembly, the President forwarded the following announcement and apologies:

- Dr Jentile, the General Secretary of the BCSA, forwarded his apology due to the bereavement of his father, who passed on Monday, 05th December 2022, due to illness. He further indicated that the funeral arrangements were still not yet clarified, but he might be buried on Tuesday, 13th Dec 2022. More details will be communicated before the dissolving of the Assembly on Sunday, 11th Dec 2022.
- Moruti Matsha Makena: National Treasurer is reported sick and got rushed to the doctor just before the opening of the Assembly. He will join the seating as soon as he's back.
- Rev B Ciliza and wife rendered their apology as they had to rush back home after receiving the news that their son had been rushed to the hospital.

The President then called for a special prayer for the brethren.

Official opening:

- In his greetings, the President indicated that this is the 48th seating of the BCSA and the 95th anniversary celebration of the Convention.
- The 2022 Theme: Engaging culture and reviewing Christian leadership. The focus of this Assembly is to prepare Churches for the 2023 elections. He further encouraged everyone to continue to pray for the coming elections.
- For this Assembly, he urged everyone to keep engaged and committed to the discussions so that godly decisions may be taken.

- He concluded by welcoming the Officers, the NEC, all pastors, delegates, and friends to the 48th National Assembly and constituted the official opening of the Assembly Business seating at 11h25

Noted: Moruti Sarah Lebea was introduced as the Assembly nurse, and if she can't be reached, the office staff can be approached for possible assistance.

2. Statistics

☞ NEC – 20	☞ Delegates – 49	☞ Churches - 50
☞ Pastors – 60	☞ Observers – 7	☞ Students - 0
☞ Spouses – 26	☞ Missionary – 1	

3. Attendees: **Annexure A, as attached**

3.1. List of attendees

3.2. List of Churches

4. Absent with apologies:

1. Moruti Thibedi Ndala
2. Moruti John Sigudla
3. Moruti JC Mabula
4. Moruti Mtsweni: work commitment

4.1 Apologies for late coming and

1. Moruti Thokozile Maredi – arrived late during business
2. Moruti Dan Maduna -- late arrival
3. Moruti MM Sihlahla – late arrival
4. Moruti G. Molefe – arrived late during business
5. Moruti Mamogobo – late arrival on Saturday
6. Moruti Mahlo – late arrival on Saturday
7. Moruti CB Molosiwa – attended on Thursday but was not available for other days
8. Mr P. Mojela
9. Mamelodi Baptist Church – No church delegates, but individual members who came as observes
10. God's Grace BC – the church could only pay for Moruti & Mmamoruti, no delegates
11. Moruti Gwebane – his mother got admitted, and he cancelled his Assembly plans.

Concerns or clarities raised:

- ✘ Mamelodi BC –clarity was sort on what it meant that the individuals came on their own capacity, and will that not affect the corium?

Response: The President explained that the Church did not send them as delegates. But they were attending as individuals and not as Church delegates. He further explained that that would not affect the quorum as the Church had rendered an apology for not attending the Assembly.

- ✘ Gugulethu Molefe – a concern was raised if Moruti Gugulethu Molefe’ late coming would affect her recognition.

Response: The President indicated that she will arrive before the end of business or on Friday, and will be on time to be presented to the Assembly for ordination.

- ✘ The Free State – a concern was raised regarding the apologies received from pastors of God’s Grace BC who apparently are not known in the Region (Free State Region), for they left the Region.

Response: The President acknowledged that there are challenges regarding God’s Grace BC and the Region which the National office is dealing with. However, all the Ministers at God’s Grace are Convention ministers recognised and ordained by the Convention. They have an obligation to submit their apologies if they are not going to attend the Assembly.

Noted and Agreed:

- : All apologies were noted and accepted as presented; and
- : All apologies of those to be recognised or ordained were noted, and the matter will be dealt with at the appropriate time (item).

5. Appointment of the Officials:

The Assembly noted and appointed the following Officials either through volunteerism or nominations:

- ☞ Timekeeper: Moruti AS. Mahlake
- ☞ Parliamentarian: Moruti P. Msiza
- ☞ Scrutineers: Ms Ayanda Mkuba, Ms. Oratile Pule & Ms Smangalisiwe Makhoba
- ☞ Resolution Committee: Convener: Mr M. Mogotlane, members Mr Molefi and Moruti MS. Thantsha

6. Ratification of the appointment of the Minute Secretary:

- » The President explained that during the month of September 2022, he received a resignation letter from Ms Thembi Semenya, the Minute Secretary. Indicating that due to work engagements, she is unable to fulfil her responsibilities as the BCSA Minute Secretary as elected, thus rendering her resignation.
 - During the Officer’s deliberations regarding the replacement of the Minute Secretary, the name of Dr Dorcas Lesenyeho was identified and agreed upon.
 - She was then approached by the GS, and affect their discussion, she accepted the responsibilities of being the BCSA Minute Secretary.
- » The President then presented Dr Dorcas Lesenyeho as a candidate to be appointed by the Assembly as the BCSA Minute Secretary for the remaining term of office of 2022/2023.
- » No. 52 & 25 seconded the motion, and Dr Lesenyeho was welcomed as one of the BC

7. Greetings from Partners:

7.1 Lott Carey – USA

- » Rev Emmet Dunn graced the 2023 Assembly and conveyed special greetings from the Lott Carey Baptist Church in the USA.
- He thanked the BCSA and everyone who relates to Lott Carey for making the partnership to be succeed.
- That Lott Carey doesn't believe in sending missionaries but in equipping those who are called for the mission work, and that's what BCSA has presented over the years, making the partnership easy and possible.
- He offered a special appreciation to the General Secretary in absentia and mentioned their harmonious working relationship.
- He congratulated the Convention on the 95th anniversary and wished the Assembly a successful conference.

7.2 European Baptist Mission International (EBMI)

- » The President read the letter from EBMI (pg11: Assembly booklet) but saw it fitting to offer the President of EBMI, Moruti Emma Mabidilala, a chance to greet the Assembly.
- She greeted the Assembly and indicated that the EBMI's vision is to transform lives so people would live in hope. That in all, they have 300 projects spread across the globe, Latin America, India, Turkey, Cuba, and Africa. Africa is divided into two parts which are Central and Southern Africa.
- With reference to BCSA, the specific contributions were an amount of R792 000,00 for the current financial year. These funds are collected from different continents and churches, including BCSA. Itself. The money was to support the College, Ndawo Yakho, Church Planting, Children's Ministry and disaster management.
- In her conclusion, she presented warm greetings from Germany and the entire EBMI family; and wished the BCSA a successful 2023 Assembly.

7.3 All Africa Baptist Fellowship Southern Region

- » Moruti Dikana, brought greetings on behalf of brothers and sisters from AABF (All Africa Baptist Fellowship) and from the President and the General Secretary AABF
- He indicated that they are missing the BCSA in the AABF. Although BWD and BYD are actively involved and visible, they are missing the entire BCSA; he encouraged the BCSA to be active and participate in the activities and business of AABF.

- He called for a continuous inclusion of AABF in our prayer, and to pray for their mission of including Northern Africa in the AABF to succeed.

8 Rules of order:

The Parliamentarian, Moruti Msiza presented the Rules of order _ reference: 2023 Assembly booklet, pages 12 – 14; they were noted as such.

9 Minutes

9.1 Confirmation of 2021 Assembly Minutes:

- » The Minute Secretary presented the 2021 Assembly Business Minutes, and they were adopted by No.149 and seconded by No.35 with a correction on item 10.2: GS (General Secretary) and not SG (Secretary General).

Noted & Agreed:

- : The President and the Minute Secretary signed the confirmed 2022 Assembly minutes.

9.2 Matters arising:

9.2.1 *Constitution and Bi-Laws*: A question was raised as to whether the Bi-Laws were done yet?

Response: The President indicated that the minutes are correctly captured. Currently, only ministerial regulations exist, and the Bi-Laws are not recorded as they are not adopted. The two need to be put together so that there is guidance. e.g., the constitution will speak about elections; the bi-laws will define the criteria to be adhered to, etc. Upon completion, the bi-laws will be forwarded to churches and regions for discussion and inputs.

- A concern was raised that this is a very important matter, but there is no sense of urgency. That when this issue was discussed in February 2022 there were attached to this point, and it came out to be a very important issue. Now the question is, what are the reasons that make this not to be prioritised?

Response: The matter is a priority, and it involves MINSPO, and it is being dealt with in conjunction with MINSPO. After February, they couldn't conclude the matter, and the Officers cannot deal with it alone.

Motion : That the matter be referred to the constitutional committee. Their role is to interpret and integrate constitutional issues and ensure that when changes are made, they are appropriate and link well with each other.

Noted and agreed: the motion was seconded (no.25) and turned into a resolution with an amendment that the NEC will determine the number of people who will form part of the committee

- Guidance was sorted on the constitutional amendments that were mentioned during the Presidential speech, which are critical for the constitutional amendment.
 - Are these going to be deferred to the Constitutional Committee of this Assembly? As well as to deal with the delays that make it appear as if it is not taken seriously.

Response: The NEC will refer all constitutional amendments and resolutions that have a bearing in the Constitution, By Laws and policies to the Constitutional Committee in their 1st NEC seating in 2023. 2. All outstanding matters relating to the constitution will then be presented to them to handle.

NB: General Secretary vs. Secretary General:

A concern was raised regarding the consistency of the vocabulary used by the BCSA concerning the issue of the General Secretary (GS). e.g., item 10.2 talks about the Secretary General (SG) Report, and on the same line, it says GS. The constitution provides consistency that needs to be adhered to by the BCSA because GS and SG cannot be used interchangeably, as they provide different meaning and interpretations.

Response: The Constitution states General Secretary, and that will be maintained as such.

Welcome and noting

- At this stage, the President welcomed the Heartlines Representative present for gracing the Assembly and requested him to greet the Assembly.
 - In his greetings, he mentioned that they are concerned about the absence of the fathers in the children's lives, and they are calling the men to join in and make a difference. Heartlines in running a programme on Fathers Matter and they have developed material to be used. Each church to get a free copy. They are available to come to churches. He wished the Assembly well.

At 11h30, the Assembly went for a 15 minutes recess, and the President offered a word of prayer.

Session 2 @ 11h45

The President constituted the continuation of the Assembly and requested Moruti Nokuthula Sithole to pray for the 2nd Session.

10 Update on Ministerial and Church Lists – MINSPO

The MINSPO President, Moruti Matlou, greeted everyone and acknowledged the National President, Officers, and NEC members delegates in the name of our Lord and Saviour. As he presented the Ministers, he called the MINSPO Committee to join him. He further called for Moruti T. Manda, MINSPO Secretary, to call the names of ministers for recognition and ordination.

10.1 The following Ministers were noted and approved for Recognition – Ministers under probation:

Name of Candidate	Church	Region
1. Moshima Kate Fhelane	Maranatha BC	Capricorn Region
2. Moshima Kgabo Joseph		
3. Mahlase Anna Makoena		
4. Phooko Julian Mapula		
5. Shokane Botshilo Jeneva	Bokgaga BC	
6. Nkosi Mantai Melita	Mamelodi BC	Central Region
7. Phadime Eunice Ketimang Kgomotso	Peniel Salem BC	
8. Segage Neo Sephene		
9. Mosupye Mmampote Rebecca	Community BC	
10. Ntunzi Remembrance Mokgaetjie	Lesedi BC	
11. Madlala Mirriam Meyabo		
12. Temo Pontsho Vincent		
13. Makgata Ramaijane Joseph	Ebenezer BC	Sekhukhune Region
14. Nchabeleng Gabaje Androniela	Faithways BC	
15. Chuene Mafokwane Daphney		
16. Serokolo Mashego Engelina	God in Action BC	
17. Mafahla Sefohle Binkie		
18. Letsoalo Ruth Sizakele	Grace BC	
19. Maboke Reneilwe		
20. Koma Makubu Lisbeth		
21. Koma Mosa Maakgathu	The Lord's Tabernacle Baptist	

10.2 The following Ministers were noted and approved for Recognition – Student Pastors under probation:

Name of Candidate	Church	Region
1. Malatjie Moses Moshe	Faithways BC	Sekhukhune Region
2. Thobejane Ngwanamathibela Florence	The Solid Rock Baptist	

Noted:

- : The MINSPO President indicated that those ministers who will arrive no later than Friday night due to work obligations will be presented to the Assembly for recognition. If they arrive later than that, they will have to apply in 2023 for recognition.
- : He further reported that Moruti Marena Paulus Sello and Moruti Molefe Ida Sello withdrew from the recognition, and the Sekhukhune Region is looking into their matter.

- : He requested Moruti Mahola and Moruti William Bruce to pray for God’s grace upon the Ministers and the Officers to give them the hand of fellowship.
- : The President called for the recognition of student pastors so that it be noted that they serve a year probation, as per the Constitution.

Question: Clarity was sort as to whether these churches headed by the student pastors are known in the BCSA. **Response:** The Regional President (Sekhukhune) indicated that they are known.

10.3 The following names were noted and approved as Ministers for Ordination: Reverends

Names	Churches	Regions
Rev. Nota Joseph	Community BC	Central Gauteng
Rev Sekalp Thabo Phyllis	Revival BC	
Rev Sihlahla Ntombomzi Margaret	Emmanuel BC	Eastern Cape
Rev Babalwa Terresa William	Emmanuel BC	
Rev Sebuthoma Buti Johannes	Powerhouse BC	Mpumalanga
Rev Sebuthoma Josephine Nobhoro		
Rev Maleka Kgare Rebecca	Grace BC	Capricorn
Rev Nkabinde Vukeleni Nehemiah	El Shaddai/Duduza	Southern Gauteng
Rev Dan Maduna	Kagiso	
Rev Malema Tlou Poelano	Tembisa BC	
Rev Mukonanyi Netshidane	Baptist Worship BC	

Noted:

- : The MINSPO President reported that the Capricorn Region withdrew Moruti Mantsho Matsobane Salphina and Moruti Thantsha Sylvia Mokgadi from the ordination list, for they are still serving probation period.

Question: a question was raised as to where does Moruti Maduna belongs-fellowship.?

Response: Moruti Maduna belongs to Kagiso BC. Furthermore, the Parliamentarian indicated that if the Minster doesn’t have a church, the Region can appoint a church to house him/her.

The President requested Revd. Dr Yvonne Motaung to present the Ministers for ordination before the Lord in prayer.

Concern: A concern was raised that during the February Assembly, other people arrived late and were not recognised, but others who came with them were recognised the following day. That there were other absent churches whose names were read.

From the church, a letter was written to the Assembly stating that because they were here during the last Assembly and today they are here, can't they be given one-year probation? A plea is that the Assembly grant them the request as presented being recognised.

Response: the matter is noted, and the NEC has received the letter from the church. But procedure and protocol need to be followed. 1. The members were not presented last time, and today they are here to be presented and accepted at this Assembly; it's important for now. 2. Regarding their motivation, that will be considered by the NEC because there must be activities, monitoring and evaluation of the people. So that when people are presented, a holistic profile of what a person has done is brought forward.

The letter was only received a day before the Assembly's commencement, which is why it couldn't be dealt with beforehand.

Noted: a concern was raised regarding Ministerial proceedings that regulations do not define the concept of "credible institute, as some Ministers who are due for ordination will not be ordained because it is alleged that they are not from credible institutions. **Response:** the issue was ruled out

10.4 The following names were noted as Ministers who are doing Baptist Studies Students

Name & Surname	Church	Province
Jacobs Ouma Freda	Restoration	Central Gauteng
Kolokote John	Mabopane	Central Gauteng
Mahlangu Simon David	Mabopane	Central Gauteng
Maotoe Mogale Phineas	First Winterveld	Central Gauteng
Masombuka Andrew	Mamelodi	Central Gauteng
Mathebe Phillip	Thabakhubedu	Mpumalanga
Moeng Sello Israel	Mabopane	Central Gauteng
Mohale Thandi	Peniel Salem	Central Gauteng
Mosupye Mmampote Rebecca	Community	Central Gauteng
Mqwathi Donald	Lebotlwane	Central Gauteng
Segage Neo	Peniel Salem	Central Gauteng
Nkuna Mmamodise Elizabeth	Atteridgeville	Central Gauteng
Phadime Kgomotso Eunice	Peniel Salem	Central Gauteng
Bonaphi Khaya	Emmanuel	Eastern Cape
Jacobs Azola	Emmanuel	Eastern Cape
Libi Zola Michael	Emmanuel	Eastern Cape
Nkevu Tamsanqa	Emmanuel	Eastern Cape
Sihlahla Ntombomzi	Emmanuel	Eastern Cape
Koma Albert	The Lord's Tabernacle	Sekhukhune
Koma Lisbeth	The Lord's Tabernacle	Sekhukhune
Koma Mosa	The Lord's Tabernacle	Sekhukhune
Chuene-Maroga Daphney	Faithways	Sekhukhune
Letsoalo Sizakele Ruth	Grace	Sekhukhune
Mabitsela Molatelo Stephina	Shalom	Capricorn
Maboke Reneilwe	Grace	Sekhukhune

Mafahla Sefohle Binkie	God In Action	Sekhukhune
Mahlase Makwena Anna	Maranatha	Capricorn
Makgata Ramaijane Joseph	Ebenezer	Sekhukhune
Maleka Kgare Rebecca	Grace	Sekhukhune
Manthata Maphuti Joyce	Kgohloane	Capricorn
Mantsho Matsobane Salphy	Makibelo	Capricorn
Maroga Magapeletsa Joseph	Ebenezer	Capricorn
Masehela Simon	Makibelo	Capricorn
Mathekga Nakedi Jonas	Maranatha	Capricorn
Modikoa Malebatja Godfrey	Kgohloane	Capricorn
Moshima Fhelane Kate	Maranatha	Capricorn
Moshima Kgabo Joseph	Maranatha	Capricorn
Nchabeleng Andronica	Ebenezer	Sekhukhune
Phooko Mapula Julian	Maranatha	Capricorn
Thantsha Mokgadi Sylvia	Seshego	Capricorn
Sello Mareme Paulus	Ebenezer	Sekhukhune
Sello Molefe Ida	Ebenezer	Sekhukhune
Serokolo Mashego Angelina	God In Action	Sekhukhune
Shokane Botshelo Jeneva	Bokgaka	Capricorn
Thobejane Masediba Susan	Dithabaneng	Capricorn
Thobejane Ngwanamathibela Florence	The Solid Rock	Sekhukhune
Mazabane Archibald	Jouberton	Southern Gauteng
Mazabane Seitatolo Eva	Jouberton	Southern Gauteng
Mofokeng Mamotlasello Pauline	Jouberton	Southern Gauteng
Mofokeng-Mogapi Lerato	Jouberton	Southern Gauteng
Molefe Gugulethu	Kagiso	Southern Gauteng
Molosiwa Abbey	BWC Mmabatho	Southern Gauteng
Mosia Christina Nelly	Orlando	Southern Gauteng
Mosotho Thabo Gladwin	Jouberton	Southern Gauteng
Mothupi Sebata Martin	Khutsong	Southern Gauteng
Mmutlwane Molefabangwe John	Baptist Worship Centre	Southern Gauteng
Mukonanyi Netshidane	BWC City Deep	Southern Gauteng
Nkabinde Vukeleni Nehemiah	Duduza	Southern Gauteng
Nkabinde Zanele Pride	Duduza	Southern Gauteng
Seane Thabo	Jouberton	Southern Gauteng
Segopolo Modisaotsile Isaac	Botshabelo	Northwest
Sekhonyane Makazase Elizabeth	Jouberton	Southern Gauteng
Sekonya Mapoti Dorothy	Jouberton	Southern Gauteng
Thibedi Nthutang David	Ikageng	Southern Gauteng

Noted: All students, including those that are not registered with the BCC, were acknowledged and noted

10.5 *The following Churches were recognised for Fellowship:*

- » Philadelphia Fellowship – Central Region
- » Powerhouse Fellowship – Mpumalanga Region
- » His will Fellowship – Sekhukhune Region

The President requested Moruti Soga to pray for Churches recognised for Fellowship status.

10.6 The following are Churches recognised for Full Church Status:

- » Tshwane Revival BCC Central Region
- » Rejoice BC – Sekhukhune Regions
- » King William Inner City Convention – Eastern Cape

Noted and Agreed: The withdrawal of Bosplaas Baptist Church for full status by the Central Region

The President requested Moruti Madolo to prayed for churches recognised for full Church status.

At 13h50, the Assembly adjourned for lunch until 14h50, and Moruti Qangule offered a word of prayer.

Session 3 @ 15h06

Deputy President Moruti Serokolo officiated the 3rd session of the Assembly business and requested Moruti Seleka to open with a word prayer.

NB: The President indicated that the MINSPO item on memorials would be dealt with on Sunday, not during the business, as it is a norm. But they will be noted for the minutes, and it will be done on Sundays.

Apology: Moruti Joseph Masindi returned home because he wasn't feeling well. Moruti Makena was also not feeling well and had to see the doctor, but he'll be joining the seating later.

11 Reports

11.1 Presidential Report: Moruti Sipiwe Ndebele

NB: For a comprehensive Presidential report kindly refer to pg37 – 45: 2022 Assembly Booklet

The Presidential Report was adopted with the following highlights and clarifications.

Highlights of the report:

- » The President greeted everyone in the name of our saviour, the Messiah Yeshua, and acknowledged the Officers, NEC, immediate past President of the BWA, Rev Paul Msiza, Senior Pastors, Ministers and spouses, international partners: Lott Cary, AABF, EBMI, international staff and all members of the Convention.

- » Read from Isa 60 vs.1-3 – which are words that were spoken to the Israelites as a prophecy that her liberty is at hand.
- » The exact words apply to us as the BCSA for our state as the Convention has changed.
- » As we celebrate 95 years of fellowship, we can look back and honestly say the Lord has been with us.
- » **State of the nation – Phala-Phala issue:** The Convention is meeting at a time when the country is facing political uncertainties. The State President’s Phala-Phala issues have shaken our country's political and economic state of our country, and the BCSA should release a statement that will pronounce our position on the matter before the end of the Assembly seating. This is not to undermine the SACC statement as pronounced but to strengthen what the church in SA stands for.
 - o The Fight against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. The abuse and killing of women and children are one of the challenges the country faces, and as a church, we can’t keep silent any longer. GBV is “demonic” and needs to be dealt with. It is against this that the Assembly at its 48th seating should also make a statement to speak against and to pronounce its support for all the GBV victims
- » **The Baptist Convention Centre:** The first phase of the building is 95% complete, and the installation and finishing of small tasks remain. Appreciation is offered to all who contributed in any way to ensure the success of the building project. The R100 contributions should not stop, but more members should see the need to contribute towards completing the building project. An estimated amount of +-R350 000.00 is needed to complete phase 1, and the Treasurer will clarify that in his finance report.
- » **Improved Administration of the Regions:** There’s an improvement in the administration of some Regions, including hosting regional conferences and running the business of the affairs within regions. This indicates that the RECs are working hard to improve the state of the BCSA in general. Nevertheless, other Regions are still struggling with administration and governance. While others, on the other hand, managed to establish interim structures to ensure that their business continues, especially in providing churches without pastors the necessary assistance.
- » **Ministers Serving in the BCSA:** The BCSA is experiencing growth of people called for ministry. From 2019 – 2021 48 ministers were ordained. Of the 48, 15 (38%) were women. 73 were ministers who were recognised, and of the 73, 32 (45%) were women. In total, 121 (45 being women – 42%) ministers accepted the call and the Assembly confirmed them. The most significant challenge is that most churches still find it difficult to call women for full pastoring, and they (women) are not seen to be planting churches. The regions also do not have programmes to assist women in planting churches.

» **Election of Women in National Leadership:** The Convention is pleased to have women joining the ministry, but they are not assuming leadership positions, especially nationally. The succession plan needs to be evoked to define equity within the Presidency and the NEC. The Convention should make a conscious decision regarding the election of women as Officers. For this to be achieved, an amendment to the election criteria is required regarding years of service in the ministry. Not forgetting that 'the position of the 1st vice Deputy President was created for such reasons, but it is not an automatic succession into the office of the Deputy President or President.

○ The term of the current leadership is coming to an end in December 2023, and the Convention has never developed a pool of leaders, as such a recommendation be made that the Office of the President provide a list of possible candidates who meets the criteria for nomination so that Churches and Regions can have an idea of those with potential to assume leadership roles. Such a list be sent during the first quarter of 2023 to churches.

○ The Assembly to appoint the Electoral officer for the coming 2023 elections.

» **Finance Committee:** The Finance Committee has been appointed under the leadership of the National Treasurer, Rev M. Makena. The Finance policy is being reviewed, and the team will present a program to develop regional treasurers.

» **Sub-Committee on Ministerial Recognition and Ordination:** in addressing challenges regarding ordinations and recognition, the NEC appointed a sub-committee on Ministerial proceedings. Its terms included verification of qualifications, monitoring of all applicants for ministerial recognition and ordination, and reporting to the NEC once concluded the process. Some members of the MINSPO Committee formed part of the sub-committee. The findings of the task team included that:

- Regions recommend people for ministerial recognitions without checking and verifying if the candidates completed their studies;
- Some candidates were accepted without verification of their qualification for recognition, and it was discovered that they studied in institutions that were not accredited or credible;
- Some candidates who applied for ordination in the previous assemblies didn't meet the requirements, and they can't proceed to ordination; It is recommended that such candidates should register with BCC to complete their training before they can proceed for ordination
- Some have not completed their Baptist studies yet they have been ordained.
 - That it is the responsibility of the regions to ensure that their candidates have met all requirements and their documents are correctly submitted;
 - and that they keep records, as some regions couldn't resubmit when requested to do so because they do not keep records for themselves.

- The President called for the continuous services of the sub-committee in assisting MINSPO with ministerial recognitions, and
 - To conduct ministerial awareness in regions, to avoid challenges and problems with regards to requirements and proceedings.
- » **Ordination Service:** During the ordination service, the ordained ministers are encouraged to come with an ordained pastor or senior pastor within the denomination to pray for them. In the past, people acted against this principle or practice, and for this ordination, ministers are urged to ensure that only ordained pastors can be requested to participate in their ordination.
- » **Ministers under probation:** The President mentioned that it is concerning that some ministers on probationary deliberately do not attend the Assembly but will be seen then again when coming for ordination. But again, after ordination, they disappear.
- The behaviour was set to be unacceptable, and such ministers may not be ordained in future, or they might be required to serve an extra year on probation before being ordained.
 - This behaviour questions the purpose of ministerial proceedings, and if it continues, the Convention will be forced to exercise its right to withdraw the licences of such ministers.
 - The National MINSPO is requested to investigate the matter and ensure that the candidates recommended for ordination are committed to the vision of the BCSA and are actively involved at both the local church and regional levels.
 - Furthermore, a comprehensive report for candidates for ordination is compulsory, and regions are required to ensure that such reports are submitted as part of the portfolio of evidence.
- » **Rock of Salvation Church, under Rev TJ Mulaudzi:** The President announced the withdrawal of Rev TJ Mulaudzi and the Rock of Salvation Community Church from the BCSA. This means that, he (Rev. T.J Mulaudzi) his wife Rev D Mulaudzi, and Rev. Boroko will be removed from the ministerial records.

Presidential Recommendations to the 2022 Assembly seating:

1. Application to Rescind Assembly resolution (succession plan) 3/2014.

- ☞ The resolution that was taken during the 2014 Assembly in Bloemfontein to increase the term of office from 3 years to 5 years also cancelled the succession plan. The resolution altered the term of officers and the succession plan. That the Deputy Presidents of all structures of the
- ☞ Convention. National, Regional and National Departments and ministries should take over the Presidency at the end of the serving Officers.

2. Affiliation fees (Sec 9: Constitution): the affiliation fees be increased as follows:

- ☞ Fellowship Status: R1 000.00,
- ☞ Full Church Status: R2 000.00,
- ☞ National Departments and Ministries R2 500.00

Conclusion: Appreciation to the Officers for the great team that they are. Ms Jacobs for being supportive and helpful to the Presidency. The 1st lady: Lebohang Ndebele (they celebrated 40th anniversary) for her continued support. Moruti Molefe Hlahlama for being a true confidant; Rev Matlou and Rev Sigudla for their inspiration and guidance. The NEC, for making the work easy. *“Sometimes victory is not achieved by the one who leads, but the winner is the one who can work harder for the longer period of time without quitting”.*

Questions of clarity:

- **Rock of Salvation:** the concluded matter, does it imply that the minister’s concern has returned all BCSA documents? – **In response:** the President indicated that the office is still waiting for Moruti Mulaudzi to return the documents, including those from other pastors. That correspondence will be sent to home affairs for the revoking of their marriage officers’ licenses to report, as they are no longer BCSA’s Ministers.

The report was adopted as presented: No.35 and seconder: No.153

Discussion of the report:

- **Ordination:** A comment was made that: the president mentioned that the ordinates could bring ministers who will pray for them during ordination. The problem is that the practice is inconsistent with other churches because only the Bishop is allowed to ordain.
In our case, the senior pastors are the heads of the church. People should be discouraged from taking any person to be part of their ordination, them, especially ordinary church numbers. **MINSPO to investigate the matter and reserve the responsibility to only senior pastors within the denomination; or whether young pastors are called to pray, they should be accompanied by the senior pastors.**
 - **Response:** It is the President that ordains ministers, candidates are allowed to bring a minister to pray for them with the Presidency. Only the senior pastor who will be praying for the ordinates and 2 or 3 people as appointed and not the entire church. MINSPO will investigate the matter and ensure that the acceptable thing happens.
- The report is commended for giving out important statistics on church planting, as it is the backbone of our denomination. It is recommended that the report should include **churches that are being recently planted, and indicate the Regions.**

Regions are encouraged to make church planting as a priority. That the national budget should cater for church planting. We should have a list of church planters. The report is silent on that, and the concern is what kind of growth we envisage. Is it through divisions or transfers of membership; what is it that is anticipated because that must be planned? This goes to the treasurer on the allocated budget on that.

- **Response:** the issues relating to governance have been highlighted in this report, but the relevant portfolios will deal with the figures' details and the budget.

2. Our communities, are growing in terms of housing and human settlement. Even if we don't have members, if there's a site development, one should identify potential and should think of securing land for the church for people to fellowship.

3. For the budget: The current budget does cater for all six key objectives. The challenge is the limited resources. There must be budget costing of the six key objectives. The last few years have been very difficult for the Convention financially due to COVID-19 pandemic. There were budget cuts and budget realignments to help us stay afloat. Financial support declined as churches were closed and had no financial income. During that time, the income was not that much, and the budget had a deficit of about half a million.

In 1995 the budget of the Convention was at R2.5m and in 2022 -2023 the Annual budget is R3.4 million. This means that the Convention might have grown in numbers and other areas, but not financially; it has yet to grow. But at the same time, there's a call to celebrations of what has been achieved because now the members are contributing over 60% of the budget.

- State of the Nation. A concern was raised about the Political situation as it relates to the social conditions: what is the Convention saying about the challenge of social cohesion facing the country.
 - There must be a stand regarding what happened during the July situation in Durban, which caused the economy, and people to lose their jobs and others' lives. What is the Convention saying about these devastations and doing?
 - An appreciation was made that the Convention managed to step in during the Durban disaster, which is supposed to be the church's role. But there must be a step up and be vocal and speak on behalf of those who cannot express themselves.
 - Gender-based violence: every time there's a talk about GBV is about women and children, and the perpetrator is the man. A challenge was posed upon the men in the convention to stand and align themselves with the "not in our name" organisation. The convention needs to be vocal and speak out.

- Decriminalisation of sex workers: what is the stand or position of the assembly regarding this matter?
- Eskom issue: At the end of the Assembly, there must be a stand from the Assembly.

Response: It will be upon this Assembly to agree that at the end of its seating, a statement be written to address the issues as raised, and the resolution committee can do that.

- **The contract of the GS:** A question was raised about the part time contract of the General Secretary. The question is, how is that working? Is it serving our needs, is he paid, or there' will be an announcement that he's owed, and he hasn't been paid? Is the convention not yet ready for a full-time GS because the nature of the office requires a full-time person?

- **Response:** the GS was appointed part-time due to financial constraints. At this stage, there has never been any staff member is not paid. There is an acknowledgement that there has to be discussions around the appointment of the GS, given the responsibilities attached to the portfolio. Additionally, given the nature of the position, other things are not done on time because he's not full-time. It then becomes imperative for the Convention to relook at its finances as it visits the appointment of a full-time GS.

The report recommends rescission of 2014 Assembly resolution, but does not give the reasons that the assembly considered in coming to that decision. To rescinding the Assembly resolution is a problem because there were circumstances around it, and there's not enough information to support the recommendation.

- **Response:** from the 2014 resolution, the request is for this Assembly to rescind the part that says the deputy president shouldn't continue but to allow deputy presidents of all structures, both nationally and at regional levels, to assume the next level. This will create sustainability and continuity because having all new people in the office would pause a severe challenge to the process flow.

Resolution: Any recommendation that involves the constitution must follow proper procedure. It must formulated into a formal resolution, be forwarded to the churches for discussion three months before the Assembly. The recommendation will lead to a constitutional amendment. Therefore it should be sent to the churches three months before the Assembly in line with clause 31 of the Constitution. This also applies to other recommendations that constitutionally inclined

- **Question:** There used to be a table showing churches without buildings, and there was a drive to ensure that such are assisted. **Maybe it needs to be looked at, especially with the 14 churches being planted,**

but some don't have churches at all. They worship in schools and halls, which has a bearing on their growth.

- **Response:** the table will be included to ensure accuracy in reporting. Again, a plan will be developed to address such challenges, as it was done in the past.
- **Correction:** That according to the EBMI the new General Secretary has been appointed. Dr. Michael Kisskalt.
 - **Response:** the correction was noted.
- **The issue of taking back the certificates:** A comment was made that taking back ordination and ministerial recognitions certificates has been spoken about for a long time, and it never happened. But now it brings joy that it's happening as you'll be taking back Moruti Mulaudzi certificate.
- The report indicates that there has been a great improvement with the running of the regions" But when you go down the picture presented, it is concerning. e.g., there's a summary that says some have little understanding of the governance role. The question is: are the plans to help these regions? Because if the regions are not performing well, the national office should assist them.
 - **Response:** the President indicated that the National office will focus in the development of Region and capacity building. That leadership workshops will be conducted for the all Regions
- **Comment:** the church was encouraged to pray for Russia and Ukraine as they faced war and conflict difficulties. The brethren on that side need continued support from the BCSA, as one of their churches is being used as a Russian barracks for their soldiers.
- **A question was asked about appointment of the Principal for the College.**

Response. The president reported that the position of the Principal is in the process of being filled. Due to financial constraints the appointment will be a part-time contract for a period of a year. A contract has been presented to a preferred candidate and we are waiting for him to sign and only then can we confirm appointment and present him to the Assembly.
- A question raised on the appointment of Task team on ministerial recognitions: Does the task team replace NEC and MINSPO? How did we reach a point where the task team replaced the NEC and MINSPO? Because as according to the ministerial regulations, MINSPO oversees ministerial proceedings, and they report to the NEC. Is there a point when MINSPO said they could not carry out this directive and needed help? Were the regional MINSPOs consulted on this matter so that they could provide assistance?
 - **Response:** the task team did not replace MINSPO. The task team included some members of the national MINSPO's executive (Dr Matlou: MINSPO president, deputy president and Rev Mabula: Treasurer); as a result, it was never a replacement.

- » What happened is that, in 2020 and 2021, because of COVID-19 restrictions, regions couldn't meet for their regional conference to engage on the recognitions and ordinations. As the Office was going through documents it was discovered that proper processes were not followed. Some regions recommended candidates who had not completed their studies and also did not submit all the necessary documents for their candidates.
 - » In the past MINSPO and the College would seat and scrutinise each application based on the requirements, but that had not happened in the previous years due to COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions.
 - » Yes, the BCC is not accredited, and that is why it's working with the BTC to ensure that the qualifications the BCSA students get are accredited.
 - » The board has been appointed, and they are given specific tasks to deal with, including the accreditation of the college and the appointment of the principal.
- **Credible institution:** regulations are silent on the definition of "credible institutions". MINSPO must define what is credible, so there is no confusion regarding ministerial proceedings.
 - **Response:** The Convention has always made sure that when people apply for ministerial recognition or ordination, the accreditation and credibility of institutions is checked, especially if the person didn't do their studies with the college.
 - » It should further be noted that some schools are registered but not accredited with SAQA or higher education. Some of these schools' learning materials are of low standard (Sunday school), and such doesn't equip the student for the theological field.
 - » At the college Dr/Moruti Matshiga is one of the people responsible for verification of accreditations as he's responsible for curriculum development.
 - » On that note, some people's applications were turned down because they didn't meet the requirements for recognition or ordination.
 - » Some were encouraged to start all-over, while others were advised to do specific modules or subjects to upgrade their qualification to be a recognised one.
 - » What needs to be understood now that people were rejected because of qualification, the findings, and recommendations (report) of the Task team was presented to the NEC for engagements and discussion. After the deliberations, the NEC adopted the report as their own and through the help of the office, everyone who applied received their feedback.
 - » With the establishment of the sub-team, the challenges as indicated in the Presidential report is that the challenge is not necessarily with the National MINSPO, but it should be noted that MINPO should be assisted by the college in finalising the approval of applications.

- » There's a plan in 2023 to visit Regions and make an awareness of all the ministerial requirements and to empower Regional MINSPO in doing their work.
 - » Not only on ministerial recognition but also on the roles and responsibilities of the REC. There are RECs that are not functional and that is why the pastors leave with the churches and that sometimes is reported late when things are completely out of control. It is then the aim of the NEC that it goes around and equip the RECs on how to manage the affairs of the Regions.
- A concern was raised with resignation of Rev Mulaudzi and the church that it's easy for the Convention to lose church buildings and the pastor. His resignation and withdrawal of membership by Rock of Salvation Community Church highlights the need to strengthen governance systems. The pastor resigns from the Convention and takes everything with him, the property, and the church. There are no measures to protect both the members and the property. Like in this case, members did not have a say.
 - **Response:** The issue of resignations of pastors, taking away church buildings is being attended to. The constitution makes provision to deal with withdrawal of membership and church buildings. The constitution makes provision for appointment of Board of Trustees whose responsibility is management of properties.
 - The challenge is that in some situations, there's no formal report from the Regions that the church has left, that they have followed constitutional prescripts for withdrawal of membership and their final report presented at the NEC and to the Assembly. Only names of churches are presented without full report.
 - When a Region presents recommendation of withdrawal of membership or removal of a minister from the BCSA, they must provide a written report of the processes that they have followed in order to retain the church or the minister. The ministerial regulations also require that an exit interview be conducted.
 - With some churches when they are followed up, they say they have withdrawn from the Region due to conflict but they are still members of the Convention. This is part of the challenges that must be addressed.
 - Some have established new relationships in terms of their practices or the way they do their things. In the process, they totally have no regard for the Regions and Convention and its procedures.
 - Therefore, there's a need to fight to get back the churches, and pastors that resign. Withdrawal of church membership or removal of pastors should be the last thing to consider.

- In terms of the Constitution, Board is required to deal with BCSA Properties It is then high time that such a board be appointed to look into this matter as stipulated in the Constitution. This is not only about buildings but also about title deeds.

At this point, MINSPO was requested to conclude its proceedings for the ministers who arrived during business discussions.

- MINSPO President greeted once more and indicated that he would proceed with the probations, ordinations, churches to be removed and pastors who left the BCSA.
- He presented the following two Ministers for probation.

The following Ministers were noted and approved for Recognition – Ministers under probation:

Name of Candidate	Church	Region
1. Maredi Magdeline Nomangesi Thokozile	Kagiso Baptist Church	Southern Gauteng
2. Gugulethu Molefe		

- Mamoruti was requested to pray for them and the Officers to give them a hand of fellowship.

The following Ministers were presented and approved as Ministers for Ordination:

Names	Churches	Regions
Rev Ndala Simon	Thushanang BC	Mpumalanga
Rev Maduna Montoeli Danel	Kagiso BC	Southern Gauteng
Rev Mabaso Duduzile		

- Moruti Dikana was requested to pray for them and the Officers to give them a hand of fellowship.

Churches to be removed from the BCSA list:

- » The MINSPO President presented Fountain of life BC, as recommended by Capricorn Region for removal on the BCSA list. The church has been affected by COVID-19 complications; members are no longer coming, and some have moved to other churches.

Question: does it mean the Fountain of life can't be revived? Don't we have other pastors in the Region who can take over or assist? Several churches were affected by COVID, are we going to remove all of them?

Response: The regional president indicated that they have tried to assist and revive the church, but all efforts were in vain. The challenge is that no single member remains in that church. Initially, before some members left, there were discussions with those who were remaining that they should, in the meantime, go to the nearby churches.

Resolution. It was agreed that the membership of Fountain Life BC be suspended until a solution is found.

The President (MINSPO) presented the two pastors recommended by the Capricorn region for their removal from the ministerial list: Moruti C Tshehla – Namakgale BC and Moruti J Sekgobela – Perrizin BC.

- o These pastors have resigned from Capricorn, and they have started their ministries.

Question: will the ordination certificates also be retrieved?

Response: yes, in this case, they will be retrieved.

Noted and seconded: that the two pastors will be removed from the ministerial role of the BCSA, and their ordination certificates be retrieved.

9.2 General Secretary's Report (pg56-74 Assembly booklet)

Highlights of the report:

Due to the absence of the GS on family matters, his report was presented by the 1st vice Deputy President: Moruti Debby Bruce.

- » She greeted everyone and presented the highlights as follows:
 - o The focus of the report was on five pillars:
 - Pillar 1: Enhancing Missions and Church growth
 - Pillar 2: Leadership Development and Government
 - Pillar 3: Improving internal administration and management.
 - Pillar 4: Financial localisation and sustainably
 - Pillar 5: The building facilities for the BCSA

In conclusion: "We thank God for you, and we appreciate your prayer and financial support. For this I thank you very much from the bottom of our hearts. Much has been reported about our situation that we are just surviving, but we trust God to provide financial resources. Continue praying without ceasing. To God be the glory, Amen."

Matters for clarity and comments:

- **On the issue of the building:** a comment and a proposal were made that, for those who are far and can't be on-site, they should send money so that minor things that don't need a contractor could be done. – women were encouraged to take lead because of the special gift of ensuring that things are done.
- **Clarity** – Pg62: Ndawo Yakho and the R5 000 contribution: as from October 2022 a monthly contribution of R5 000 has being received for groceries at Ndawo Yahko.
 - o R50 000 the contribution was made by Mr Collen Mashawana. This was not in cash, but the needs of about R50 000 were addressed.

Correction: Northern Cape was not included in the GS's report and that needs to be corrected

The General Secretary's Report was adopted and seconded as presented with the clarities as addressed

11.2 Financial Report – deferred to the next day

BCSA 2023 Assembly Business Minutes – BCSA Headquarter: Thusong Centre _ 08 – 09 December 202

Day 2: 09/12/2022 from 11h30 – 14h02

Opening and welcome: The President constituted the 2nd business seating at 11h30 and requested Mommy Selebano open with a word of prayer

Updated Stats

Previous		Updated
NEC	20	21
Pastors	60	74
Spouses	26	35
Delegates	49	65
Observers	7	9
Missionary	1	0
Churches	50	60
Students	0	2

 **Ministerial Proceedings:**

Ministers to be removed from the Ministerial Roll:

The MINSPO President presented the following Pastors from the Eastern Cape who are to be removed the Ministerial list of the BCSA:

- Rev Dumisani Peter: his Church was never part of the Convention, and he was not a member of any of the local Churches. This has been going on for years.
- Rev Phumlani Satyi doesn't belong to any of our local Churches and has not been active in the Region.
- Rev Xola Nontshinga was the Pastor of Maranatha Missionary Church. He's never been active in the Region and had subsequently abandoned the Church.

Concerns raised:

- What efforts have been made to try and resolve any problem that might have led to them leaving?

Moruti Jack, the Regional President responded as follows:

- All three Pastors have been visited many times by regional leadership and other senior Pastors to no avail.
- This has been reported consistently to the NEC and the Assembly in the past.
- The Regional Conference took a resolution to remove them.

Advice: the discussion should have been between the NEC, Region and MINSPO so that when it comes to this level should be presented comprehensively

In the Western Cape the same thing is happening and there has been no follow-ups with no progress. The issue of Rev Mekula is still outstanding not attended. In February the President indicated that we have senior pastors who should play a senior role and not the

Resolution: After discussion it was agreed: the names of the names of the above mentioned should be suspended, to allow the National MISPO and the NEC to investigate the issue and report back at the next assembly.

The Assembly cautioned the NEC -leadership about losing ministers and churches. That it takes a long time to produce one minister and to establish a fully established church. That we must have a retention strategy to keep churches and ministers. The losing of ministers or churches is not to be celebrated.

Letters be written to all of them, requesting them to explain their actions to the Convention with clear timelines that if they don't respond within a particular time frame Sec 21 of the Ministerial Regulation will be evoked.

3.1. Memorials:

The MINSPO President presented the following names of Pastors who have gone to be with the Lord. The memorial service with the families will be done on Sunday, during the ordination service

- Moruti Philemon Moloji
- Moruti Joseph Cindi
- MmaMoruti Martha Mantlwa

Moruti Mahlangu prayed for their families

Financial Report

The BCSA Treasurer – reference to the BCSA Financials 2022 Assembly Booklet

11.2.1 Financial Report: Annexure A (attached)

11.2.2 2022 – 2023 BCSA Annual Financial Budget: Annexure B (attached)

Highlights of the report:

- » The Treasurer greeted everyone and appreciated the time given to present his report.
- » Tithe of tithes: tithe of tithes is the currently a source of income, need to increase to at least above 50%. For this financial year it makes 21% of the total income.

- » Fundraising; There's a need for concerted effort to increase our fund raising initiatives. According to our target we need a minimum of 1000 people to contribute R100 per month to a monthly income of R100 000.00.
- » Current Assets. The total change of our equity decreased drastically from R4.1million to less than R200 000.00. This is an indication that our finances are not as good as it was the past 5 years.
- » Financial Policy: Is outdated and needs to be reviewed.
- » Making mention of the challenges that faced the BCSA due to various social challenges
- » Thanked the Southern Gauteng, the BWD and the Central Region, BWD for their financial support. The Southern Gauteng BWD has donated R32 000.00 (thirty two thousand) towards the building project
- » Thanked churches that contributed to the building project like Mamelodi and Thabologo
- » The finances have been depleted and it appears like we have started afresh, but there are changes and improvements as tithe of tithe is starting to pick up
- » Since 2018 we have presented a deficit budget, but by God's grace there has never been a deficit but rather a surplus.
- » The last year's budget had R500 000 (Five hundred thousand) deficit but at the end of the year we had a surplus.
- » We continue to receive financial support from our anchor partners Lott Carey, EBMI.
- » Our tithe of tithes has gone down compared to the previous year. 2020/2021.

Building project:

- » 95% completed and what is remaining is plastering and painting
- » The toilets are not working well as they are blocking
- » Background of the financial statement
- » In the past, the College financials have not been reported to the Convention for a while

Clarities:

- Question of clarity sought on R500 000 budget deficit with no bases:
Response: The treasurer indicated that this is based on his optimistic expectation that people will be committed to their contributions. That churches will also improve in their giving of tithe of tithes.
- Rent received: item under building – rent R10 500: is it that building is starting to generate income –
Response: this was based on the rent that was received from the people who rented the place
- Under tithe of tithe: there are churches omitted on the list: is it because the treasurer is not aware of the churches or there'
Response: this is an administrative error that needs to be corrected by regional representatives at the NEC meetings. At the NEC list of churches is provided, and members are normally requested to submit information on churches that do not appear on the list. There's an amount of about R70 000, without church names as people sometimes write wrong reference names or numbers.
- 2022 Assembly booklet: clarity on the conclusion on the financial dating 2017:
this was an error to be corrected
- BTC instead it says training college – **Response:** it was a typing error.
- The fees paid by students: are the students paying twice?

Appointment of Auditors for 2022/2023.

The Treasurer made a motion adopt:

- (I) Independent Practitioners Review report for the year ended 30 June 2022.
- (II) Appointment Independent external Accounting Firm; G. Pringle (CA). SA Practice Number 0821746. Johannesburg.
- (III) Budget report for 2022 to 2023

Resolution.

The assembly adopted all three motions as presented by the National Treasurer.

Final remarks.

The treasurer took the opportunity to thank the Officers and NEC in helping finalize this report. Acknowledge the sterling work done Mrs. Lerato Nguxa the accounting officer. He thanked Lesedi BC for allowing him to serve the Convention and giving him all the support that he needed. He further thanked his wife for love and unconditional support that she gave to him over the years serving as National Treasurer.

Adjourning of business:

The Deputy President called for the closure of the business and requested Mr. Madolo to close with a word of prayer.

The meeting officially adjourned @ 14h02, on the 09/12/2022

Confirmation of minutes by: _____; on the _____. At: _____;

Seconded by: _____

Signatures _____

BCSA President

Deputy President

BCSA Minute Secretariat