



Bryanston Methodist Church
115 - 117 Grosvenor Road, Bryanston
PO Box 67218, Bryanston, 2021
T: +27 011 463 2333
F: +27 011 463 2450
Website: www.bmc.org.za

Bryanston Methodist Church

Minutes of Annual Society Meeting 2023

Date: 27 November 2023

Venue: BMC Sanctuary and Online

Chairperson: Rev K. Monoametsi

Recorded by: Sr Sandisiwe Tyesi

Abbreviation: Q = Question A = Answer

1. OPENING DEVOTIONS

Rev Boitumelo Makgamathe opened with a devotion in Revelations 2 vs 19 – 29. She put emphasis on vs 19 and vs 21. We need to guard ourselves to not view ourselves from a distorted angle. God gives us a clear view of ourselves. In our conversations today, we need to reflect within ourselves and see whether we are a true reflection of God. We also need to reflect to the world what God is like through ourselves. She ended the devotion with a prayer.

2. WELCOMING

By Rev Kamogelo Monoametsi

3. CONSTITUTION OF ASM

Agenda check

1. Opening devotion
2. Welcoming
3. Constitution of ASM
4. Minutes of 2022 ASM
5. General Report
6. Organisational Report
7. Society Executives and elections
8. Appointments of committee
9. Stationing 2024
10. Strategy pdate 2023-2027
11. Notices and closure

Rev Kamogelo Monoametsi mentioned that all reports that came in late will not be included because members need to have enough time to read through. The 4 late reports were: Trust property, Justice and Service, Womens manyano and Young Womens manyano.

The meeting achieved a quorum of 39 members online and 26 members in the sanctuary. Meeting is properly constituted.

Sr Sandisiwe Tyesi volunteered to take minutes for the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF 2022 AMS (NAMHLA MXENGE)

The minutes were previously shared with members and available for reviewing before the meeting. Sr Namhla browsed through the minutes to allow members to indicate whether they had any changes to them. There were no matters arising and so the minutes were adopted as a true representation of the 2022 ASM.

5. GENERAL REPORTS

Rev Gavin Landers gave a report on members audit; Lanseria data is not included in the report.

- 1 300 membership, 3 services at 9am and 11am.
- 7am: 45-60 members weekly in the chapel, consistency is stable and growing
- 9am: 170-300 members, numbers are usually higher at the beginning of the year until Easter and then dip afterwards. However, the numbers picked up later in the year.
- 11am: 350-450 members are consistent ranging throughout the year
- Online attendance: We track 24hours after the service goes online and then how the service went over the week. There is no online 7am service. 9am usually has an attendance of 110-150 and an extra 50 during the week. 11am usually has 130-210 views and an extra 50 during the week as well.
- Children: Their online numbers are generally greater than the youth. Online attendance is 20-60 and their physical attendance is 80-100 for both 9am and 11am.
- Youth: Physical attendance is 25-30 and online views of 20-40.

5.1 New members and confirmations report

- Compared to last year, we had the same number of transfers in (13). Transfers out were also the same number. Confirmants were up by 10 this year to 80 confirmants from the adults program and down from 18 to 10 coming from the youth program.
- Baptism dropped from 53 children to 50. Adults we had 2 last year and 1 this year.

Services

- There are 4 services. There were 6 services previously and then went down to 3 during COVID then started the 7am service in 2021 to make up 4.
- We do not currently record members in Lanseria. There is a group of about 40 people attending there with one male being recorded.
- A 10 year overview attendance was presented from 2013 where we started with about 1700 people in 2013 and dropped during COVID. 2021 was a difficult year for our membership but picked up from 2022 and 2023(1100) in both physical and online.
- 2023 was averaging around 250-280 members per service.
- There were 6 ministers in 2013 which has been gradually reduced to 3 ministers since 2020. This is a factor in terms of capacity to minister and directly influences the ability to hold services. The reduction of services needs to be reviewed with this in mind.
- In terms of staff, there were 117 in 2013 which has gradually dropped through the years. We have a current staff of 18 in 2023.

The report was proposed and adopted.

5.2 Financial report presented by John Whitter

- The presented budget is for 10 months ending in October 2023 because the year end is December.
- There is a surplus of R1 223 000 against a budgeted of R465 000
- Total income is R10 500 000 against the budget of R10 200 000, which ahead by 9% (R264 000).
- The society is required to be audited and the auditors gave a qualified opinion. A few points from that:
- The auditors were not provided with sufficient appropriate audit evidence related to PPE and sale of the manse.
- It is not feasible for the organization to institute accounting controls over cash collections and donations prior to entry into the accounting records. They cannot extend their examinations beyond the receipts

recorded. This is normal for us given the type of organization we are in.

- This year, there has been a lot of work done in compiling a fixed asset register to meet the first point of qualification.
- All expenses are well within the budget except for properties due to unforeseen costs relating to municipal utilities.

BMC FINANCIAL REPORT – OCTOBER 2023						
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE – 10 MONTHS ENDED 31 OCT 2023						
Description	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance	Actual YTD	Oct 23:22	Actual YTD
	Oct 23	Oct 23		Oct 22	Variance	Dec 2022
	R000	R000	R000	R000	%	R000
Base Tithe Income	7,657	8,175	(518)	7,553	1	8,966
-EFTs	6,685	7,460	(775)	6,892	(3)	8,177
- Cash collections	972	715	257	661	47	789
Large one-off Donations	1,168	790	378	914	28	1,014
Total Tithe Income	8,825	8,965	(140)	8,467	4	9,980
Other Income	762	620	142	603	26	729
Rhona Collections	912	650	262	530	0	819
Total Income	10,500	10,235	264	9,600	9	11,528
Less: Expenses	9,266	9,771	504	8,487	(9)	10,922
Tithe related	883	897	14	847	(4)	998
Assessment	1,327	1,330	3	1,297	(2)	1,556
Operating expenses	7,057	7,544	488	6,343	(11)	8,368
NET SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	1,233	465	769	1,114	11	606

SUMMARISED BALANCE SHEETS			
Description	Oct 23	Sep 23	Dec 22
			R000
ASSETS			
FIXED ASSETS			
At Cost	4,515	4,515	4,515
Less: Expensed	(4,515)	(4,515)	(4,515)
	-	-	-
BANK AND CASH BALANCES			
Ring-fenced funds			
- Property	563	559	529
- Guarantee	298	298	298
	861	857	827
BMC Bank & Cash Balances	2,994	3,170	2,437
	3,855	4,027	3,264
Other receivables	165	110	231
TOTAL ASSETS	4,019	4,137	3,495
LIABILITIES			
Funds held on behalf of others	333	344	504
Other liabilities	779	1,170	1,318
	1,113	1,514	1,822
BMC RESERVES	2,906	2,622	1,673
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND RESERVES	4,019	4,137	3,495

Last years Rhona assisted with the backlog maintenance for 2023. There is a shortfall of about R89k which will be taken from 2023 Rhona money as agreed by the leaders.

2022 RHONA MAINTENANCE FUNDING

2023 BACKLOG MAINTENANCE PROJECTS	R
ORIGINAL 2022 BACKLOG PROVISION FROM RHONA FUNDS	701,883
BUDGETED PROJECTS - EXPENSED TO DATE	
Slate roof restoration - Chapel	37,638
27A Manse water-routing project	40,311
Fire Hydrant Valve 100m installation	36,483
Waterproofing (Lower Office)	4,650
Major 2023 church precinct revamp contract (underway)	671,979
- Paid to contractors to date	403,187
- Balance due on progress	268,792
Sub-total	791,061
Excess on 2023 Revamp project - to be funded from 2023 Rhona funds	(89,178)
TOTAL 2022 RHONA MAINTENANCE PROVISION	701,883

OCTOBER 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ October was another excellent month recording a surplus of R284k (budget R8K)
- ✓ This was mainly due to LOODs received of R302k (budget R80k) and Rhona R150k
- ✓ The YTD surplus is R1,233kk (budget R465k)
- ✓ Tithing income to Oct of R7,657k is **R518k (6%)** below budget and just 1% over 2022
- ✓ Total income YTD of R10,500k is just ahead of budget by R264k (3%)
- ✓ 2023 Rhona drive income to October of R912k is R262k (40%) ahead of budget
- ✓ YTD Oct total expense savings of R488k (6%) is the main contributor to the YTD surplus
- ✓ Expense savings YTD are mainly in:
 - Youth & Young Adults (mainly salaries) R142k
 - Capex R148k
- ✓ Properties has a small budget over-run YTD of **R45k** mainly due to municipal charges
- ✓ All other cost centres are well under or in line with budget YTD
- ✓ R403k was charged in Oct to the 2022 property back-log maintenance provision
- ✓ The tithe-out expense accrual increased by R13k in October to R19k
- ✓ Bank balances decreased in Oct by R166k to R2,660k (after funds held on behalf of others)

Q: What is the amount involved with the sale of the manse? How much was it sold for and why has it been ringfenced? What is the plan with this money?

A: Goes back 5-6years and the amount was R1.5mil which was realized as a surplus. MCSA gave permission to use R1mil of that for staff downsizing compliments. There is a proposal to unringfence the remaining R500k to revamp the building.

The report was proposed and adopted.

BUDGET

2024 BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS

EXPENDITURES

- Salaries & allowances: overall 5% increase
- No new staff positions
- Receptionist / Hospitality Co-ordinator position upgraded
- 2024 budget makes provision for new internship program : 3 children's ministry interns at a cost of R108k
- Provisional 2024 MCO assessment - almost unchanged and still subject to finalisation with MCO

INCOME

- Base tithe & offering income to grow at inflation (6.5%)
- Large one-off donations set at R950k
- 2024 Rhona target R970k
- Other income (property rentals, interest etc) are similar to 2023, set at R932k, pending property re-purposing strategy

Operating expenditure increased for 2024 projections to accommodate; Youth Pastor, Reception upgrade, new Children and Youth internship program and new social media app.

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

All amounts in R 000	% <i>Incr</i>	2024 Budget	2023 Forecast	2022 Actual
Church tithe-out	2.8	1,074	1,045	998
MCO Assessment	0	1,598	1,593	1,556
Operating Expenses	8.7	9,582	8,812	8,368
- <i>Worship & Spirituality</i>		665	657	120
- <i>Educ & Christian formation</i>		1,516	911	1,076
- <i>Administration</i>		7,297	7,032	7,064
- <i>Capital expenditure</i>		104	212	108
Total Expenditures	7.0	12,254	11,450	10,922

Budget expenditure by pillar was presented.

Properties committee and properties operating manager have identified the below urgent campus projects that need attention. It amounts to R650k.

**AN ASIDE:
PROPERTIES - 2024 UNBUDGETED MAINTENANCE REQUIRED**

	2024 R000
SLATE ROOF REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	282
RE-UPHOLSTERY OF SANCTUARY CHAIRS, CURTAINS & RAILS	80
INDUSTRIAL GAS STOVE	48
STORM WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM	60
BOREHOLE INSTALLATION	180
TOTAL	650

It is proposed to fund this from 2023 Rhona income by transferring R650k to a maintenance provision in 2023
(as was done in 2022).

We have a projected surplus of R390k for 2024.

INCOME SUMMARY

All amounts in R 000	% <i>Incr</i>	2024 Budget	2023 Forecast	2022 Actual
INCOME SOURCE				
Regular tithes & offerings	6.5	9,792	9,198	8,966
Large one-off donations	(24.2)	950	1,253	1,014
Rhona	6.3	970	912	819
Sub-total tithes and offerings	3.1	11,712	11,363	10,799
Other income	3.3	932	902	729
Total income	3.1	12,644	12,265	11,528

Challenges for 2024 budget:

- Base tithing income growth of 6.5% when 2023 projected growth is below inflation at 2.6%.
- Property holding costs
- Load shedding cost impact
- Ongoing campus refurbishment

Q: Are we not being too optimistic on the increase of 6.5% on base tithing? A: The increase is made up of the 5.5% inflation and a natural increase of 1%.

Q: Is the base tithing increase in line with the attendance register that Rev Gavin presented?

A: Base tithing needs to be about the core commitment that we ask people to make on a regular basis. There doesn't seem to be a trend on tithes both in person and transfers. Its quite static which is a concern because ideal should be growth.

Q: We need to get to a point of saying, these are the people that are members and these are the people that are not tithing in order to have a good projection. A: We need to ask people to commit to regular giving of their tithes.

Q: Is there a solar installation plan, water back up or rain water harvest?

A: R650k has been put aside for these including a borehole. Solar energy has been investigated and the requirements are expensive but more investigations will be done.

The budget was proposed and adopted.

5.3 HR Report presented by Sr Namhla Mxenge

- Successful recruitment of Youth Pastor and the driver. With the resignation of the front and hospitality coordinator, we are in the process of recruiting for that position

Q: Can employees be put under performance reviews in the coming year? A: Sr Namhla noted that.

Report was proposed and adopted.

5.4 Pastoral Care and Events Report

- In the membership clean-up, 400 members are eliminated from the church base (1 200 is the correct figure not 2 000).
- Another membership drive will be done in 2024 to try and bring down the numbers of youth and children from the base.
- Feedback from small groups is at 76%. These reports are used for 2024 for needs eg economy, spiritual growth, trauma, toxic work environment, mental health, relations and family conflict.

Q: Are we able to ascertain who is where on their church leadership term? Can we appoint youth leaders where there are gaps?

A: We need to do some work to regularize the terms of the people who are serving. Young Alpha will be done next year to assist in getting more young people in leadership.

- New class leaders were presented. Namely: Noxolo Mati, Rev Boitumelo Class - Leader tbc, Rev Kamogelo Class - leader tbc

Report was proposed and adopted.

5.5 Joseph Store House report presented by Themba

- Receiving, cooking and dispensing food based on mission eg Christmas drive, blanket drive (1 050 blankets)
- 300 people are fed with being served 12 000 hot meals in 2023.
- 200 reusable pads distributed in Diepslot West Secondary school, reusable over 5 years.
- Received 284 pairs of shoes and distributed to 8 NPOs.
- Blanket drive lead by the fathers group, over 150 blankets.
- Joseph Store House spent about 9.2 million over the 10 months.

Proposal for Annual Homeless Christmas party to share the Word of God and gifts in Nov - Dec 2024.

Q: Does the cost of running the JSH fall under tithes? A: Yes it does.

Report was proposed and adopted.

5.6 Youth, Children and YOYL Proposals presented by L Dhlamini and J Blake

- Holiday club was successful with 70 kids attending, 30 teens helping out.
- Proposal to have 3 interns (18-25 years) at a cost R9 000 a month. They can work 4 days of 5hrs a day or 2.5days of 8hrs a day because the number of children keep growing.

Q: Are there plans to make the Children's space more child-like?

A: Agreed that the rooms do need some work. Plans were put on hold but they are still there.

Q: Is it feasible to have 3 interns at this cost?

A: We had agreed to invest more in the Children and Youth ministry and give it specific attention to grow it. This proposal is to allow us that.

Report was proposed and adopted.

5.7 Worship Report done by Craig Strydom

- 11am service: Consistently led by choir leader, not only used videos.
- 9am service: drastic decrease in the musicians available, looking for additional help. Have been using videos to assist.
- Point was made that an investment needs to be made on musical instruments.

Report was proposed and adopted.

5.8 Communications Report and App proposal Presented by K Wetton

- Fibre capacity to be raised to a 50mb line for 2024
- Over 277 graphic designs were done (app being in the budget).
- Website is back up and running. It was hacked at the beginning of the year and had to be rebuilt.
- 951 people on 3 whatsapp groups. We also have FB, Instagram and X active accounts. Newsletter that goes out every Thursday, 107k emails were sent, with 2 433 subscribers.

A point was raised that our content is flat and we need more social media traffic and BMC being in the metropolitan, we need to attract more people. A sub-committee is needed to be tasked to create more content and assist.

Sr Unathi has volunteered to assist Kerry with this.

Report was proposed and adopted.

App Proposal

The app is mainly for church growth and engagements. Members will be able to register, watch lives, submit prayer requests, etc.

The website is for the external community whereas the App will be for BMC members internally.

Sub splash an American company gave the best quote

They offer the following options included in the CORE+ APP bundle.

- Website Support (Dashboard)
- Branded Phone & Tablet App
- Media / Content Management
- Push Notifications
- Bible reading plans (ie Small Group Devotional Material)
- Sermon notes & plans
- Registrations for events & courses
- Media Player – to watch services & recordings.
- Dedicated success manager to assist.
- Ongoing 24/7 Tech Support

Initial Setup Costs	\$499 <i>(waivered for previous clients i.e. BMC)</i>
STANDARD COSTS MONTHLY (if billed monthly)	\$133 x 12 = \$ 1596 R2423 x 12 = R 29 072*
STANDARD COSTS MONTHLY (if billed annually)	\$120 x 12 = \$ 1440 R2186 x 12 = R 26 230*

*approx. US\$ exchange rate as of 15/11/23)

RECCOMENDATION

Taking the above information into account and looking at the best solution for BMC – **We would like to propose that we go ahead with the APP development as tabled above with the view to launch it in early 2024.**

Q: Can the App be piloted before permanent initiation given that it had failed before. A: The main focus is for interaction internally vs our website and social media platforms

Q: Can we consider a hybrid plan where we incorporate internal communication within the existing website where it asks whether you are a member or not before going through that part of the site.

Q: Are we not adding more challenges by adding yet another communication platform when we are already struggling with the current platforms we have.

Q: Is there a way to maybe make some profit from the app. Grace church has a successful app and we can try and find out how they manage it.

A: **The proposal was denied** and the matter deferred until we can have a Communication Indaba where we can have a detailed conversation and come with a solution, possibly next year.

6. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

6.1 Young Mens Guild Report

Report was taken as read prior. It was moved to adoption and accepted.

6.2 Wesley Guild Report

A brief overview of the report was presented with all activities that took place throughout the year. The report was moved to adoption and accepted.

7. SOCIETY EXECUTIVES AND ELECTIONS

Rev G Landers raised that Society Executive leaders is for the leaders meeting and not this platform.

7.1 Stewards elections presented by Rev K Monoametsi

One Society Steward Sr Ntokozo's term has come to an end and is not available for re- election.

Sr S Dlamini, U Matoti and H Oosthuizen have resigned and those positions need to be filled in.

- Nomination forms were shared and we have 4 nominees. These need to follow the 40/40/20.
- One of the nominees has not been a member of the MCSA for 2 years according to the book of law and a deviation is proposed and accepted with the mind that this rule wasn't considered when appointing other leaders.

There were no nominations from the floor and online to replace the nominee that has not been a member of the MCSA for 2 years.

The nominated and elected stewards for 2024-2026 were;

- Sabelo Ntanjana (M) from the 11am service
- Andile Mcineka (M) from the 11am service under 35yrs
- Sandisiwe Tyesi (F) from the 11am service under 35yrs
- Ruth Mzaidume (F) from the 7am service There was no nomination for 9am service.

8. APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEES

- Auditor: LSG integrated
- Finance committee: current names appointed plus Nonhlanhla Mabusela and Bafana Thokoza
- Trust property: current names appointed plus K. Tapula
- HR: current names appointed plus Ayanda
- Fundraising: Rev Boitumelo, Lungile Malinga, Duduza
- Leaders meeting secretary: Gcobisa Sigwili
- Mission group leaders: organizations to submit the elected names to Kerry for record purposes.

9. STATIONING 2024

- Update is that BMC will be receiving Rev T Mcinga as a conference appointment. She should be arriving between 1st - 20th December 2023. She will be replacing Rev Landers.
- Process regarding the stations of Rev Monoametsi and Rev Makgamathe is underway and feedback will be given in the 1st quarterly meeting.
- Members queried why they are not told reasons behind Rev Makgamathe and Rev Monoametsi's leaving the society. Rev Landers insisted on following the process and reporting on this in the correct meeting which is the first quarterly meeting in 2024.

10. STRATEGY UPDATE 2023 - 2027 PRESENTED BY REV MAKGAMATHE

2023	2024
EVANGELISM & CHURCH GROWTH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow devoted Church attendees (ACHIEVED) • Drive Evangelism (<i>Partially Achieved</i>) 	EVANGELISM & CHURCH GROWTH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow devoted Church attendees • Drive Evangelism
WORSHIP EXPERIENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the worship experience (ACHIEVED) 	WORSHIP EXPERIENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the worship experience
HOLISTIC CARE & DISCIPLESHIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop attendees holistically (ACHIEVED) • Streamline discipleship process (ACHIEVED) • Develop leaders 	HOLISTIC CARE & DISCIPLESHIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop attendees holistically • Streamline discipleship process • Develop leaders (Prioritised 2024)
CAMPUS & FUNDING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow Reserves (ACHIEVED) • Income development of underutilised property 	CAMPUS & FUNDING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow Reserves • Income development of underutilised property
ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNANCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific targeted communications (ACHIEVED) • Capture & Leverage past knowledge (ACHIEVED) 	ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNANCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific targeted communications • Capture & Leverage past knowledge

Comment made about the need to quantify each of the matrix that have been achieved. Also show how we are moving with the strategy over 5yrs.

11. NOTICES AND CLOSURE

Notices were already shared and will continue being shared on the Newsletter.

Rev G Landers was thanked for his service at BMC and leading with the church with so much grace.

Rev Monoametsi lead the Benediction and closed.