

**Methodist Church of Southern Africa**  
**Connexional Youth Conference 2012**  
**5-8 July 2012, East London**



*CO-AUTHORS*

*Lehlohonolo Mathibe, Robyn-Lee Samuels, Gift Monnapula, Xolani Moloi, Ntaoleng Motseki & Nokuthula Mkhize*

**Resolution on the Work of God**

We, one hundred and eleven (111) delegates, gathered at the Buffalo City College in East London for the Connexional Youth Conference (CYC) of the Methodist Youth Unit (MYU), which was hosted by the Queenstown District number 3 of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA), under the theme – “DARE TO DREAM”, from the 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

During the opening devotions and welcoming, which were delivered by Bishop Noqayi of the Queenstown District – a district which stretches from the Indian Ocean (in the east) to the Kei river (in the west); from the Molteno mountains (in the north) to the Mbashe river (in the south), we heard God saying that “it is important not to stop dreaming”. Indeed, if we do that – “we will have a vision for life; we will always be objective; and we will surely be what God created us”. We also heard that the youth in the Queenstown District is vibrant and is in many ways fulfilling the mission of God through numerous projects which have thus far yielded fruit to the glory of God. The Conference was indeed blessed by the Children Ministry group, from various Circuits in and around East London, which rendered musical items for the delegates.

When proceedings to formally constitute the Conference were completed, we were reminded that as the MYU, we have committed ourselves to be “ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY”. Therefore, it is imperative to take those steps, no matter how small, of ensuring that God’s creation is taken care of. Through the voice of the out-going Connexional coordinator, Revd Moagi Sekhejane, we heard God saying that we “must not allow those giants – or the Goliaths (that is - tribalism, ethnicism, sexism, classism and xenophobia)”, which are often the instruments of division used by the evil one, to prevail in the MYU. He further wished the incoming Connexional coordinator, Revd Luxolo Mantini and his team, well and he promised to support them as they navigate the ship farther – for we “DARE TO DREAM”.

The induction service, to affirm and celebrate what God has done for the MYU (in general) and for Revd Mantini, brother Ayanda Gogobala (general secretary) and sister Zoleka Maki (treasurer), in particular, was held at the Trinity Methodist Church. The charge was delivered by the Executive Secretary of the church (Revd Vido Nyobole) on behalf of the Presiding Bishop Zipho Siwa. The Executive Secretary commended the out-going committee for a work well done. He reminded us that the Youth Unit, now, has dignity and it is respected by all in the church and beyond - thanks to the sacrifices and skilful leadership of Revd Sekhejane and his team. We heard God saying, we should dare to dream about the leadership style espoused by Paul in Philippians 2: 1-11 and by Jesus in Luke 22: 24-32. We heard God saying that we should have the mind of Christ – who left his glorious status and became a servant of and for all; to be tolerant and to

embrace diversity; to “empty ourselves” and more importantly to adopt “the towel and basin ministry” for the honour of the Triune God. Before the service was concluded with benediction, Revd Mantini thanked God for all he has done for him and paid tribute to many “angels” who have been by his side for years and groomed him for the journey ahead of him. He also thanked the church choir, which made the entire service and the “breaking of the bread” inspiring and momentous.

On the second day of the Conference, the delegates were honoured by the presence of the praise and worship team from the Mthatha Circuit; whose journey could not be derailed by sad two non-fatal vehicle accidents on their way to be with us. Thus, in prayer, the CYC thanked God for having journeyed with them through thick and thin for the fulfilment of missio Dei. Our first of two bible study sessions, conducted by Rev Tony Mthiwethafa, to mainly unpack the biblical perspectives of our theme was inspirational and empowering. The session was anchored on Ezra 10: 4 and sailed through Genesis 41: 14-24. We heard God saying that as we dare to dream, “we need to ask the Holy Spirit to keep us in a discerning mood”. We also heard about the characteristics of a dream authored and ordained by God; i.e. it has (seven) stages and (seven) impacts.

After a brief introduction of our Connexional coordinator, which was done by Revd Simphiwe Mathebe, Revd Mantini was willing and ready to address the Conference. He thanked God for those who steered the ship before and (humbly) accepted the responsibility of leading the MYU in the MCSA from where we are today to where God wants us to be tomorrow. The vision he outlined for us showed that he is (deeply) mindful of global matters and acts locally without fear, favour or prejudice to change the lives of the people entrusted to him. Revd Mantini’s dream for MYU is surely going to have far reaching positive impact in the life of our Unit. The suggestions, which were subsequently expounded by brother Ayanda Gogobala using the “M-Strategic Plan 2012-2015”, were warmly welcomed and referred to various commissions for further discussion and discernment by the delegates, and some of those were:

- To establish the MYU Mission Educational Fund to be launched in 2013
- To Establish the Youth Unit Investment Initiative to be launched in 2014
- To Enhance the visibility of MYU
- To deepen mission and spirituality
- Capacity building

We heard God saying that we must dare to dream – and also dare to speak truth to power in confronting treacherous monsters of our time. We heard God saying that “there is nothing good about shrinking so that others may feel good or come to your level”. Afterwards, the conference received Brother Sizwe Ngwendu’s report on the State of the MYU. We thanked God for having been with us thus far and we encouraged all to work harder on those issues which continue to hurt us as individuals and collectively as diverse MYU formations.

## DARE TO DREAM

The conference received various reports from following task teams, which were set up to ensure that we walk-the-talk and talk-the-walk; the International Methodist Young Leaders Seminar, the World Methodist Conference, the HIV/AIDS Champion, the Mozambique task team, the Youth Economic Empowerment (YEE) and the Y-AGE. We celebrated the

news that our YEE project has distributed an amount of R139 000.00 to uplift needy and talented young people with their business ventures and ideas. Notably, we celebrated and glorified God for having made it possible for us to have (for the first time) a full delegation from Mozambique. We heard God saying that we must work hard to break communication barriers which continue to stifle implementation of His will on earth. It was an honour to receive warm brotherly and sisterly ecumenical greetings from the South African Council of Churches Youth Forum, which were delivered by Revd Mxolisi Sonti.

Subsequent to the adoption of the financial statements and the budget for the ensuing year, delegates went to various commissions to discuss resolutions and to engage (closely and carefully) with the 2012-2015 MYU strategic plan and with issues which emanated from the Coordinators address (among others).

At the end of the day and to unwind, the host district graciously entertained us with the tunes of Zahara, Hugh Masekela, Whitney Houston (among others) and there were enough savouries and non-alcoholic wine for everyone. We heard God saying – “we need to move with God in realising our dreams – a journey of prayer”.

To begin another glorious day of the Lord, Revd Tony Mthiwethafa delivered the second part of the bible study. We heard about the king who dared to dream – king Josiah. We heard God saying that we must not let anyone to undermine our dream, vision and strategic plans just because we are young.

The Conference was blessed by the unexpected arrival and warmly received greetings from our Presiding Bishop Zipho & Mrs Siwa who arrived last night, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July, from church work in England. We heard God saying that as we dare to dream we must be a Unit which goes out to those who need Christ, instead of waiting for them to come to us; and to be a church that is incarnational.

During plenary, the Conference received and debated motions and reports from a range of commissions with seriousness so deserved. We celebrated the generosity of our brothers and sisters from Mozambique who showered members of the MYU Exco and Mrs Mantini with gifts. The Conference thanked our host for their warm reception and our Bishop Losaba – who presided over CYC once again – for his passion for youth work and for his time. We celebrated the announcement that the upcoming CYC will be held in the KNB District – Namibia.

Indeed, we, during the entire duration of the CYC 2012, affirmed that this is our dream – this is for the glory of Jesus who reigns in a holy union with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and forever.

Dare to dream.

Amen.