

# DIGEST

## Conference speaks out on Biko, squatters, bannings . . .

### Christian Citizenship Department

The social conscience of the Church was expressed in a wide range of resolutions touching public life in South Africa. While lack of time prevented full scale debate on some of the issues more than 20 resolutions were passed.

- Deplored the death in detention of Mr Steve Biko and some 42 detainees and the manner in which these matters had been handled by the Minister of Justice and his Department. Conference called upon the Minister to resign his post;

- Expressed concern about post-mortems held on dead detainees before next of kin could exercise their full legal rights;

- Called upon the Minister of Justice to establish a judicial commission of Enquiry to fully investigate detention deaths;

- Called upon the Department of Community Development and Bantu Administration to exercise restraint and compassion in resettlement programmes and to refrain from both the inhuman practice of removing people from their homes until alternative accommodation was found, and from the deplorable practice of separating husbands and wives;

- Declared its support for the statement on conscientious objection made by the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference and requested that the full statement be conveyed to every Church member;

- Expressed regret that in some quarters the civil defence programme placed more emphasis upon defence than the handling of natural disasters and civil emergencies and that the black community was often excluded from the programme offered;

- Re-affirmed Methodism's objection to the Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act in the strongest possible terms and urged positive steps to campaign for its repeal;

- Expressed its understanding of and respect for such ministers as were compelled by their own conscience to relinquish their appointment as marriage officers in protest against the implementation of the act;

- Deplored the contemplated legalisation of shebeens and urged that beer halls and depots be not established near township entrances or in close proximity to schools, sports grounds, communities centres and similar institutions;

- Resolved to approach the authorities with a view to halting or curbing the sale of liquor on Sundays in African townships;

- Expressed increasing concern about the lack of spiritual care for persons detained by the Security Police under various acts;

- Called upon the Minister of Police to reconsider present legislation and to make amendments so as to enable such detainees to receive spiritual ministrations;

- Requested the Government to immediately initiate a national relief scheme for the unemployed whereby financial assistance might be given, public works schemes instituted and or part-time employment opportunities be made known;

- Urged that Churches equip themselves to give material and other forms of aid to those most seriously affected by unemployment;

- Approved the work of the Dependents' Conference division of the South African Council of Churches which assists the families of political detainees and urged that Methodist ministers and people give material and spiritual assistance to such dependents;

- Viewed with dismay the action of the Government in banning certain organisations, publications and individuals notably the Christian Institute of South Africa and its officials, Dr Beyers Naudé, the Rev Brian Brown, the Rev Theo Kotze and Mr Cedric Mayson;

- Re-affirmed its rejection of the Homeland policy of the South African Government;

- Expressed the firm opinion that this policy was divisive and disrupting to the mission and unity of the Church;

- Called upon the Prime Minister to reconsider the Homeland Policy before the consequences of it resulted in devastating effects on the nation as a whole;

- Noted with abhorrence that the Government acting through

the Police had now openly cast aside all pretense at freedom of religious activity as evidenced by the arrests of the Rev Wesley Mabuza and Father D. O'Riordan at a memorial service held in a cemetery on 14 August 1977, as well as occasionally interfering with the rights of friends attending funeral services in black townships.

### One Secretary

As in the case of the Missionary and CEY Departments the Christian Citizenship Department asked for only one general Secretary from now on. The Rev Austen Massey who has held the post alone since the resignation of his colleague, the Rev Sam Seane earlier in the year, was confirmed in this post.

### Ecumenical Affairs:

World Methodist Council Secretary, the Rev Joe Hale, opened the Ecumenical Affairs Debate by addressing the Conference. Mr Hale had been a guest of the Conference since earlier on in its sessions.

He said that in the Ecumenical Movement at present there were two parts of a grid constituting the Christian family; the World Council of Churches with its 292 member Churches and the different families of Christian Churches of which 21 million Methodists made up a significant part.

The World Methodist Council had 62 member Churches in 90 countries of the world and it represented the only forum where Methodists could meet and witness together. Although the Council had no legislative power it was a place for fellowship.

Mr Hale expressed the hope that he would be able to interpret to the whole Methodist family "the heroic witness of this Church in South Africa". He said that the World Methodist Council stood with the Methodist Church of South Africa and wanted to draw from its particular strengths.

The President then reported on his visit to the World Methodist Executive in Switzerland recently and remarked upon the totally different approach experienced there as compared with the hostility in Dublin the year before.

### WCC

Dr Maurice Nyembezi, a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches endorsed a remark made earlier by the Rev Vivian Harris that it was most important for there to be representation on bodies such as these. He qualified this by saying that it was no longer possible for a white man alone to adequately represent the Church overseas —

### Greetings from WMC

It was difficult enough for a black man because the question asked most frequently was: "if you are really concerned for the struggle in South Africa, why is it that you are not in jail?"

People were concerned to know whether the Church was identifying itself with the struggle of the black man and Dr Nyembezi suggested to them that a team of black and white Christians from South Africa should meet a group representing combined churches from overseas. "We have a tremendous duty to correct wrong impressions" he said.

### SACC

The Conference noted a report by the President on his attendance at the Hammanskraal Conference this year.

Apart from the importance of being involved, he said that one of the great attributes of the SACC was its involvement in the "wooing of black churches" thus forming a bridge with a very significant group of Christians in this country.

### Church Unity Commission

A team of Church leaders, theologians, circuit ministers and lay persons has been selected to participate in the consultation on membership and ministry which is being set up by the Church Unity Commission early in 1978. They are: Church leaders: The President of Conference the President-Elect,

"I read every issue of Dimension".

— Rev Joe Hale, Secretary, World Methodist Council.



A moment of abandon in the evening rally where the Rev Joe Hayle addressed the open session. With him is the Rev Austen Massey who chaired the evening.

"It was at this point that the Government saw fit to declare the Christian Institute a banned organisation and having sought legal advice, we regret that we can no longer submit this document to the Conference".

Mr Massey had also been advised that any recommendations in respect of the Christian Institute would have to be withdrawn as well.

"I regret that we find ourselves in the situation because it would have been very helpful and informative. Our recommendations would have brought a creative and constructive debate because we understood that there was some ministry for this organisation", said Mr Massey.

In the discussion that followed concern was expressed that a report such as this should simply have to vanish without trace and the President-Elect indicated his willingness to read the recommendations to the Conference.

Mr Derek Kotze stated that according to his understanding of the law the Conference could, in no way, affirm anything the Christian Institute had done.

The debate ended when the Rev S.G. Pitts moved that Conference proceed to the next item of business and this was carried by 82 votes to 30 with 15 neutral.

### Christian League criticised

In respect of the Christian League which was to have been examined by the same Commission, Mr Massey reported that the League has replied to Methodist approaches by laying down conditions which the Methodist Church simply could not accept. It was only recently that a letter had been received which indicated that the League might now be more open to discussion.

The Rev Cyril Wilkins moved that the Committee should remain in being and that they should be asked to discuss things with the Christian League.

The Rev Charles Villa-Vicencio protested strongly at the approach taken by the mouth-piece of the Christian League "Encounter". He was angry at the way in which Christian leaders such as Dr John de Gruchy and the Rev Athol Jennings had been smeared in this publication and he criticised the League for "imposing on us all sorts of conditions under which they would consult".

Mr Massey reported that he had also come under pressure from a body known as the Rhodesian Christian Group. "I have refused to reply" he said.

### C.I. Report barred by Bannings

A twenty-eight page report on the Christian Institute had to be withdrawn at the last moment because of the banning of the organisation.

The Rev Austen Massey, Convener of the Commission set up by last year's Conference, reported that the C.I. had been responsive and ready to meet with the Commission. "We met after looking at much documentation and we found it to be a very useful exercise", he said. The Rev Howard Kirkby had been asked to prepare the necessary report for Conference and the twenty-eight page document had been ready for tabling.

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# CONFERENCE

## New Moves in Communication

The Conference took a major step in improving the Church's communication with the world by agreeing to the appointment of a professional editor for *Dimension* newspaper and linking this task with that of a Church Information Officer.

Presenting his last report to the Conference, the Rev Peter Storey, who has edited *Dimension* since its inception 8 years ago, indicated that it was no longer possible to advance the cause of the paper as well as hold down the kind of circuit position which he now held. Mr Storey has been Minister at Central Methodist Church, Johannesburg for the last two years and he said that during this period he had been able to do little more than "maintain" the newspaper. "In the world of journalism mere maintenance is the kiss of death and leads inevitably to decline" he said.

In the search for a successor the failure to find any other minister who was prepared to carry the editorship together with a circuit job had led *Dimension's* Board of Management to think more creatively and there had emerged the concept of a full-time lay appointment who would combine the editorship of *Dimension* with the task of an Information Officer for the Church.

Consultations with the Methodist Bookroom had brought warm support for this idea and the offer of R5 000 per annum for two years as a contribution towards its launching. The Missionary and Extension Fund had budgeted a similar amount to ensure financial viability.

Speaking about the new Information Officer position, Mr Storey said that his responsibilities would be to ensure that "the mind and mission of the Methodist Church of South Africa is communicated and

interpreted to as wide a public as possible using all available media". Outlining a 10-point job description which included that of assisting the President and Chairmen of Districts in the formulation and release of public statements, Mr Storey said that it was crucial that the Church's response to situations should be rapid and informed. "It is no good us passing a welter of resolutions every October and giving the impression that the Church only has a mind in the month of October each year". It was important also that there should be adequate research and facts available in order to respond to situations. It was becoming more difficult to get space for Church news in the press and the new medium of television posed its own challenges. It was also a fact that bad news tended to interest the press more than good news and there was need for a professional to ensure that a balance was disseminated.

Because of the "legal mine-field" through which newspaper editors have to tread these days, a full-time professional appointment to *Dimension* was a step forward.

The Conference agreed unanimously to the principle of an Editor/Information Officer and then agreed (also unanimously) to an approach being made to Mr Theo Coggin, son of the late Rev Lyn Coggin, who is a professional journalist and at present Information Officer of the SACC.

The Rev Howard Kirkby rose to say that he had been proud of *Dimension* as a Methodist newspaper. "So many religious publications cause me to cringe when I read them but this one has been different" he said.

At the end of the *Dimension* business the President of the Conference proposed an unopposed special resolution of thanks to the retiring editor for his work over the past 8 years. The Conference passed this with a standing ovation.

## Call for Loyalty

Introducing the Affairs of the Methodist Bookrooms, Book Steward Maurice Fearn said that it was difficult to understand why some ministers and churches in Methodism operated book tables which were in direct competition with the Bookroom itself.

Pleading for loyalty to the Methodist Bookrooms, Mr Fearn said that support for them was in fact support for the Church.

"We have felt the chilly winds of economic recession and this has retarded our growth rate somewhat" he said. The 15% import duty on books and heavy landing charges were also a burden — landing charges had been R5 000 last year and so far were R12 000 for 1977.

In spite of this there had been sales of over half a million rand this year and the maintenance of cash flow had remained satisfactory.

"The opinion has been expressed that literature is no longer a power in life but that power is in Government politics and the mass media. Power may be evident there but it is latent in the printed word. Why else are books banned and why are presses silenced?" he asked. He said that the printed page was still a powerful means of communication and that the present interest in journalism and communication may be the beginning of something greater.

Mr Fearn announced that a new book by Dr Charles Villavicencio entitled "The Theology of Apartheid" would be released shortly. Another booklet entitled "Go Tell" by Dr C. Edgar Wilkinson was handed out to members of the Conference.

Dealing with the tradition of Quarterly "tickets" used primarily in African congregations, Mr Fearn said that the printing of these tickets cost between R8 000 and R8 500 annually and asked whether it was not time for them to become an annual rather than quarterly issue.

A number of black speakers supported the Book Steward in his suggestion although one of them, the Rev W. Papuma suggested their total abolition. "We are basing our Faith on very shaky foundations made of paper" he said.

"If a member dies his family collects all his communion tickets in fear and trembling to place in the coffin and if only one is missing the mourners become very worried about his future!"

In thanking the Book Steward for his report and his work for the year, the President reminded the Conference that Mr Fearn had revealed magnificent talent with the paintbrush and that a recent art exhibition of his had been very warmly received in Cape Town.

## Healdtown Goes on Sale

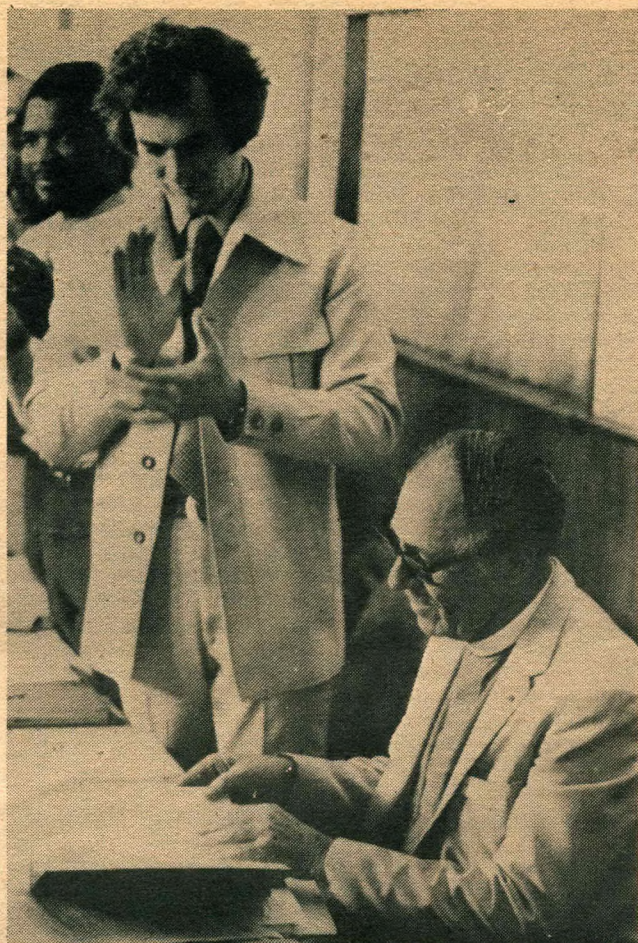
A poignant moment in the Conference was when the Rev Stanley G. Pitts, Convenor of the Board of African Education recommended the sale of Healdtown Institution to the Government of the Ciskei. Mr Pitts was Warden of the Institution for more than 21 years before moving to the Southern Transvaal.

The Conference resolved to negotiate the sale of Healdtown as from January 1978.

In discussing a figure for negotiation, it was pointed out that more than financial considerations were involved. "We have got to understand what Healdtown means to the people of the Ciskei — people must not feel abandoned even though the Church will no longer own this institution" said one of the delegates.

Mr Pitts concurred that there was an element of sentiment and went on to say that there were those in Government circles who would not hesitate to "put it about how the Church has bled the people to the last drop of blood".

Answering a question as to what would happen to monies realised by the sale of such insti-



The Rev Lloyd G.S. Griffiths receives a standing ovation to mark the end of his Chairmanship of the North Free State and Lesotho District.

tutions, Mr Wilkins said that a similar procedure would be followed as had been recommended for the sale of Hospitals. The money would however not be paid in a lump sum but was likely to come in drafts over the next five years.

At the end of the discussion Mr Pitts said "we now leave Healdtown in more than one way. This is a tragic day".

The President stood to give thanks for all that Mr Pitts had meant to Healdtown over the years.

## Property Affairs

There were cheers in the Conference when it was announced that the famous "Number 5 Schedule" which has provided headaches for Superintendents and Circuit Stewards from time immemorial, has been abolished. With the introduction of a new set of schedules the Number 5 will no longer be necessary.

The Conference also resolved that where any property is disposed of and the monies or compensations are not required for any immediate replacement purposes that the money be invested with the Methodist Connexional Office immediately.

Also decided was that no Circuit, Society or trust committee would be permitted to enter into a hire purchase agreement in the name of the Church for any reason whatsoever.

The suggestion that there be a system of levies on building schemes and sales of properties is to be investigated further by the Connexional Trust Properties Committee in consultation with the Methodist Connexional Office and circuits of the Church. The Secretary of the Connexional Trust Properties Committee, the Rev Steve Roux, pointed out confusions in the suggestion. "You can't tax the sale of old property as well as new purchases — it must be one or the other" he said. Preliminary investigations had revealed that the total amount that such a levy might bring forth each year would be around R20 000 and that this was a relatively insignificant amount.

## Commission System Tightened

Proposals to outline more clearly the functioning of the Commission System will be sent to Quarterly Meetings for report back through Synods to Conference of next year.

The proposal that lay members of Synod committees should be elected for not more than 3 consecutive years at a time was referred back to the Revision Committee.

## Private Schools "Avowedly Christian"

In a verbal report to the Conference on the work of Methodist Private Schools, the Rev Cyril Wilkins said that each of the four schools — Kingswood, Kearsney, Epworth and St Stithians — were "avowedly and aggressively Christian".

"The reports from each of these schools indicates that the Chaplains are regarded as having the most important role in the school" he said.

Mr Wilkins reported that the Boards of all 4 schools were entirely in sympathy with the Church on the issue of open admission and that every governing council was working on this. "There is no difference in spirit between the desires of the Conference and those of our Church schools" he said.

The Conference decided to include in its Minutes an addition to the existing paragraph on open admission: "The Governing bodies are diligently engaged in attempting to discover ways and means of implementation of this when it becomes possible".

## Power of Attorney

As from 1978 Superintendent Ministers will no longer be chasing the President of the Conference around the country in order to get documents signed for the transfer of property.

The Conference resolved that the President may grant a power of attorney to the Secretary of the Conference to sign trust property documents on his behalf.

Up to now no transfer of property has been possible without the signature of the President and this has sometimes created frustrating delays when the President has been on one of his visits to the Districts. This will now be obviated.

## Lay Members Elected

The first opportunity to exercise the new rights under the revised constitution of Conference took place on the 4th day of the Representative Session when 12 lay-elected delegates were voted for — this time without any reference to race. In order to ensure that there was a regular rotation, it was decided that out of the 12 to be elected, 4 would sit for 3 years, 4 for 2 years, and 4 for 1 year according to the number of votes received.

The following were elected: For three years: Mr W.J. McKormick, Mr J.C. Rees, Mr K.M.N. Guzana, Mrs F. Hendricks. For two years: Dr R. Cingo, Dr S.M. Nyembezi, Dr F.L. Quint, Mr K.C. James. For one year: Dr H. Shaw, Mr N.C. Jackson, Prof K.M. Kgware, Mr G. Braam.

## Charismatic Renewal Recognised

The Conference has acknowledged that the Charismatic renewal is a phenomenon of increasing strength and significance in South African Churches. A small committee has been appointed to prepare guidelines for Methodists in contact with the renewal and to "encourage all our people to be aware of and respond to every manifestation of the Spirit of God in our world today".

Introducing the resolution the Rev Brian Hazell said that the Spirit of God was doing something significant across the Republic with growing numbers of people involved. "Many Methodist people are finding new power in the Holy Spirit in their lives and the religion of experience with its manifestation of the gifts of revelation, speech and power is being revealed" he said.

The Methodist Church needed to declare its openness to this spiritual renewal and to recognise that it was growing not only in numbers but in maturity.

Mr Hazell reminded the Conference that there were memories of some painful incidents associated with the movement in earlier years. "The time has come for a healing to happen" he declared.

In the search to discover what God was saying through the renewal there was:

- a need for openness from non-Charismatics to the positive aspect of the renewal;
- there was need for something to be said to people in the renewal concerning their loyalty towards and their love for the Church;
- there was a need for education of some who are confused about the character of the renewal movement and who are making false identifications between it and other manifestations.

A committee consisting of the Revs A. Losaba, J.R. Rist, B.K. Hazell, C.G. Mkeze, Prof V.J. Bredenkamp, J. Foerie, D.J. Buwaida and Mr John Tooke was appointed with power to co-opt. The committee will work under the umbrella of the Missionary Department.

## New Chairman

There was only one change this year amongst Chairmen of Districts when the Conference appointed the Rev Kenneth W. Meaker to succeed the Rev Lloyd G.S. Griffiths as Chairman of the Northern Free State and Lesotho District.

Mr Griffiths received a standing ovation from the Conference after the President had reminded delegates that he had spent his entire ministry in the Free State. "There on the flat land of the Free State there walked and stalked a great man — Lloyd Griffiths! You held the banner of Methodism high over the years and we thank you for your service, commitment and loyalty" said Mr Hendricks. In all of this Mr Griffiths had been supported by a warm, capable and loving wife and she too deserved the thanks of the Conference.

In the voting for Deputy-Chairmen one of those nominated by Synods, the Rev Enos Sikakane, indicated through a letter which was read out by his Chairman, Rev T.D. Sadler, that his convictions required of him that he withdraw his name. Mr Sikakane pointed out that he regarded the office of Deputy-Chairman as redundant and could therefore no longer stand for this position.

Mr Sadler nominated in his place the Rev Elphas G.E. Miya and he was appointed by the Conference.

Other new Deputy-Chairmen are the Rev John P. Scholtz (Kimberley and Bloemfontein District) and the Rev Raymond H. Light (Northern Transvaal District).

In the Cape District, the Rev Charles R. Stephenson, Ex-President, reverts to the position of Deputy-Chairman.

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# DIGEST

## Ministerial Session

### Candidates for the Ministry

The following candidates for the ministry began their probation after being received on trial by the Benoni Conference:

Ivan M. Abrahams, George F. Baillie-Stewart, Sidney R. Baker, Jeremy M. McKellar Basset, Ronald W. Cawood, Norman Coetzee, Peter S. Crundwell, Edgar M. Darrall, Dennis de Lange, Darryl H. Furness, David A. Hart, Andrew Hefkie, Emmanuel M. Jacob, Arthur Colin Kain, Barry D. Lotz, Richard M. Mahaffey, John R. Matthews, Terence A. Moul, Richard F. Msibi, Telford M. Ncozazi, David A. Newton, Paul S. Noge, Owen N. Ntsondwa, Gustav Oosthuysen, Cynthia Richards, John P. Beresford Savile, Cecil R. Smart, Kevin D. Sprong, John H. Thomas, Robert M. Vithi, Kevin F. Williams, Peter M. Witbooi, Peter R. Woods.

In addition, the Ministerial Session dealt with the examination results and advancement in probation of 93 other probationers stationed either in circuits around the country or presently undergoing academic training.

### Awards to Probationers

This year's Floweday Memorial Award was made to the Rev. M.J. van de Berg and the Doris Cragg Memorial Award to the Rev. Eric C. Moeng.

### Degrees Recognised

The following ministers have had their degrees recognised by the Conference:

Brian R. Brown (B.Econ Natal), Donald Dinnie (B.A. Unisa), Brian Hutchinson (B.A. (S.S.) Unisa), Lizo Jafta (M.A. Boston), Jeremiah I. Mosala (AFTS) Alan C. Robertson (B.D. Rhodes), Dorothy M. Spink (B.A. Natal), Gavin M. Taylor (B.Th. Unisa) Paul Verryn (B.A. Unisa), Hamilton M. Dandala (B.A. Cantab), Cecil W. Begbie (B.D. Assoc. Kings College), Malcolm S. Cooper (B.Th. Unisa), Ezekiel E. Mahabane (LI.DWits), Daniel D. Ngeuka (B.A.(S.S.) Fort Hare).

### Care for Refugees

During the Ministerial Session it was resolved that Superintendent Ministers be instructed to make provision for the pastoral care of refugees who may be within their circuits.

The situation has arisen through the flow of refugees across a number of borders in Southern Africa and the need of the Church to exercise pastoral care over this new constituency.

### Ministers on Leave of Absence

During the ministerial session there was a discussion of the relationship that ministers on leave of absence should have to the structures of the Church.

It was resolved that their relationship to Circuits, Circuit Quarterly Meetings, Circuit Local Preachers' Meetings and the Leaders Meeting of a Society should be the same as that of ministers seconded to Church-related outside organisations or posts.

### Study Leave Men

A number of men are at present involved in study either in the Republic or overseas in a number of interesting fields:

Dr. C.W. Allwood is working for specialist qualification in psychiatry at Wits University and Dr. Daryl Hackland is working

for specialist qualifications in Paediatrics at Natal University. Both these men have rendered valuable service in the Missionary hospital field.

The Revs. L. Jafta and B.C. Jennings are both working for doctorates in the United States, one at Drew University and the other at Fuller Theological Seminary.

The Rev. T. MacArthur has begun a two-year course in religious communication at the Pacific School of Religion in the United States while the Rev. Lee van Rensburg hopes to complete his doctorate at Drew University this year.

The Revs. J.I. Mosala and J. Rasmeni are studying in Britain and the Rev. Z.W. Gill will be working for a B.D. at Rhodes University next year.

Three men are in the process of returning from study leave:

Rev. C.W. Begbie has been at King's College, London and has been awarded the A.K.C. Diploma and is awaiting the results of an M.Th. examination.

The Rev. H. Dandala awaits results of his final Cambridge examination and the Rev. A. Rundle has been studying in Chicago and is awaiting the results of his course.

### Tribute to Supernumeraries

A number of ministers applied in time-honoured fashion to 'sit down' at this Conference, and tribute was paid by numerous members to those who were now to enter the ranks of Supernumerary ministers.

The following have been given permission to retire: John L.W. Aspel, Henry A. Cunningham, Abnego J. Fikeni, Sydney P. Freeland, Frederick G. Hittler, Norris M. Jafta, Seagren H. Langeni, Clifford T. Nokele, Amos W. Nyembezi, Reginald V. Spink, Stanley C. Upton, Arnold J. Walker and Eric C. Palmer.

### Memorial Service

At a Memorial Service in which many tributes were paid to those who had died during the year, the following ministers were remembered:

Harold Bollen  
Jose Bubela Conjwa  
Killien Ntwazifani Dandala  
Jeremiah Duiker  
Tom Aitchison Elliot  
Robert John Good  
John Wesley Hunt  
Abednigo Jafta  
Ian Norman Lindsay  
George Pezulu Mbotshwa  
Samuel Stanley Millar  
Samuel K. Ntlabati  
Melville Mbuti Ntकिनca  
James Lionel Sheasby  
Leslie B. Sparks  
St John Page Yako

### SABC Attacked

The practice of censorship of scripts by the SABC, particularly in relation to Radio Bantu religious programmes was attacked again in the Conference at Benoni.

The Rev. S.G. Pitts, who had been asked to make representations on this matter reported that he received a letter in which he had been told that black radio preachers were treated in exactly the same way as those who preached on the English service. The letter indicated that the requirement for advance submission of scripts was a technical one related to the distance of certain relay stations used by Radio Bantu.

A number of black ministers rose to contest the implications of the letter and indicated that they had been told on numerous occasions to alter their scripts because of 'political matter'.

The Rev. D. Katane told the Conference that on one occasion his prayers had consisted entirely of direct quotes from the book of Exodus but that he had been told that he may not broadcast them because of their political nature. The Rev. Zac Mosai told of a minister who had intended to pray 'for all who are in prison' and who had been told that this must be deleted because it was 'political'.

There was a problem in providing written evidence of this kind of conduct because the SABC authorities invariably called ministers in and instructed them verbally and deliberately avoided writing to them.

Mr. Pitts pointed out that as in many Government Departments his dealings with people at the top had achieved some understanding but that 'lower down the situation is somewhat different'. It was decided that evidence of this type of censorship should be submitted to Mr. Pitts so that he could take up the matter.

Political comment, Headlines, Sub-Editing of political material by P.J. Storey, 79 Pritchard Street, Johannesburg 2001. Published by the Methodist Church of South Africa, 79 Pritchard Street, Johannesburg. Printed by Caxton Ltd., 28 Sherwell Street, Doornfontein, Johannesburg 2001



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African Independent Churches, Church of the Province of S.A., Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Southern Africa, Methodist Church of S.A., Roman Catholic Church, United Congregational Church of Southern Africa.

Other churches are showing keen interest.

For Enrolment in February 1978, for Prospectus or enquiries write to:

The Administrative Secretary  
TEE College  
P.O. Box 23923  
Joubert Park 2044  
Johannesburg.  
Telephone 724-5429

# STATIONS '78

This listing should not be considered official and Dimension cannot accept responsibility for any inadvertent error — Editor.

This list indicates all changes which have taken place in the stationing of ministers for 1978.



### CAPE DISTRICT

**Cape Town:** Cynthia Richards v. Ching. **Tygerberg:** Rundle v. Hittler, Luppnow v. Jones. **Worcester:** N. Coetzee v. Smith. **Wynberg:** Darroll v. Barnes. **Fish Hoek:** Hazell v. Upton. **Mossel Bay:** Jones v. Cunningham. **Inner-City:** Barnes v. Villa-Vicencio, Harley v. Prins, add G. Mentoer. **Norwood:** de Koker v. One to be sent. **Athlone:** Prins v. Abrahams. **Mitchell's Plain:** Kain. **Stellenbosch:** Masela v. Sanqela. **Somerset West:** Achilles v. Fourie. **Hott. Holland:** Lipke v. One to be sent. **SWA:** de Lange v. One to be sent. **Diamond C:** Newton v. Davey. **SWA (A&C):** Prinz v. Bruiners.

### GRAHAMSTOWN DISTRICT

**C. Commem:** Robertson v. Fourie. **Bathurst:** N. Richardson v. Aspel, Mnyobe v. Nokele. **P.E. Cent:** Crundwell v. Richardson. **P.E. Gelvan Pk:** Hefkie v. One to be sent. **P.E. North:** J.B. Hendricks v. Mahlasela, Soman v. Hina, Khanya v. Matiwane. **Humansdorp:** Foster v. Mnyobe. **Som. East:** Qona v. Hendricks. **K.K. Hoek:** Mthembu v. Boyce. **Perksdale:** Boyce v. Qona. **Tuku:** Ntsondwa v. Soman. **Newtondale:** R. Msibi v. Foster.

### QUEENSTOWN DISTRICT

**Stutterheim:** Smart v. Ryan. **E.L.:** Els v. Webster, Baartman v. Mthembu, One to be sent v. Nyobole. **Mt. Arthur:** Vava v. Sihawu. **Seplan:** Ngomana v. Conjwa. **Cala:** Sihawu v. Vava. **Tsome:** Papu v. Ngomana. **Nomaheya:** Methusi v. Langeni. **Butterworth:** One to be sent v. Mayeza. **Tongwane:** Pepeta v. Methusi.

### CLARKEBURY DISTRICT

**Clarkebury Instn:** Jijana v. One to be sent. **Cwecweni:** M. Mbuli v. Mdolo. **Ncambela:** G. Sanqela v. Flatela. **Xora:** Njeke v. Mbiko. **Old Bunting:** Flatela v. Poyo. **Tombo:** Conjwa v. Zweni. **Caba:** O. Mdolo v. Mrubata. **Osborn:** F. Fikeni v. Mjali, S. Ntloko v. Mdlozini, Samka v. One to be sent. **Mt White:** Add G. Ntlabati. **Kokstad:** Mazwane v. Waqu. **Etembeni:** Njongwe v. Matyolo. **Engwaqa:** Zweni v. Jafta. **Emnceba:** Waqu v. Mavuma. **Emfundisweni:** G'wood Mtshisa v. Fikeni. **Faku Inst:** Mavuma v. F. Fikeni. **Balasi:** Poyo v. Mtshiza. **Ludeke:** Matyolo v. Ntकिनca, Mposelwa v. One to be sent. **Ndlovu:** Mbiko v. Mbotshwa. **Palmerton:** Mjali v. Ntloko, Hina v. Njeke. **Hlabati:** Mdlozini v. Mazwane.

### KIMBERLEY AND BLOEMFONTEIN DISTRICT

**K & B:** Taylor v. Celliers, Woods v. One to be sent. **Kimberley:** G. Losaba v. Languza. **Bloemfontein:** G. Oosthuizen v. Robertson, Mosai v. Seane, Paledi v. Sello, Madela v. Liphoko. **Brandfort:** Mhlomi v. Ntlhokoa. **De Aar/C:** Sello v. Mxoli. **Upington:** Baillie-Stewart v. Taylor, Abrahams v. Prinz. **Zastron:** Ntlhokoa v. Losaba, G'man Mtshiza v. One to be sent. **Bensonvale:** Languza v. Senkhane, Vimbela v. Matshiki. **Bensonvale Instn:** Languza v. Senkhane, Matshiki v. Khalema. **Thaba 'Nchu:** Nkalitshane v. Paledi, Moeng v. Mbuli. **Moroka Instn:** One to be sent v. Mtshiza.

### NORTHERN FREE STATE DISTRICT

**Kroonstad:** Taljaard v. Griffiths, Basset v. Gillmer, Sefothelo v. Mei. **OFS G'fields:** M. Stephenson v. Thornley, J. Thomas v. One to be sent. **Welkom & V:** Leepile v. Mohlala. One to be sent v. Mosai. **Parys:** N. Kola v. Molusi, Senkhane v. Mankga. **Heilbron:** Molusi v. Sefothelo. **Bethlehem:** One to be sent v. Mahlatsi. **Ladybrand:** Furness v. Crommelin. **Odendaal:** Mei. **QwaQwa:** Mahlatsi. **Maseru:** Tsoeu v. Gill. **Quthing:** C. Mxoli v. Mazule.

### NATAL COASTAL DISTRICT

**Durban C:** Kimber v. Hazell, Moul v. Underwood, Fourie v. Meyers. **Durban S:** One to be sent v. Buwalda. **CEYD:** Mazibuko v. One to be

sent. **Kersney Coll:** Buwalda v. Martin. **Durban:** Cele v. Mazibuko, D. Sithole v. Shongwe. **Stanger & U:** Hulley v. Parsons, Mantambo v. One to be sent. **Empangeni:** H. Dandala v. One to be sent. **Zululand Miss:** Delete Hulley. **Maputa:** Ntombela v. Jijana. **Ingwavuma:** Ralise v. Sithole.

### NATAL WEST DISTRICT

**PMB:** J. Saville v. Luppnow, Moore v. One to be sent. **PMB & Greytown:** Chonoo v. Poswa. **PMB Mt Rise:** Add H. Bruiners. **Edendale:** P. Shongwe v. Sidaki, One to be sent v. Samka. **Bulwer:** Baqwa v. Hlongwane. **Indaleni:** Sidaki v. Chonco. **Indaleni Instn:** Makula v. Sanqela. **Ixopo:** Griffiths v. Moore. **Greytown & Y:** Hind v. Palmer. **Vryheid:** One to be sent v. Khanya. **Enyanyadu:** Xaba v. Nyembezi. **Evansdale:** C. Hlongwane v. Rasmeni. **Newcastle:** One to be sent v. Pakkies. **Harrismith:** Pakkies v. Xaba.

### SOUTH WESTERN TRANSVAAL DISTRICT

**JHB C:** Matthews v. One to be sent. **JHB N:** Cawood v. Cooper, Add Baker. **JHB E:** McBride v. Clarke. **Rand C:** Begbie v. Achilles. **West Rand:** Clarke v. King, E. Smith v. Robertson. **Carletonville:** Parsons v. Spink. **Krugersdorp:** O. Gaanakgomo v. Pitso. **Potchefstroom:** Stead v. Attwell, Dikola v. Gaanakgomo. **Klerksdorp:** Cooper v. Taljaard, Pitso v. Duiker.

### SOUTH EASTERN TRANSVAAL DISTRICT

**Boksburg:** McKerry v. Mentoer. **Germiston:** Roux v. McArthur, Ncozazi v. Madela, Maseko v. Mngomezulu, Add Thusi. **Edenvale:** A. Green v. Hind. **Vereeniging:** Khoza v. Liphoko. **E. Rand:** Micklethwaite v. Roux, Add T. Hudson. **Brakpan:** Liphoko v. Khoza. **Springs:** R. Vithi v. Swartbooi, Underwood v. Lindsay, Garvie v. Roberts, Mahaffey v. One to be sent. **Standerton:** Roberts v. Micklethwaite. **Volksrust:** Poswa v. Baqwa. **C. Swaziland:** Mngomezulu v. Cele.

### NORTHERN TRANSVAAL DISTRICT

**Pretoria C:** Martin v. Reynhardt. **Pretoria E:** Louw v. McBride, Reynhardt v. Garvie, R. Miller v. Lipke, K. Sprong v. One to be sent. **SADF:** Add Davey. **Witbank:** T. King v. Hutchinson, J. Mahlasela v. Nkalitshane. **Mafeking:** G. Rathaba v. Moche. **Botswana:** Magashule v. Tsoeu, J. Liphoko v. Vimbela. **S'pansberg:** Mankga v. Kola. **Potgietersrust:** P. Noge v. Dikola. **Mohalele:** Mokhele v. Ralise. **S'Khuni-land:** Mohlala v. Mokhele. **Phalaborwa:** Moche v. Papu.

### TO COLLEGE

Khalema, Matiwane, Mawela, Mayeza, W. Sanqela, Gillmer, Nyobole, Celliers, Ching, Crommelin, Meyers, R. Robertson, Ryan, Thornley, I. Abrahams, Lotz, K. Williams, Witbooi.

### REINSTATEMENT:

Robert Stead.

### SECONDMENT:

Villa-Vicencio (UNISA).

### NOT IN FULL CONNEXION

(This category to be reviewed before next Conference): Shaw, Nteta, Carstens, Seane, Hutchinson.

### SUPERNUMERARIES

(To be reviewed where no sufficient reason for continuing): Aspel, Cunningham, Freeland, Hittler, N. Jafta, Langeni, Nokele, Nyembezi, Spink, Upton, Walker, Palmer.

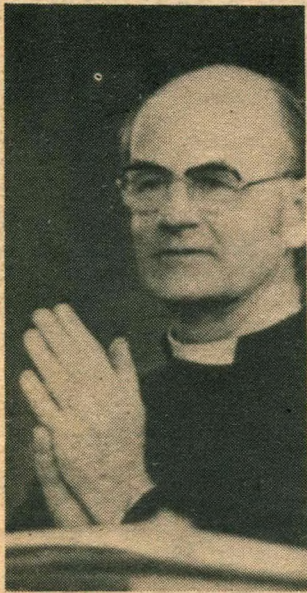
### STUDY LEAVE

Gill, McArthur, Mosala, Rasmeni. **Not affecting Stations:** Khoza, Moloabi, Mogoba, Sokufudumala. **Approved in advance:** Borman 1979.

# CONFERENCE DIGEST



(Above) The solemn moment marking the end of Conference: the President signs the Journal.



(Left) A satisfied Secretary — the Rev Cyril Wilkins.

## Ministers in Teaching Posts

The problem of ministers applying for teaching posts in universities or colleges between Conferences has been dealt with in principle by making it possible for them to approach the President of the Conference for the

necessary permission.

In a resolution referred to the Revision Committee it is suggested that the President consult with the Secretary of Conference and the Chairman of the District where the man is stationed and that between Conferences it might be possible for the Meeting of Chairmen to grant permission.

Present legislation which requires the permission of Conference exclusively has created difficulties because of the timing of the advertisement of posts.

## Local Preachers' Appeal

Conference has agreed that the Local Preachers' Department make an appeal for financial support from all local preachers and interested societies in the Connexion with a view to financing material suitable for preachers in several languages.

The Revision Committee has been asked to look at the issue of divorced local preachers.

It is being suggested that any

preacher involved in divorce proceedings should be suspended forthwith by his Superintendent from activities as a local preacher.

His case would then be referred by his Local Preachers' meeting to the District Chairman who would appoint a Pastoral Committee comprising two ministers and three local preachers to consider the case. The Pastoral Committee would then recommend to the District Chairman who would decide the person's continuance or otherwise as a local preacher.

Divorced persons offering as local preachers would have their case referred by the local preachers' meeting to the District Chairman and to the Pastoral Committee.

Anyone discontinued as a local preacher on the grounds of divorce would be barred from re-application until at least three years had elapsed. Any re-application would be dealt with by the same body.

The suggestions will come back from the Revision Committee to the Conference next year.

## RADIO SERVICES

### 6th November

9.30am St Alban's Cathedral, Pretoria. Preacher: The Dean, the very Rev Dr D.G. Damant. Officiant: Bishop of Pretoria, R. Rev Michael Nuttall  
7.30pm Bulwer Road Baptist Church. Preacher: Rev Trevor Nel.

### 13th November

9.30am St Columba's Presbyterian Church. Preacher: Rev D.A. Maker.  
7.30pm St Mary's Cathedral, Cape Town. Preacher: Bishop Stephen Naidoo.

### 20th November

9.30am St Peter's By the Lake, Lutheran Church, Johannesburg. Preacher: Rev Mark Hestenes.  
7.30pm St George's Home for Boys Chapel, Bedfordview. Preacher: Father Norman Clayton.

### 27th November

9.30am Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin, Johannesburg. Preacher: Rev Francis Cull. Officiant: The Dean, the Very Rev Simeon Nkoane.  
7.30pm Metropolitan Methodist Church, Cape Town. Preacher: Rev Ian W. Mutton.

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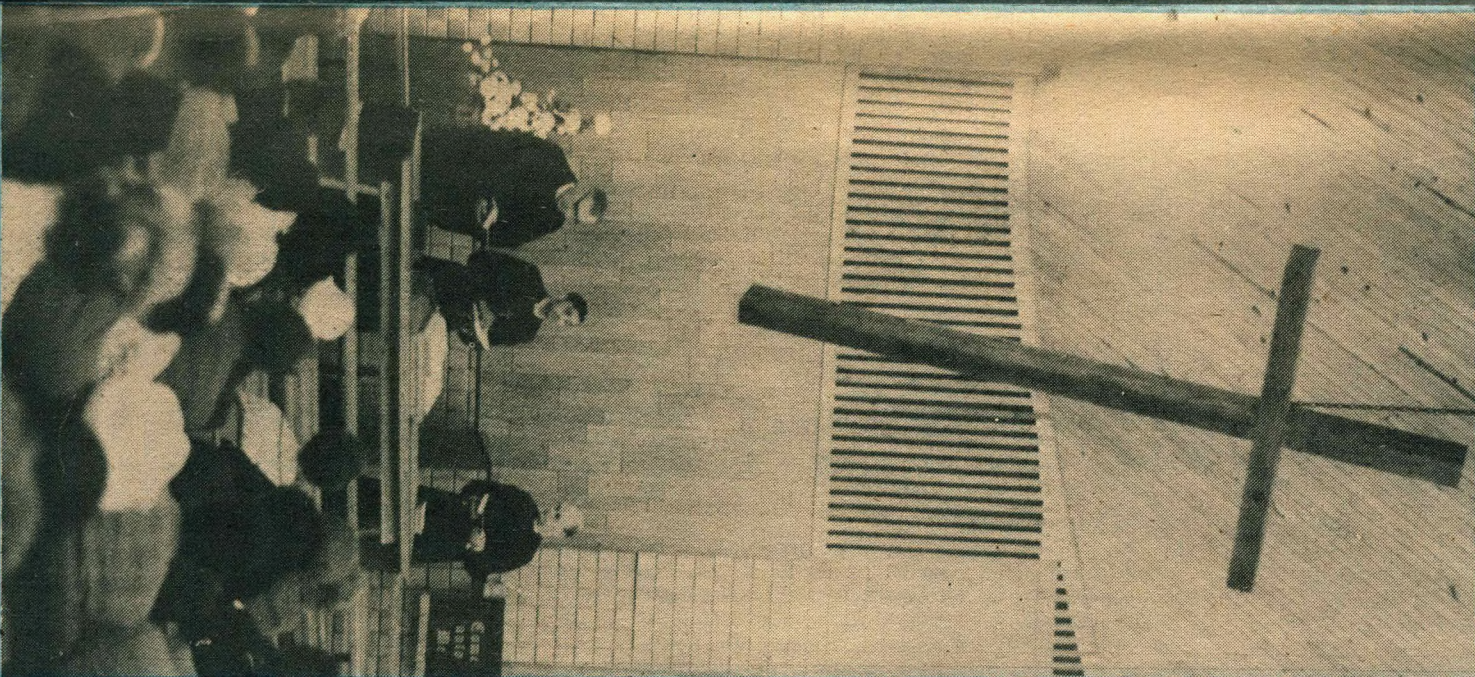
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An enormous wooden Cross dominates the scene as the incoming President is inducted. On the left is the ex-President and on the right, the Secretary of Conference.



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