



JOHN WESLEY FEDERATION

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John Wesley Federation

2nd John Wesley Federation's Conference resolution on the work of God.

Conference assembled on the 29 to 31st May 2025 at No 3 Frere Road, John Wesley Methodist Church, a heart of the Capital City of Transkeian homeland government of President KD Matanzima. All homeland governments after 1994 national elections in South Africa were incorporated into a new South Africa of a rainbow nation.

This conference was guided by spiritual formation of high note with all speakers inspired by the Holy Spirit. Indeed, it reflected on the mood of the Ascension Day as it began on Thursday of the Ascension Day. **Main -Theme:** To empower leadership capacity and reclaiming our Wesleyan Heritage. **Sub-theme:** Let thy Kingdom come -we need his Kingdom.

The following were the remarkable topics of the conference, Presidential Address, GBV statement and a resolution on the fight against social ills, organizational report, chaplain's report, Bible study, Commissions on capacity building and leadership empowerment, Rev Joseph Lofafa's Memorial Lecture and Foundation Launch became the most highlights of conference. Financial statement was deferred for the Retreat to be held in Bloemfontein in the first week of November 2025 due to the absence of the treasurer.

Reflections on the above topics beginning with honoring the ascension day with service conducted by Bishop Mogane from Gauteng Province, whose message was taken from Acts 1:1-11; emphasizing presence of witnesses in, "the right place with right people at the right time" He was highly inspired by the Holy Spirit which was evident in the service followed by the holy communion led by the president, Rev SB Conjwa and Rev VS Mathafeni and a candle light with Proverbs 11:11-15, "A nation will fall if it has no guidance, kwakuba kungekho mbonisi bayawa abantu, usindiso lusebuninzini bamaphakathi" verse 14

Presidential address, "Let thy kingdom come, we need it" He began by acknowledging the presence of John Wesley Federation members who show commitment, respect, and loyalty to the organization. He acknowledged that Mthatha and Eastern Cape is a home of legends, Dr Nelson Mandela whose homestead is at Qunu Village only 75 kilometers from Mthatha and the home of King Sabatha Dalindyebo, Goven Mbeki, Raymond Mhlaba, Walter Sisulu and Winnie Madikizela Mandela and many others.

Highlights on his address were poverty which is prominent in black people after 30 years of democracy in South Africa. Prayer as the key in the Kingdom of God (Luke 11:1-4) and he said that the power of this prayer is when the prayer is seen in a daily Christian activity as a reflection of kingdom's principles of life. Prayer as an act of faith, a foundation of faith, a call

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to invoke God's presence as we hear God speaks to Moses, I have seen how cruelly my people are being treated in Egypt and I have heard their cry out to be rescued from their slave drivers, I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians, (Exodus 3:7-8). Prayer engagement with God makes it possible for our dreams of liberation, capacitation realized, and we cannot let our dreams die due to challenges facing us in our lifetime. He mentioned that poor, meek, mourners, hungry, peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness are at the Centre of God's kingdom for God's blessings. He called on all of us to be vigilant for the freedom of prisoners, feeding those who are hungry, healing the sick, as Micah advises about what the Lord requires only to do justice, kindness and walk humbly with God. (Micah 6:8) He guided conference and said that let us commit ourselves in developing ideas of leadership capacity building through annual Seminars and Symposium. This was a call to all members of John Wesley Federation to find new working models of leadership where our people will be exposed to leadership training to inculcate a culture of spiritual leadership based on love, mercy, and maximum participation of all members in the church of Christ.

He further said that we must fight against a norm of leadership who refuse to be accountable to their church members whether in class meetings or Circuit quarterly meetings or in holy conferencing. Accountability opens a space of an attitude of a wider vision of the church whose mandate is working together as a unit and a team for the kingdom. A prophetic voice is power of a collective church to fight against rampant corruption, arrogance, and a lack of accountability from those in power. If it needs be this should be demonstrated in public solidarity not only in word but also in action with those who choose the path of truth and justice against all odds.

Organizational report by the General Secretary Rev Dr MM Dladla highlighted the launch of 5 Provinces of John Wesley Federation, the Eastern Cape Province, Gauteng, Free State, Northern Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal Province. He articulated the vision and the Mission of John Wesley Federation. He touched on the statistics of our members who do not show any commitment to the cause and affairs of this organization, he also mentioned the focus areas of this organization which are core values of JWF, and he mentioned the following: -

1. Practical Theology
2. Excellency
3. Empowerment
4. Forgiveness
5. Inclusiveness
6. Influence for transformation
7. Integrity
8. Intellectual
9. Justice
10. Proactivity
11. Prophetic
12. Responsibility
13. Accountability
14. Strategic

Provinces gave their reports and names of the elected leaders were received and endorsed by the conference. Conference made elections to fill the gaps on the positions which were not well represented in which Rev Dr Masibulele Dladla was unanimously elected the general secretary of the John Wesley Federation, Rev N Qaqa the assistant secretary, Bishop Mqhayi for ecumenical secretary, Rev SM Magxiva the convenor for DEWCOM (Doctrine, Ethics and Worship Committee), Women's Department: Bishop NM Mdingi-Cheba. Conference noted with great concern the absence of John Wesley Federation to the conference which was well planned, and this compelled conference to make a painful decision to remove all members who do not show their commitment to the organization through membership subscriptions, availability, and maximum participation in meetings.

General chaplain's report has highlighted the following, pastoral care on bereavement policy which was tabled before conference and discussed. In the discussion the conference resolved that recognizing all the requirements of the bereavement policy, but it has decided to limit membership who qualify for policy benefits to only the minister and a spouse, if it is a male minister who died the beneficiary is the wife and if it is a woman minister who has died the beneficiary is the husband. Membership requires a contribution of R300,00 per annum which will warranty the John Wesley Federation to pay a memorial stone in the value of R6000.00 and a bereavement support of R4000.00 to the spouse and if the family of the spouse does not want a memorial stone a sum of R10000,00 shall be paid.

Pastoral care needs spiritual leaders who are matured in faith and disciplined and who have listening skills. Listening skills of a leader facilitate healing process of a client from any painful experience. He also among other things mentioned the importance of teamwork and the importance of placing leaders in positions of power who have skills for those positions for better performance and the multiplication in the organization. Positions are places of responsibilities for effective performance and not places of honor. We have nothing to do but to save as many souls as we possibly can. He concluded by tabling a pastoral working plan for 2025/ 2026 in which he advised conference that we need to embark on land development and promote vegetable gardens in our churches to fight poverty.

Conference engaged to commissions which were means of leadership capacitation and empowerment. Commissions of DEWCOM by Rev SM Magxiva, Rev Dr MM Dladla & Rev NN Mdingi-Cheba, its focus was on teaching right doctrines to preserve and reclaim our Wesleyan Heritage.

Legal review by Rev SB Conjwa focusing on church constitution, vision and Mission of the church, doctrine, church discipline, finance matters and property & assets of the church.

Poverty in our communities by Rev VS Mathafeni, focusing on economic empowerment, food security, education, health care, and data collection.

Ministerial Formation by Rev N Qaqa & Rev MC Mkhumla; Conversion, Confirmation, Preacher, calling testing, Candidating, Personal Experience, full time probation, Education, Seminary Training, Ordination period, Conference acceptance into full Connexion as a Methodist Minister, diligence in doing Word & Sacraments.

Ministry within the church, Rev SM Magxiva, Fivefold ministry in terms of: -

- a) Apostolic ministry
- b) Prophetic ministry
- c) Evangelist Ministry
- d) Pastoral ministry or Shepherd
- e) Teacher

Stewardship & 5 Mission Pillars, Rev SJ Msotyana;

stewardship is a ministry of God to promote the ministry of Jesus Christ for healing and transformation. Aims at leading people towards God's agenda of salvation by grace through faith. To deepen spirituality, evangelism through word, sign, and deed. It should not be undertaken because it confers status or for any reason rather than a desire to serve God and the church of Christ.

Focused on teaching lay leaders to cooperate with ministers and class leaders and other church leaders to promote circuit or society welfare and smooth running of the church. To manage all circuit funds on behalf of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting and in conjunction with finance committee where this exists. To provide effective operation of the circuit subject to the directions of the circuit quarterly meeting. Stewardship needs monitoring tool, which is recording, reporting, and monitoring and this is a duty of the superintendent minister and circuit stewards.

5 Mission Pillars are to implement both vision and the mission statement of the church to fulfil the gospel of Jesus Christ in action.

- 1) Deepened Spirituality
- 2) Evangelism & Church growth
- 3) Justice & Service
- 4) Human Dignity & Economic Empowerment
- 5) Education & Christian Formation

Rev Joseph Lofafa's Memorial Lecture and Foundation launch by the family, Rev Thembekile Gqwaka the JWF President. Rev Joe Lofafa's memorial lecture was on top of the range, well organized with church choir of Mthatha Central Mission led by Mr. Xhotyena and an opening service conducted by General Chaplain Rev SJ Msotyana from Acts 1:8, "But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"

Addressing the congregation and family members, the President made John Wesley Federation known as the organization of high note. He portrayed Rev Joe Lofafa as a man of great faith, fine preacher of the gospel, a prayer warrior, a family man, a man who stood for social justice and who selflessly dedicated his life for the Christian faith both in the Methodist Church and in an Umhlobo Wenene FM.

He further said that Joe Lofafa's life demonstrated the struggle of faith in a time of political, economically and religious upheaval. He taught us that Christianity and holiness is the goal of Methodism. As he was addressing us he gave us a picture of millions of people glued on their radios as he was witnessing for Christ with his popular songs from amadodana akwaMangconde, "Wandibiza uJesu ndamlandela" Rev Gqwaka summed up his message by

saying that Joe taught us a lesson on the role of leadership when the church is facing crises. We have allowed the world to change the church instead of the church changing the world. We experienced immorality happening in the church and the church is silent. Joe was an embodiment of Methodism as he dedicated his life to fight for social justice with the understanding of Methodist Rule of Life in which Methodists are called to do no harm, to do good and to stay in love with God. He concluded by saying that for us to follow his example of Christian leadership we must embody loyalty and dedicate our lives to implement Biblical principles of salvation. Christian character demands us to have capabilities to live and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ for healing and transformation. Joe always give a constructive response to criticism and he had an ability to seek solutions through consultation. We need to emulate him in guiding God's people without fear or favour as shepherds of God's flock and refused to be silenced by those who are in power within the church and in the world.

This great occasion was graced by the presence of Mr. Mlibo Qhoboshiyane who participated in the launch of Joe Lofafa's foundation to fight against cancer and to make assistance available to those who are suffering from cancerous diseases. John Wesley Federation was adopted as one of the stakeholders to promote this foundation and participate in counseling sessions for those who are terminally ill.

John Wesley Federation Statement on Gender Based Violence against women and children

This statement is well articulated that it should be tabled and presented as it is in all forms of publicity and in our website as a true reflection of what conference felt and in solidarity with the survivor's painful experiences pledges to support. It is in the interest of the church that justice should prevail in all our churches as it has been identified that church is implicated in the abuse of women through patriarchal traditions and cultural norms supported by the church. John Wesley Federation believes that churches can play a pivotal role to transform our societal perpetual discrimination, marginalization and abuse of women. John Wesley Federation has a litany of laments against violent abuse against women and children that take all forms of physical, emotional, sexual, economical and psychological violation of women's rights. We believe that all forms of social ills are against the will of God and therefore John Wesley Federation rejects them in every possible terms. Women are a gift from God as suitable companions of married men and therefore they need to be taken care off as well as children.