

JOHN WESLEY FEDERATION

- 2nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DATE: 29th – 31st May 2025
VENUE: EASTERN CAPE
(Mthatha – Clarkebury District)

Conversation: “Understanding Ministries within the Methodist way
and essential requirements to date”

Text: Matt. 28:19 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations”
“Hambani ngoko”

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Text Matt 28:19 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations” Hambani ngoko

THEME: “ZABONAKALA INCOPHO ZEENTABA”

Ministry starts from Membership which involves a personal experience of the Lord Jesus Christ, wrought by His Spirit, ranging from the earliest manifestations of divine prevenient grace in the soul to its crowning blessedness in the joy of perfect love, and upon sharing of such personal gifts of convincing and saving grace with others seeking or enjoying a like experience.

PURPOSE

- ❖ To bring to our understanding of ministries within the Methodist way
- ❖ To remind and draw attention to our essential requirements
- ❖ To challenge us as JWF members of our role in ministries as Methodists

INTRODUCTION

MINISTRY

Meaning:

Biblically:- Ministry is defined/termed service encompassing both serving God and serving others in His name. It is a call (to action)

- Ministries involves:- worshipping, learning and caring, service, and evangelism, which can be done through prayer-, spiritual disciplines, and personal devotion reflecting the Church's calling to respond to God's love and live out discipleship.
- It encompasses serving the needs of others, whether in the church community or beyond
- Ministry is sharing the message of Christ and encouraging others to follow Him

According to **Ephesians 4:11-13**, there are Five Ministries (which are termed as roles)

- **Apostle,**
- **Prophet,**
- **Evangelist,**
- **Pastor (Shepherd),**
- **and Teacher.**

I. **MINISTRIES**

Lets understand Ministries within the context of our Methodist way as ways in which all members participate in God's mission:-

Ordained ministers representing this total ministry. Two primary orders of ministry exist:-

- **Presbyters** (ordained to a ministry of Word and Sacrament)
- and **Deacons** (ordained to a ministry of Witness and Service).

Lay Ministry and the involvement of all members in various roles i.e. Local Preachers, Stewards and worship leaders.

➤ **Ordained Ministers**

preaching, teaching, and administering sacraments

Essential requirements

The primary qualifications for the work of the Christian Ministry are:-

- The sense of a divine call, intellectual and spiritual gifts, the graces of Christian character, and the fruits of Christian service.
- The educational standard of Candidates for the Ministry should not be below Matriculation (To be able to read & write), consideration should be given to those who haven't yet reached this educational standard.
- Shall satisfy the Educational platforms (the Synod, Theological Seminar, Board & Conference) as to his/her present Christian experience, his/her general Theological knowledge, his/her belief in the doctrines of Methodism and his/her attachment to the Methodist Discipline.

Essential Requirements

I Timothy 3 and Titus 1 outline these qualifications, highlighting:-

- ✓ **(Integrity-morally)**, be above reproach engenakukhalazeka.
- ✓ **(Character)**, be sober minded, not love of money
- ✓ **(Spiritual maturity)**, Not a recent convert, be well thought of by outsiders
- ✓ **(Be able to teach)** Sound doctrine,
- ✓ And **(Family Life)** the ability to manage one's household well

➤ Deaconesses

- Ordained to a ministry of Witness and Service,
- they are involved in outreach, compassion,
- and serving the needs of the community

Lay Ministry

Lay Ministry and the involvement of all members in various roles i.e.

- Local Preachers,
- Stewards and
- Worship leaders.

In understanding Ministries within the Methodist way and essential requirements to date, we as Ministers need to take note of the following:-

Our Traditional emphasis, Our rule of life, and lastly our commission

(a) THE METHODIST BASIC AND TRADITIONAL EMPHASIS

Methodism distinctively emphasizes that: -

- (i) All people need to be saved (Universality of corporate sin)
- (ii) All people can be saved (The power of grace)
- (iii) All people can know that they are saved (Spiritual assurance)
- (iv) All people can be saved to the uttermost (Christian perfection)

1. **Worship**: The Church's primary purpose is to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love through various worship services and practices.
2. **Learning and Caring**: System of Methodism emphasizes the importance of Christian growth and mutual support, helping individuals learn and grow in their faith while fostering a sense of community and care.
3. **Service**: The Church is called to be a good neighbour, offering practical help and challenging injustice within the community and beyond.
4. **Evangelism**: The Church seeks to make more followers of Jesus Christ through various evangelistic efforts, sharing the message of the gospel and inviting others to join the Christian faith

RULE OF LIFE

John and Charles Wesley in 1743, still enshrine the spirit of brotherhood and universal goodwill that should combine moral righteousness with evangelical fervor in the new world order of social relations, civic and international responsibilities.

1. *That of “**doing no harm, avoiding evil of every kind**,” especially that which is more generally Practiced”.*
2. *That of “**doing good**” by being merciful after one’s power, doing good of every possible sort to the bodies of men and women as well as to their souls, and as far as possible to all men and women”.*
3. *That of “**attending upon all the ordinances of God**”. These include the public worship of God, the observance of the Lord’s Supper, the maintenance of Christian fellowship, private prayer, the reading of the Scriptures, and habits of self-discipline.*

Conclusion

In concluding this understanding of ministries within our Methodist way to date we need to note the following:-

- ❖ Empowering our Leadership to better minister within our Methodist formations
- ❖ Engage ourselves in debates common to have a voice/stance of the Movement
- ❖ To challenge internal and external stakeholders in maintaining our doctrinal, discipline and traditions so as to eliminate false teachings
- ❖

No matter what is happening now in our Movement, kodwa umfo ka Amram uthi kwincwadi ze Pentateuch:-

Text Gen. 8:5 “Zabonakala incopho zentaba”

God is the God of miracles, no matter there is laxity upon our movement, light is coming ngoba umoya kaThixo uyakhweleta awudibani nobumnyama

Gen. 1:3 “uMoya kaThixo wafukama phezu kwamanzi lawo”

Lastly:-

Matt. 28:19 NKJV “Go ye therefore, and teach” Hambani ngoko



May God bless and annoint you as you begin to pave a productive and fruitful way-forward for the future of our Movement – JWF.

IT HANK YOU