

AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Annual General Church Conference 2023

(1962 - 2023)

Called

to

OBEY the Authority CHRIST

YEAR 2024 - VERSE:

**We demolish arguments
and every pretension that sets itself up
against the knowledge of God,
and we take captive every thought
to make it obedient to Christ.**

(2 Corinthians 10:5) NIV

OUR VISION STATEMENT:

"By faith we see the church working in unity in diversity of language, race, culture, and gender, with an agreed evangelical doctrine of salvation whose body life is experienced by all members so that it disciplines and reproduces itself in holiness of living."

OBJECTIVES:

- 1. To plan specific activities and projects where we are working together, in mission and outreach programmes both locally and abroad. This would also include regular sharing of specific prayer requests among our different churches.*
- 2. To conduct periodic reviews (written or verbal) of the membership in order to find their understanding of the evangelical doctrine of salvation. Where there is lack of knowledge or understanding, the leadership in the church will address it.*
- 3. To conduct seminars for our church leaders on the biblical teaching of body life and how it should be operating in our churches.*
- 4. To conduct a course on evangelism and discipleship (verbal or written for all our members) and that each one be given or should find a disciple to minister to (2 Timothy 2:2).*
- 5. To hold seminars on holiness of life and that a system in our churches be adopted to help the membership to be accountable to each other with relevant programmes, i.e. brother/brother, sister/sister programme.*

UMBONO MGOMO WEBANDLA LE-AEC:

"Ngokukholwa sibona ibandla lisebenzisana ebunyeni phezu kokuba lehlukene ngezilimi, ngobuzwe, ngendlela yokuphila nangobulili; labo abavumelene ngesifundiso mayelana nensindiso, futhi-ke abaveza ukuba mzimba munye ngempilo ephilwa yiwo onke amalungu alo ukuze liphumelele ukwenza abafundi nokuzandisa ngokuya liqhubekelela ekuphileni impilo engcwele."

IMIGOMO:

- 1. Ukuhlela izinto ezithile eziphawulekayo esinokuzenza ndawonye emsebenzini wokuqhuba ivangeli nokufinyelela ezindaweni ezintsha khona lapha kwelakithi nakwamanye amazwe. Lokhu-ke kuyabandakanya ukwazisana ngezinto eziphathekayo eziyizicelo zomkhuleko emabandleni ethu ahlukeneyo, lokho kwenziwe njalo ngezikhathi ezimisiweyo.*
- 2. Ukuhlela izivivinyo eziyakwenziwa ngezikhathi ezithile ngamalungu amabandla (zibhalwe phansi noma kuxoxwe ngomlomo) ukuze kubonakale ukuthi basiqonda kangakanani isifundiso sokusindiswa esiphilayo ngokwevangeli. Lapho kutholakala khona ukuthi kukhona ukungazi noma ukungaqondi ngokufaneleyo abaholi bayakuyimela ngezinyawo leyondaba.*
- 3. Ukuhlela izikhungo zokufundisa abaholi bamabandla ethu mayelana nokufundiswa yiBhayibheli mayelana nempilo yoMzimba (oyiBandla) nokuthi imelwe iphilwe kanjani emabandleni ethu.*
- 4. Ukufundisa izifundo ngokuhambisa ivangeli ngokwenza abafundi (kubhalwe phansi noma kukhulunywe ngomlomo kunikezwa amalungu amabandla ethu) nokuthi lowo nalowo athole umfundi othile azakumelekelela (2 Thim. 2:2).*
- 5. Ukuhlela izifundo mayelana nempilo yobungcwele; kube khona indlela eyenziwa ngamabandla ethu ukulekelela amalungu ukuba azi ukuthi awaziphileli-nje, kumelwe azidalule, eziveza ethembekile yilowo nalowo komunye ngezinhlelo ezithile ezifaneleyo ezenziwayo, okusho ukuthi owesilisa komunye wesilisa, nowesifazane komunye wesifazane.*

UMBONO NEENJONGO ZEBANDLA LE-AEC

"Ngokholo sibona ibandla lisebenza ngobunye nangona kukho ukwahlukana ngeelwimi, ubuhlanga, inkcubeko, nesini. Kukho nesivumelwano mayelana nemfundiso yosindiso, ebonakalisa umzimba omnye ngempilo yawo onke amalungu alo, khonukuze ibandla libenako ukwenza abafundi nokwanda ekuphileni impilo engcwele."

IINJONGO:

1. Ukucwangcisa iinkqubo ezithile, namaphulo abalaseleyo apho sisebenzisana sonke, ekuhambiseni ivangeli, sivuselela kwiindawo ezintsha, ezikufutshane nezikude; kwilizwe lakuthi kanti nakwamanye amazwe. Oku ke kuquka ukwabelana nokwazisana ngezinto ezithile emasizithandazele kumabandla ethu, ngamaxesha afanelekileyo.
2. Ukuqhuba nokuvavanya ngamaxesha athile amalungu (kubhalwe phantsi okanye kuthethwe ngomlomo); ukufumanisa ukuba ayiqonda kangakanani na le mfundiso yevangeli engokusindiswa. Apho ke kuye kwafumaniseka ukuba kukho ukungaqondi kakuhle, abakhokeli bebandla bazakuwuchophela umbandela lowo kude kubekho ulungelelwano.
3. Ukuqhuba izifundo zokufundisa nokuhlaziya abakhokheli bamabandla ethu mayela nemfundiso yeBhayibhile ngempilo yomzimba kaKristu (iBandla) nokuba imelwe kukuthi isebenze iphilwe kanjani na emabandleni ethu.
4. Ukuqhuba izifundo ezimalunga nokuvangela nokufundisa (ezibhalwe phantsi nezo zithethwa ngomlomo, zawo onke amalungu ebandla lethu), khonukuze elowo nalowo afumane umfundi othile aza kumncedisa (2 Tim. 2:2).
5. Ukuqhuba izifundo ezimalunga nokuphila impilo eNgcwele; nokuba emabandleni ethu kubekho uncendo oluthile lokunceda amalungu ukuba azi ukuba ilungu aliziphileli nje; amalungu ayaphilelana, yaye athembekile ingulowo nalowo eveza izakhono anazo; umzalwane ancedisane nomnye umzalwane, nodade ancedisane nomnye udade, kusetyenziswane ke ngokwanelisayo.

UMBONO NGEMGOMO WELIBANDLA LE-AEC

"Ngekukholwa sibona libandla lisebenta ngebunye ngetilimi letehlukene, nebuve, ngemihambo kanye nebulili, sibe sivumelene ngemfundziso yeLiVangeli lensindziso lokufakazelwa yimphilo lephilwa ngiwo onkhe emalunga ukuze lifundzise litibonakalise liphila ebungcweleni."

TINHLOSO:

1. Kuhlela imisebenti netikhankhanyo lapho sisebenta ndzawonye, etimishane kanye netinhlelo tekuphumela ngaphandle emagatjeni nasemaveni. Loku kungafaka ticelo temthandazo letibalulekile tiyofika emabandleni etfu lehlukene; loko kwentiwe ngetikhatsi letimisiwe.
2. Kutsi njalo ngesikhatsi kubekhona kuciniseka ngemalunga etfu elibandla kutsi bayiva kanjani imfundziso yelivangeli lensindziso (kubhalwe noma kukhulunywe). Lapho kungekho khona lwati; umholi welibandla akunakekele loko.
3. Kwenta tindlela tekufundzisa baholi belibandla ngemfundziso yeliBhayibheli kulemphilo nekutsi kufanele tisebente kanjani emabandleni etfu.
4. Kufundzisana ngesifundvo sekuvangela kanye nekwenta baholi kuwo onkhe emalunga etfu nekutsi lilunga ngalinye linikwe litfuba lekwenza lomunye abe ngumlandzeli noma umfundzi. (2 Thimothewu 2:2).
5. Kubamba timfundziso ngemphilo yebungcwele nekutsi emabandleni etfu kutfolakale indlela yekusita emalunga kutsi anakekelane ngetinhlelo letifanele; umfowetfu anakekele umfowetfu, dzadzewetfu anakekele dzadzewetfu.

AEC CORE VALUES:

1. **BIBLE** is our ultimate source of authority and its truth is essential for transformation of lives. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
 2. **PEOPLE** matter. Genesis 4:9-12; 9:5-6.
 3. We value **HOLINESS** and that full devotion to Christ and relational health are to be norms of every believer." 2 Peter 3:18; Romans 12:1-2.
 4. **UNITY** We value that the church should operate as a loving unified community of servants that celebrates diversity in gifts, function and preference. 1 Corinthians 12:1-31 (4-7); Ephesians 4:3-7; 11-13.
 5. **LEADERSHIP** is the critical value of Godly character, personal integrity, ministry skill and relational health in leadership at all levels of ministry. Philippians 2:19-23.
 6. **EXCELLENCE** honours God and inspires people. Genesis 39:4-15.
 7. **RELEVANCE** We value that the Church should be culturally relevant while holding to God's eternal truth. 1 Corinthians 9:20.
 8. **INNOVATION** We value that gifts of innovation should be encouraged in all that we do. Galatians 6:9; 1 Corinthians 15:58.
 9. **MISSION** We value the encouragement, development and exercise of each believer's ministry gifts and skills in fulfilling mission work." 1 Corinthians 14:29-33.
 10. **STEWARDSHIP** We value that every believer has God-given resources that should be used for eternal purposes. Ephesians 2:10.
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1. GREETINGS AND WELCOME

To all members of the AEC, friends who love Jesus and those who are praying for this Denomination. I greet you all in the wonderful Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you all for your presence in this Annual General Church Conference 2023 here in Gauteng, Pretoria. We can reflect back to our AGCC 2022 which was held at the King *Sabata Dalindyebo* TVET College, in Mthatha. How great is our God who has given us another year in the history of our Church.

I welcome you all present here on behalf of the Church Board of the Africa Evangelical Church. We acknowledge the presence of all Workers and Spouses, the senior members, All Regions, all Church Structures, and all our visitors.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Current Board of the Africa Evangelical Church was elected during our AGCC 2022 and was officially presented to the Church on the 19th December 2022 in Mthatha. The Board commenced its official duties on the 12th of February 2023 after a hand-over meeting that was held at Ihawu Guest House in Durban (10-12 February 2023).

We are grateful to the Lord who sustained AEC members and protected us under the Covid 19 pandemic of 2020 -2022. We give God His glory. We salute our previous Church Board under the leadership of Rev. P Mntambo, which led our church during this period when many lives were lost through Covid 19 pandemic. Our heartfelt condolences go out to those who lost their loved ones during this time.

3. OUR 61ST ANNIVERSARY: 8TH JULY 2023

This Denomination was given autonomy at *KwaNtabamhlophe*, a vicinity situated at Escort in KZN. We are humbled to have gone with the Lord all these years, since 1962. Henceforth we would like to remind you of our AEC background from www.africec.org: “Back in 1898 an independent Inter-Denominational Mission organization was founded in Cape Town (The Cape General Mission). The main objective of this Mission organization was to preach the gospel to the indigenous peoples of South Africa. They stretched to Pondo-land, and Natal Zululand and Swaziland (presently known as “ESwatini”).

Since the work had gone beyond the borders of the Cape Province the name of the Mission got changed to South Africa General Mission. It was at the later stage that the Mission handed over to the indigenous leaders to run the church. Some minutes of the Zululand Regional Conference were discovered where there were indigenous people participating at the Conference. (This gives an idea of how old the church is).

In the early 1960’s a number of political developments took place in South Africa that made Missionaries felt unsafe. Hence the black Pastors also feared that the Missionaries wanted to dump them. A decision was taken in a Special Conference of Pastor’s, Church delegates and Missionaries which was held at Union Bible Institute (Pietermaritzburg) in January 1962. A Constitution Committee was elected comprising of Pastors, Laymen and Missionaries. They presented the unfinished document before the end of the Conference. A subcommittee was mandated to finalize the Constitution and get it registered in Pretoria so that the autonomy would be given in July the same year (1962).

It was therefore at *KwaNtabamhlophe* near Escort on the 8th of July 1962 where Rev Wilfred P Green, who was the General Director of South Africa General Mission, declared and publicized the new name of the church as, “African Evangelical Church” which later was changed to Africa Evangelical Church (AEC)” Thus the first President of the AEC was Rev EJ Mfeka, the second President, was Rev LT Magewu, the third President was, Dr Rev CPM Gumedze, the fourth President was Rev P Mntambo, and during 2022 AGCC the fifth and current president Rev MX Dladla was elected. We give praises to the Lord Almighty for all those who contributed positively to the advancement of this beautiful Denomination.

If our church was a person, this church would be in an “advanced stage”. By an advanced stage I mean “Elderly stage”. By saying this I mean:

- Our Church should be ahead in DEVELOPMENT
- Our Church should be ahead in KNOWLEDGE
- Our Church should be ahead in PROGRESS
- Our Church should be ahead in FINANCES
- Our Church should be ahead in SPIRITUAL MATURITY
- Our Church should be ahead NUMERICALLY.

4. WORDS OF CONDOLENCES

From our AGCC 2022 in Mthatha, no one knew that we will be reporting the death of AEC Workers and Worker’s Family members. We would like to convey our heartfelt condolences to all who have lost their loved ones in this current year. May you all find God’s comfort in knowing that heaven is a better place.

4.1. Eastern Cape Region

- Mgewu's Newly Wedded Couple: Mr. Ntembisi and Mrs. Lazola Mgewu they lost their lives tragically in a car accident. Their funeral was on the 3rd March 2023 at Lusikisiki. They are family with Rev MP Mgewu.
- Rev EBA Manina left this world on the 5th of July 2023. He was a retired Pastor who served at Nkanga and Lusikisiki circuits respectively. Rev Manina was buried at his home at Nkonkoni village on the 20th of July 2023.

4.2. Eswatini Region

- Rev MM Maseko died on the 1 Feb.2023 he was buried at on the 13th February 2023
- Mankayane: Rev SV Simelane died on the 24th August 2023 and was buried on the 3rd September 2023. The Simelane family was still mourning the death of their mother Mrs. Sijabulile Simelane who was buried on the 24 July 2022.

4.3. Gauteng Region

- AEC Mofolo Central Branch: Mrs ES Motha, the wife to Pastor PV Motha died on the 15th April 2023 and was buried on the 26th April 2023.

4.4. KwaZulu-Natal Region

- Pietermaritzburg: Rev WTA Xaba died on the 12th February 2023, and his funeral was on 18th February 2023. Rev Xaba was a long serving Board member, who served as AEC General Secretary and as UBI Principal for many years. We lost a man who knew the history of AEC and from whom we could acquire the best of knowledge and wisdom.
- Mtubatuba: Miss Snenhlanhla Dube died on the 29th April 2023, and was buried on the 8th May 2023. Snenhlanhla was the daughter of Rev JJ Dube and Mrs Sebenzile Dube of Mtubatuba. When we attended this funeral, the other two members of the extended family also died. What a pain if we lose our sons and daughters whom we thought will bury us. May God heal all those wounds.
- East Rand Circuit: Mr. AB Zwane East Rand Circuit died on the 07th May 2023, and his funeral was on the 13th May 2023. AB Zwane served many years in Men's Fellowship Committees as a dedicated member.
- Durban: Rev JSW Mnguni departed on the 4th of June 2023 and the funeral was on the 10th of June 2023 at Gamalakhe Sport Leisure. Rev Mnguni was praised for his involvement in the community projects.
- Durban Circuit: On the 27th of August 2023 my older brother, Mr. Lucky Dladla, died of Cancer, and his funeral was on the 2nd September 2023.
- Midlands Circuit: Pastor SE Mkhize of Pietermaritzburg died on the 21st September 2023, and his funeral was on the 30th September 2023.
- East Rand Circuit: On the 24 November 2023 we received shocking news that Mrs Siso Mildred Mapiyeye (uMaZondo) had left this world. Her funeral was at AEC Wattville on the 02nd of December 2023. She was an older daughter of Rev AM Zondo of AEC KwaMashu.

May we pray for all these families and all other families who have lost their loved ones.

5. BLESSINGS OF NEWBORN BABIES AND WEDDINGS

“Every good gift and every perfect gift are from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning”. We receive all newborn babies and all new married couples with great joy. If families are rejoicing, our churches are full of joy.

6. BLESSINGS OF NEW ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

We thank God for new academic achievements of AEC members. True academic excellence should always glorify God. We encourage AEC members to always put God first in their academic and professional endeavors. Let us congratulate those who are promoted to higher positions.

7. BOARD’S MEETING AT IHAWU GUEST HOUSE 10-12 FEBRUARY 2023

As indicated above, this was a hand-over meeting where the Board took over the baton from the previous Board. It became a reality that this Board took over the responsibility to lead the Denomination for the next five years (2023-2027).

As part of the handover meeting, we learnt of the Board’s financial constraints, which resulted from outstanding yearly subscription fees from regions dating from four years ago.

8. BOARD’S VISIT TO ESWATINI 16-19 MARCH 2023

The visit to Eswatini by the Board, was necessary to attend to problems that engulfed the Region. It was a long weekend of conducting interviews. Thanks to Eswatini Region for arranging decent accommodation at Ezulwini and for the meeting we had at Matsapha. The full report of this visit by the Church Board will be presented to the business session in full.

9. ESWATINI PASSOVER VISITATION 6-9 APRIL 2023

I was so delighted to visit four Circuits in Eswatini in one weekend being accompanied by my beautiful wife Nomusa (*MaSithole*). We started our visits during Good Friday at Mankayane Circuit with the intention to also visit our Conference Center site. I am very grateful to God for the team of AEC leaders who accompanied us on all the four Circuits. We experienced true “brotherly love”. From Mankayane, we proceeded to Mbabane Circuit on Friday evening where we worshiped with lovely people at Mbabane Circuit. We spent the Saturday at Mbuluzi. We visited Bethany Circuit on Sunday where Rev BT Chonco was invited as a guest Speaker. Thank you *MaSwati lamahle* for welcoming us and for all the gifts of love. We enjoyed the fellowship with all the saints.

10. SKOGHEIM SEMINAR 4-7 MAY 2023

We are very grateful to the Lord for the success of our 2023 Worker’s and Spouses Seminar. It was a good kick start after the two years of Covid 19 restrictions. Thanks to all our churches which supported their Workers in this important Fellowship. The planning Team is exploring another venue for the 2024 Seminar.

11. WATTVILLE CHURCH DEDICATION 27 MAY 2023

The Wattville Church is under the leadership of Rev DE Sithole in the East Rand Circuit in Kwazulu Natal Region. There was great jubilation and dancing as saints were rejoicing the success of that project. It was reported that the Church project took many years to reach completion because the project was done in phases.

We can say boastfully that our Wattville Church Building was officially dedicated to the Lord on the 27th of May 2023. This Local Church was started by the late Rev PM Buhlalu, it was later under

the leadership of the retired Rev SE Mokoena. Congratulations Watville people your place of worship is so beautiful.

12. MRS P BHENGU'S 90TH BIRTHDAY 27 MAY 2023

It was an honor to be able to attend Mrs. Phuthumile Bhengu's 90th birthday. Mrs. P Bhengu is the wife of the late Rev Siphon Bhengu (who was the presenter of "*Ukholo lunje*" at SABC TV2 back in the early 80s). We would like to thank Mrs. P Bhengu for all their contributions, together with her husband, to the advancement of the AEC work in Gauteng and surroundings. I was also grateful to hear about "Siphon Bhengu Foundation" which was started to preserve the legacy of our legendary. May God grant you Mrs. P Bhengu many years of good health.

13. VISIT TO DAVEYTON BRANCH 28 May 2023

Together with Rev AM Zondo, we were grateful to God to have visited the Local Church at Daveyton. This Church is under the leadership of Rev TG Makhubo and Mrs. Nonhlanhla Makhubo and are presently using a Tent structure for worship. They are raising funds towards the Church Building. Their Bank details are: "Standard Bank SA. Africa Evangelical Church, Market Link. Account number 026190788". May God provide them with financial resources to complete that big project.

14. EASTERN CAPE RCC. 28 JUNE - 02 JULY 2023 IKWEZI LOKUSA SPECIAL SCHOOL

It was my honor and a privilege to witness a successful Regional Conference. The joy and excitement to the Saints was inexpressible. I could not spend much time due to another commitment on Saturday the 1st July 2023. Rev BT Chonco and Mr. V Ngambu were also the Speakers in that Conference. In that cold weather, we felt the love and care of the saints in Eastern Cape.

15. MAGWAZA'S JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY 1 July 2023

Mr. SB and Mrs. ST Magwaza are the senior members of AEC KwaMashu Branch under Rev AM Zondo. Their first daughter is well known to us, as Mrs. HP Chonco, the wife to Rev BT Chonco and the current Chairperson of the Women's Fellowship. Our eyes had witnessed a great day, when the Magwaza's children collectively were honoring their parents in celebration of 50 years in marriage. They honored their parents while they were still alive. May we pray for Mr. Magwaza's sick condition. We give blessing to all the daughters and sons for honoring their parents while they are still alive. Long live the Magwaza family, long live!

16. KZN RCC 4-8 JULY 2023 AT ALTELEKKER YOUTH CAMP (GAUTENG)

The Vice President, Rev WV Ndinisa, and Mrs Ntswaki Ndinisa were very grateful to God for the warm welcome they received in this Conference. The presence of the Gauteng workers was noted with great appreciation. The weather was very cold but the blessing of fellowship kept everybody spiritually warm. Rev. VW Ndinisa witnessed a wonderful celebration of the Retirement of Rev. LB Khumalo of AEC Ngwanase Circuit. This Region also appreciated Rev P Mntambo for his leadership and dedication to the service of the AEC. Rev Ndinisa gave words of encouragement to the Region and appreciated the KZN Region for the work well done. I was personally attending SIM Conference at Port Shepstone which was on the same week.

17. GAUTENG RCC 14-16 JULY 2023 AT HOFFANHEIN LODGE PRETORIA

It was a great weekend of fellowship with the Gauteng Region. Though they met for first time in a weekend long fashion, after COVID 19, Rev JN Jiyane who was a Bible Study speaker. He unpacked how the church should be mindful of the devil's pollution of this world. This Region insisted that they would like to see me together with my wife no matter what. I take it as my marriage advice. It was great meeting these happy people.

18. REV BODIBE'S FAREWELL (AEC MOFOLO)

The celebration took place at Roodepoort Hall on the 26th of August 2023. Rev J Bodibe and Mrs. Nomkhosi Bodibe were being celebrated by their local church (Mofolo branch). They had served their local church for more than 31 years. The occasion was also honored by many Pastors who had known the Bodibe family from various spheres. I was very delighted to be part of this great historic event with evidence of the tears of joy and much appreciation. We are very grateful to God when the servants of the Lord are honored and celebrated. Thanks to AEC Mofolo for doing good to your Pastor.

19. GAUTENG CIRCUIT SERVICE 27 AUGUST 2023 AT ROODEPOORT COMMUNITY HALL

I was also invited to preach in this service. This Circuit is under the leadership of Rev JN Jiyane who is also elected as Gauteng Regional Chairperson. What a joyous fellowship we had in the presence of the Lord.

20. KZN YOUNG ADULT RETREAT 5 AUGUST 2023

The KZN Young Adult, met at Alpine Drakensberg from 4-6 August 2023. When I met with this structure, I could feel that these people are enjoying themselves. The laughter and jokes were in a high level. I requested them to write suggestions that may improve the AEC as a Church. I am so grateful to God to have taped so much wisdom from them. They were having various activities ranging from physical training, financial training, and health presentation.

21. ESWATINI RCC 29/08/2023-03/09/2023 AT MBULUZI MISSION

We are grateful to God for the success of this 2023 Regional Church Conference. The presence of the Board members who were assigned to preside over the Eswatini elections was applauded as it ensured peace and stability which resulted in a smooth election. I had to leave early because of my brother's funeral which was on the same Saturday. Looking at the pictures after I had left, I noticed that the Mbuluzi hall was full. We are also grateful to God that three members of the Church Board were finally elected in that Regional Conference thus making representation of Eswatini Region in the Church Board.

22. ESWATINI REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP 29-30 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Church Board saw a need to conduct leadership training to the new Executive Committee which was elected during RCC 2023 at Mbuluzi. The Church Board delegated the General Secretary Rev. BD Siziba and Dr Sabelo Gumede (Church legal advisor) who facilitated the meeting. The meeting was held at AEC Matsapha, and was a great success.

23. KZN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 28 SEPTEMBER -01 OCTOBER 2023 AT MARGATE

When visiting Women's Fellowship, you could see the joy and freedom of worship as they dance and rejoice in the presence of the Lord. They came in big numbers. It was noticeable that the attendance included visitors from other Regions as well. Thanks to *Inkanyiso* as they call themselves. Your love and generosity will never be unnoticed. Your presence in that town was really a blessing even to the Margate Hotel Staff.

24. HIGHLIGHTS ABOUT OUR "DAUGHTER CHURCH" IN BOTSWANA

We are very grateful to keep a good relationship with our daughter church, the AEC Botswana. AEC Botswana is under the leadership of Bishop Mazelo G. Nthomang. Their presence in our General Conferences has solidified our relations. We are still committed to working together as a family. Botswana is grateful to God for the Revival that has been conducted through partnership with SIM and Pastor Mathabela from Eswatini. Some members who had left during Covid came back. They, however, pray for growth and expansion into urban areas. They are praying for unity amongst Workers.

25. HIGHLIGHTS ABOUT UNION BIBLE INSTITUTE

Our history with UBI can be traced back more than 80 years ago when the school was still at *KwaDumisa* (Mzinto) under Rev. Suter. Our Mission, South Africa General Mission, was always involved in the running of the school ever since. As AEC we are a member of the UBI Council. What does that mean to us? It means we are part of the governing of the school. Rev TG Ntongana is the Chairperson of the UBI Alumni Association and a member of the UBI Council, while Rev PM Dladla is the Treasurer of the Alumni Association. UBI is still requesting that all affiliated Churches must renew their commitment to the school by supporting the school and bringing Students who want to Study the Diploma in Theology and B.Th. massive discounts if AEC number increases. We give glory to God for the AEC "unidentified member" who donated some money to UBI around February when UBI was in great need. It was the hand of God that touched him/her. We urge our Local Churches to plough back to their Bible Colleges which has produced these men and women of God who are serving our church.

26. HIGHLIGHTS ABOUT BIBLE SOCIETY

The Bible Society still depends on fewer churches which are affiliated with Bible Society. We still pray that as AEC, we must never lose sight in supporting Bible Society. There are still many languages that the Bible must be interpreted in, however it calls for church donations and for individual donations to continue this good work.

27. WESTERN CAPE CRUSADE: 18 SEPTEMBER TO 1 OCTOBER

We are delighted to report that a team of six volunteers were part of the crusade. Those were: Rev TG Ntongana- Eastern Cape (Team leader), Rev Mohau Mofokeng (Gauteng), Pastor Mduduzi Mathabela (Eswatini), Mr Bongumenzi Dlamini (Eswatini), Mrs Nontsikelelo Shabangu (Eswatini).

We want to thank those Regions, Circuits, Local Churches, Structures, and individuals who responded to the urgent call to support that Crusade which was based at Khayelitsha. The week-

long cold and rainy weather affected attendance, but God was good in that some souls were won for Christ. Let's continue to pray for the AEC work at Khayelitsha. There is a great potential for AEC to grow up to a regional level at the Western Cape. Let us have a progressive plan for Western Cape Evangelization.

28. REPORT ABOUT SIM (OUR MISSION)

We have our origins from the Mission and we are pleased to continue being part of that important organization. I am the member of the Board of Directors SIM Southern Africa. Through SIM we are able to connect with our sister Churches in Africa. Through SIM we can connect to those places where AEC can also be part of evangelism. Here are few Announcements pertaining Churches or individuals under SIM:

- **Evangelical Church in Southern Africa (ECSA).**

I am pleased to report that Pastor Micheal Sagadevan of uMkomaas has been appointed new President of the ECSA. We are looking forward to see AEC Pastors visiting ECSA Conferences, *vice versa* with ECSA visiting AEC.

- **Dr Rev Siegfried Ngubane: SIM Cape Town**

At this year's historic National Synod of the Reformed Evangelical Anglican Church of Southern Africa held on the 11th to 13th September 2023, the Rev. Dr. Siegfried Ngubane was elected as the eighth Presiding Bishop of this above-mentioned Church. Dr Ngubane graduated from REACH-SA's Seminary, in 1998, and has a distinguished record of ministry in REACH-SA. He currently serves as Regional Director of SIM and has a long history of mission leadership. Dr. Ngubane holds a PhD in Missiology (UFS) as well as two master's Degrees - Mathematics (Stell Uni) and Missiology (SATS). As AEC Southern Africa, we congratulate Dr Ngubane, and we commit ourselves to pray for him in his new office. He will start in this new office in September 2024.

- **The Evangelical Bible Church-SIM: Northern Cape**

This Church is under Bishop Nowel Lyuma. This is our sister Church which needs our prayers. The church is going through some internal challenges, they request our prayers. They are in a campaign to build Church offices. May we stand with them in prayer?

29. MEN'S FELLOWSHIP REPORT

The Men's Fellowship Committee is encouraging all men to be men enough to take leadership roles in various church projects. Some churches need to be renovated, some to be fenced and other branches need Church Sites. The Men's Committee is encouraging all men to take initiatives and to be helpful in their local branches.

These being the crucial days as churches are being robbed at gun points, men are encouraged to be more security conscious. We discourage carrying of large amount of cash at church services, but rather to use EFT method. Men are also encouraged to mentor the young boys. Succession plan always brings hope for continuity. Thanks for taking leadership role during Farewell Services of the Retirees.

30. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP REPORT

We give praise to God for the opinions that we received from this structure. Some concerns that this structure has raised to the Board, are receiving urgent attention.

This structure has stood in Excellency in financial support of Church projects. The Women's Conferences were conducted in all Regions in 2023 with great success.

31. YOUNG ADULT REPORT

We strongly encourage all regions, circuits, and local churches to recognize the adoption of this new structure and actively facilitate its implementation. Specifically, we encourage young men and young women who have transitioned beyond the youth stage to embrace and become involved in this Structure. It has been observed that some male young adults have chosen to either remain within the youth structure or directly transition to Men's Fellowship because of the perception that they won't fit in the young adults' structure. It is crucial to highlight that this structure is designed to be inclusive of both males and females. We encourage older single women and men, including those who are divorced, widowed, or have children, to participate in the Women's and Men's Fellowship, respectively. Furthermore, it is emphasized that young adults should voluntarily self-identify to join this structure and should not feel compelled to do so if they are not comfortable.

Young Adults came up with an innovative idea of visiting senior legends who have walked with God and can tell the history of the AEC. Indeed, we do need those who will write books about AEC. The Young Adults Structure also came up with the innovative idea of visiting those AEC Workers who need some comfort. Forward Young Adult forward!

32. YOUTH REPORT

They reported that some Regional Camps are not as active as they use to be. We encourage all Regional Chairpersons to give moral support to the youth and to ensure that youth activities are not interrupted. The youth become very discouraged when they see disunity amongst the elderly people. We plead to all our churches to ensure that the youth is given guidance rather than criticism. Without youth and children there is no future hope for our Church. Some of the suggestions and concerns from Denominational Youth are referred to the Church Board for attention.

33. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT

We want to thank all the parents who are participating with the teachers in bringing their children to Sunday school. The Children's ministry has managed to retain a good number in all the Regions despite Covid 19. All Regions are encouraged to teach the prescribed textbooks (T4T book 3 and 4). Some teachers were innovative enough to compile some lessons from the Year Verse which is also appreciated. All Churches are encouraged to arrange training for Children's Ministry teachers. This Ministry must be taken seriously by all branches.

34. CONFERENCE CENTRE REPORT

As a denomination, we have agreed to amalgamate towards this Center Project. There will be re-election of the denominational Project Committee during the business session. Not much effort was put on the Centre project due to the fact that court cases in Eswatini were taking

much focus and much attention. (As reported to the Worker's and delegates meeting). The Board is encouraging all Regions to be faithful to the Centre contributions. If we are all united towards this project, we will soon achieve positive results. During my visit at Mankayane, I was so encouraged to see that the walls are raised up to a lintel and block slab level. I do encourage members to make time to visit our Conference Center Site and to pray for the success of this project.

35. THE AEC PRAYER DAY THE 10TH OF EVERY MONTH

We are encouraging the whole Denomination to take the 10th of every month as the Day of prayer for the AEC and for the Church of Jesus Christ universally. We also appreciate the Thursday Devotional prayers on WhatsApp. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Gal. 6:9).

36. CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY- 8 OCTOBER 2023

We salute all the Local Churches which managed to appreciate their Pastors during the International Clergy Appreciation Day. May we continue to do good to those who keep watch over our souls (Heb 13:17). We are grateful to God that our AEC, followed suit to that good conduct of recognizing our Pastors.

37. KZN WORKER'S CONFERENCE 25-28 OCTOBER 2023

This Conference was held at Concord Guest House in Durban. It was great to see the Regional Workers in unity. The presence of the Senior Workers was a great hope of smooth succession within the Region. If young leaders embrace and admire the elderly, including the retired Pastors, our Church would grow from strength to strength. It was however reported that some workers were not physically well. Rev GJ Mfeka, Rev JH Gumede and Mr AB Dube. We are praying for all the Servants of God who has health challenges to be healed in Jesus Name.

38. ESWATINI LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP: 11TH NOVEMBER 2023

The Board saw a special need to conduct a Leadership Workshop with the intention to equip all the elected Committees in their three-year term of office. We requested Rev Siziba and Dr. Gumede who is now familiar with all our Church Documents. The General Secretary joined virtually to conduct his portion of training. We were grateful to God for the good attendance by the Eswatini Region.

39. AEC CONGREGANTS WITH DISABILITIES

As a Church, we need to be cognisant of the presence of our congregants who are disabled. We need to love them and be compassionate for them. Jesus Christ was sensitive and caring towards persons with disabilities. We encourage local churches to be accommodative of AEC congregants with disabilities.

40. HEALTHY LIVING

As members of the AEC, let us commit to healthy lifestyles. A healthy lifestyle requires us to keep up with our physical health. As our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, this implies that

God himself dwells within us. We need to encourage one another to make smart food and drink choices; being physically active on a regular basis; maintain healthy weights; and avoid any disease-causing agents. We encourage members to constantly do regular health checks and screenings in order to address any ailments in their early stages.

41. COURT MATTERS IN ESWATINI REGION

It is no longer a secret that the AEC was taken to Court by its own members in 2023 in the Eswatini Region. In 2022, AEC members took fellow AEC members to court without the Church Board's approval. As if this was not enough, all the new Church Board members, who were duly elected at the last AGCC in Eastern Cape in 2022 were all taken to court for addressing the challenges facing the Region. These matters remain in court and cripple the financial standing of the AEC. They also have a negative impact on the main objectives of the AEC. We condemn the practice of taking God's Church to court and seeing the court as a solution in settling disputes. The glorious gospel of Jesus Christ cannot be proclaimed through Courts. We urge all regions to refer all intricate matters to the Church Board for finalization in line with the AEC Constitution. The Board is unapologetically resolute in administering the work of the AEC as a whole and will continue to do so in line with the AEC Constitution.

42. CONCLUSION

I would like to remind you saints that what is happening between Israel and Palestine, Ukraine and Russia calls for our prayers. I've observed that Christians are much divided against what is happening due to eschatological beliefs. Israel's remnant was ordered to "seek peace and prosperity of the city" (Jer. 29:7) we ought to do the same.

As members of this church, we must strive to seek peace and unity of the AEC. We can do that by applying love to one another as members of one body in Christ. I also urge all AEC members to uphold and respect the Constitution of the AEC as well as all Documents of the AEC. Let us not fight against our documents, rather where needs be, we must amend them.

The Bible remains supreme, and is our final authority in our Christian faith and practice.

Thank you, Gauteng Region, for hosting us this year. Thank you to all our guests who took their time to be with us in this Annual General Conference of the AEC Southern Africa.

May God bless you all!

Humbly presented by:



Revd MX Dladla, PRESIDENT
AFRICA EVANGELICAL CHURCH SOUTHERN AFRICA
19 DECEMBER 2023

PRAYER POINTERS FOR THE YEAR 2024

1. Pray for love and unity amongst the Church of Jesus Christ.
2. Pray for all Regions of the AEC to submit to the authority of Christ.
3. Pray for peace and stability during 2024 Elections in South Africa.
4. Pray for AEC in African Countries not to divert from the Evangelical Doctrine of Salvation.
5. Pray for SIM and all other Mission Organisations not to lose heart in fulfilling their objectives.
6. Pray for the Church of Jesus Christ universally to be centered in Christ.

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE:

- ✓ 09 - 11 February 2024 [Board Meeting]
- ✓ 29- 31 March 2024 [Easter Celebration]
- ✓ 09 - 12 May 2024 [Workers' Seminar]
- ✓ 12 May 2024 [Mother's Day]
- ✓ 16 June 2024 [Father's Day] [Youth Day]
- ✓ 26-30 June 2024 [Eastern Cape RCC]
- ✓ Dates will be given later for [KZN RCC]
- ✓ 08 July 2024 - AEC 62nd Anniversary (Autonomy given on 08 July 1962)
- ✓ 26 August - 01 September 2024 [ESwatini RCC]
- ✓ Dates will be given later[Gauteng RCC]
- ✓ 19 - 21 July 2024 Board & Denominational Committees Mtg.
- ✓ 28 July 2024 (September 08) [Grandparents' Day]
- ✓ 13 October 2024 [Clergy Appreciation Day]
- ✓ 16 - 20 December 2024 [AGCC] Eswatini
- ✓ 10th of every month is AEC Prayer Day