

## **Alberton Methodist Church Annual Society Meeting (14 January 2015)**

### **1. Welcome**

2. **Constitution of Meeting:** The Agenda for the Annual Society Meeting is set forth in Chapter 7 of MCSA Laws & Discipline  
*Annual Society Meeting*

7.28 *The Society shall hold an Annual Meeting which is open to all Members.*

7.29 *The person who presides over the Society Leaders' Meeting shall also preside over the Annual Society Meeting.*

### **3. Devotions**

### **4. Mission Objectives of Alberton Methodist Church**

7.30 *The following are inter alia the functions of the Annual Society Meeting:*

7.30.1 *to decide the mission objectives of the Society; (Vision & Mission – Tony Parry)*

### **5. Appointments**

7.30.3 *to appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer of the Leader's meeting;*

7.30.4 *to appoint a Society Auditor;*

7.30.5 *to appoint such Society Mission Groups as it deems necessary;*  
Proposal for Mission Committee – Margy Cowell (See proposal attached)

7.30.13 *to appoint annually the members of the Trust Properties Committee;*

### **6. Elections**

7.30.2 *to elect not less than two and not more than ten Society Stewards for a term of three years. Society Stewards may serve two consecutive terms and are eligible for re-election after an interval of three years;*

7.30.6 *to elect members to preside over the Mission Groups, where possible using the Society Stewards;*

7.30.15 *to elect two Local Preachers, being members of that Society, to be members of the Society Leaders' Meeting.*

7.30.9 *to elect annually, after nomination from the floor, the Stewards of the Poor Fund. The Meeting shall appoint one of the Poor Fund Stewards as a member of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting;*

Motion from The Finance Committee

### **7. Mission Groups and Ministries**

7.30.7 *to establish ministries in the Society and to appoint a leader for each such ministry;*

7.31 *The Society Mission Groups report to the annual Society Meeting but are accountable to the Leaders' Meeting. The following activities should be part of every Society's life and the annual Society Meeting should appoint Mission Groups which best promote them: Spiritual formation; Mission and extension; Youth; Justice, Service and reconciliation; Property; Finance*

7.32 *The Annual Society Meeting may permit any activity in the Society to operate without being included under a Mission Group.*

7.33 *The Organisations in the Church, such as the Women's and Men's Organisations and the Wesley Guild, are part of the mission of the Society and should therefore be regarded as Mission Groups.*

7.34 *No Mission Group shall incur expenditure or a liability thereto without the authority of the annual Society Meeting, but in an emergency special authority for expenditure which falls outside the approved budget may be granted by the Leaders' Meeting. Such authority shall be reported to the next Annual Society Meeting.*

## **8. Finances**

7.30.8 *to receive and consider the reports on the activities and expenditure as well as the plans and estimated expenditure of the Mission Groups;*

7.30.12 *to receive and consider the financial statement of the Society and to approve the budget for the following year;*

7.30.14 *to allocate funds needed by the Trust Committee and to receive an account of the use of the funds;*

## **9. Agenda Items received from AMC members**

9.1 *Impact Leadership Sessions – Simone Bennett*

9.2 *Women's Retreat (Proposal for 2015) – Simone Bennett*

9.3 a.) *Lay Witness Mission – Eugene Sequeira*  
b.) *Lay Mission/Visiting ministers – Reneta Oosthuizen*

9.4 *Adventure Fellowship Club – Matthew Bennett*

9.5 *Mission Work – Cherryl Norfo*

9.6 *Proposal for Shepherding Ministry – Margy Cowell (See proposal attached)*

9.7 *Carols by Candlelight to be held on the last Friday before schools close – Les Lotter*

9.8 *Merge the 8am and 9.30am services into one morning service – Les Lotter*

9.9 *Merge the 8am and 9.30am Sunday Schools into one morning session – Les Lotter*

9.10 *Audio-visuals during Services – Henri Steyn*

9.11 *Evening Service – Chantelle Peterson*

9.12 a.) *Request for update on appointment of a new minister – Shawn Wilsnach*  
b.) *Ministers leaving (Ryan & Cedric) and the surrounding circumstances – Eric McKechnie*

9.13 *SABC – Cedric Poole*

## **10. Benediction and Closure**

**Proposal:**

**That a Mission Committee be started at Alberton Methodist Church.**

**Aim of a Mission Committee**

**To fulfill Christ's final instructions given just before his Ascension, to the fledgling church (as represented by His apostles and other disciples):**

**"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation..." Mark 16:15.**

**"Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..." Matthew 28:18-20**

**"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8.**

1. Our Lord Jesus Christ gave this command to the Church which, at that moment, consisted of the Apostles and 500 Jewish disciples of Jesus. The command was **global** in scope: **"all creation", "all nations", "to the ends of the earth"**. Local churches inherit this command. All should be involved in activities which promote the making of disciples not only in our city or province or even neighbouring provinces but **also to the ends of the earth.**
2. It is also to be noted that the method to be used is **active verbal proclamation**, by disciples and communities of disciples. **They are to proclaim the good news, "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand,"** (Matthew 4:17) as well, of course, as to portray by Christ-centered living and service the nature of the Kingdom that Christ is offering the world (Matthew 5:14-16)
3. **AMC** has been active in obeying this last command of Jesus **locally**, as can be seen in such institutions as **AMCARE**, Epworths Children's Home, the soup kitchen and **ALPHA** and the involvement of members of the **AMC** in **Kairos**. By these means the good news of the Kingdom of God has been visually portrayed and/or proclaimed **locally.**

However the interest and involvement of the church in fulfilling Christ's mission **beyond our borders**, has been limited, as far can be seen, to groups participating for a couple of weeks in "Extreme Harvest", and to links through the District Circuit to existing congregations in neighbouring countries. One praises God for this.

However, there is seems to **be interest among some young people of the church in getting involved in advancing Christ's Kingdom** in areas where the number of committed followers of our Lord Jesus Christ is very few. Examples of this are well known: Sophie Hristov and Dyllan de Klerk's couple of weeks serving in an Asian country last year and Sophie's return this year with another society to the same country for three months.

**Surely this is the time to set up a Mission Committee committed to:**

- (1) Seeking the will of the Lord as to the part He wishes Alberton Methodist Church to play in promoting His **global** mission. Cf. the church in Antioch that sent out Paul and Barnabas – Acts 13)
- (2) **Praying for, encouraging, and mentoring those whom the Holy Spirit is calling** into the proclamation of the Good News and exemplifying the Kingdom of God in countries **at the ends of the earth**, or in communities in our country where Christ has very few followers. (Hindu, Muslim and Eastern Mediterranean or Middle Eastern communities). Cf. the Christians in the church at Antioch – Acts 13).
- (3) Investigating the **local immigrant communities** (e.g. foreign born Chinese, or the refugees from Francophone Africa). By promote disciple-making amongst them, we will be reaching their countries of origin.

### **Responsibilities of the committee**

To promote an *interest in* and *desire* to participate in the spread of the Good News of Salvation in Christ, and His kingdom:

**By promoting KNOWLEDGE of :**

- How events described in the news are affecting fellow Christians around the world.
- Areas where **Christian churches** suffer persecution for their faith (e.g. N.Nigeria, Iran).
- Nations, tribes, castes, cities and people groups** where almost no-one has heard of Christ or recognized Him as Lord and Saviour (e.g. the Yao people of N. Mozambique, N.Korea, prisons).
- By contacting missionaries and representatives of mission organizations and bringing them to the attention of the leaders of AMC groups, as potential speakers** (e.g. at cell groups, at Men's Breakfasts, in the Sunday School, Youth Groups, and any other group that would like to have them visit.
- **By promoting PRAYER** for the above-mentioned peoples, organizations and individuals.
- **To continue to promote "TASTE OF MISSION TRIPS"**, such as that undertaken by the group that went to Mozambique in July this year.
- **To SEEK OUT THOSE, IN OUR OWN CONGREGATION, WHOM LORD MAY BE CALLING INTO MISSIONARY SERVICE.** To pray for them, mentor them and support them as they consider the areas of service to which the Lord may be calling them and the steps necessary to prepare them for life service in Mission in a different culture and/or beyond our borders.
- **To see what spiritual help is needed by the immigrant communities** on our doorsteps and to what extent Alberton Methodist Church can be used to meet their spiritual needs.

May the Lord guide the ASM to do all its business and make all its decisions, including its response to this proposal, according to His will and to the glory of His holy name.

Proposed by:

Margaret Cowell

For the attention of the Annual Society Meeting, 14 January 2015.

Alberton Methodist Church

## **PROPOSAL: That Alberton Methodist Church develop a Shepherding Ministry.**

This would in no way conflict with the excellent Pastoral Care Ministry, that already exists as I hope to show.

### **The aim of such a group:**

To ensure the spiritual growth of all members of the church and their families.

To ensure that every member of the church and their family feels that they belong and are known and loved by a group of people in the church.

To provide a certain accountability to the church and its leaders as to what is happening to members and their families.

### **I see it as looking like the following:**

- **Operated by quite a number of spiritually mature Christian couples** (as defined in 1 Timothy 3: 1-7, Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-4), under the auspices of a church leader or pastor.
- **Covering ALL families and singles who are members.** (Perhaps, if regular adherents are interested, they could be part of the programme.)
- This ministry would be, to a considerable extent be **geographically based** and would cover all areas of Alberton and its surrounding areas where the church has members.
- **Each Shepherding couple would be responsible for, perhaps, no more than 10-12 households** (this would include singles) in their geographical area of responsibility.
- **Each Shepherding couple would be responsible to get to know all members of these households, encourage their spiritual growth and be aware of social or physical needs. They would do this by:**
  1. **Maintaining regular contact** with each member and his household by phone or visits and encouraging church attendance.
  2. **Organise an annual or half yearly or quarterly event**, such as a bring-and-share breakfast or braai or picnic, so that all families or households in their group can get to know each other and hopefully learn to care for and pray for each other. Share a brief Bible message, or watch a Christian DVD.
  3. **Receive information from the pastor about all new members living in their areas or members transferring into their area** and make them **welcome**.
  4. **Initiate and facilitate a cell group if none exists in their area.**
  5. **Encourage all in the group to participate in appropriate church ministries that will develop them spiritually** . E.G. cell groups, youth groups, children's groups, Alpha, Men's breakfasts etc.)
  6. **Make sure that members are aware of Christian service opportunities offered by the church** (E.g. W.A., soup kitchen, Kairos, Alpha, maintenance of church buildings, "Taste of Mission" Trips. Etc.)
  7. **Keep a look out for the spiritual gifts of group members and encourage them to develop and use them in the church's ministries.**
  8. Inform **families in crisis** of where to get help (i.e. the groups and individuals that form part of the pastoral care ministry of the church.) With the permission of the people involved, the shepherds would inform the church of their needs.

9. While respecting the confidentiality of the members and households in the group, **keep the pastors informed** of criticisms leveled at the church or it's leaders or ministries.
10. **If a family or individual is no longer attending the church** discover the reason and inform the church (e.g. moved residence, gone to University, discouraged, no longer believes, divided interests such as member of a tennis club, children prefer a youth group in another church etc.

## **Training and Accountability**

As I see it, each shepherding couple would need to receive some training, and commit to reporting back to the leader responsible for the programme.

**Proposed by:**

**Margaret A. Cowell**

## **Society Steward Nominees' Current Involvement & Visions**

**Clive Fourie:** In the last year I have been involved with Prayer after service, Soup kitchen, Door steward, Collection steward, Missions. ***My vision for AMC is to help it grow in all aspects especially Mission and to help unite AMC.***

**De Wet de Kock:** Current involvement at AMC: Vestry Steward, Communion Steward, Society Steward, leading Prayer Group Sunday mornings 07h25, studying and graduate October 2014 - BA Prophetic Ministry.

***Goal/Vision: Isaiah 65 v 24 "it shall come to pass. That before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear." A good correspondence between GOD and AMC.***

**Dylan de Klerk:** Current involvement - Confirmation leader; GodTeen/Youth leader; Sunday School teacher; involved in Mission Work. ***To grow the Kingdom of God within the community of Alberton - sharing Christ not only to the people within the Church but taking Christ to people within our community.***

**Edwina Pentz:** Involvement at AMC: Overseeing Disciple course, Leading a Disciple group, Prayer Chain, Bible study, Counting money. ***I would like to be available to hear what the people of the church want.***

**Eugene Sequeira:**

**Henri Steyn:** Chairman Care For Creation; Alpha Course Leader; Mighty Men Conference co-ordinator; Sound Desk Technician; Overhead computer operator. ***My vision as a Society Steward will be to stem loss of membership of Alberton Methodist Church and turn that around to ensure growth. To do this I believe my Goals will be: Improve Worship by managing audio visual quality; Improve Stewardship by endeavouring to make the congregation aware of us and what we do (Customer Care); Work closely with Tony Parry and his Team to carry out their recommendations.***

**Joan Smit Jnr:** My involvement at the moment is a regular church attendee, with a desire to do more, and waiting on God for a direction of what/where. ***My vision: build muscle, not fat in the church. Let God guide me to where I can play a role in letting the Spirit grow stronger, meaningful Christ followers (including me!).***

**Martin Alberts:** 2014 : Oversee door stewards and door duty evening service – Vestry duty – Pray before the 18 h 30 service with worship group and minister. Oversee coffee after 18 h 30 service. Repairs and maintenance Church & Manse's. Communion Steward. Attends Impact Leadership Sessions. ***Goal / Vision: That AMC experience a revival. That we will experience a revival of the Holy Spirit. Father – Son – and Holy Spirit.***

**Matthew Bennett:** Last year, I served as a Society Steward, Confirmation leader, member of the Evening Worship Team, Crossfire/Teen Church leader (and ran Crossfire as a whole for the second part of the year.) I also ran the Adventure Fellowship Club outings. ***I am passionate about people & seeing God's Will done in their lives. My vision is to give all I can in serving & teaching others, especially the Youth of our Church.***

**Pieter Bornman:** My wife, Mercia & I have been at Alberton Methodist for the past 3 years and we consider this to be our spiritual home. We are currently facilitating the Divorce-Care Course and we also cater for the Church's funerals. ***It is my desire to contribute in a positive and Godly manner to the wellbeing of our Church and Community, to stand in the office of a servant.***

**Simone Bennett:** During 2014, I have served as a Society Steward (and would love to continue my service); have led the Worship Team at the Evening Service and helped occasionally at the 09:30 service; began & facilitated the Impact Leadership Sessions. ***My goal/vision going forward is to seek God's Way & Will for His Church (especially with regards to Worship & Youth) and do my utmost to see it done for His Glory.***

**Thea Brook:** Involvement: Door Steward - Tea Duty - Small group Bible Study  
***Vision: To be part of a Team of honest, open disciples to do God's Will in spreading the Word and building-up, as well as keeping our Members here at AMC.***

**Yvette de Kock:** Current involvement at AMC : Door Steward, Collection Steward, Communion Steward, Computer Operator, Prayer meeting every Sunday before the 08h00 service, Prayer Warrior (prayer chain), Pastoral Care (I have taken it upon myself to be involved with one of our elderly members by phoning her at least twice a week and visiting at least once a month, even though she does have a very loving and caring family). I have also been studying and graduated in Oct.14 with a BA in Ministry.  
***My vision comes from 1 Peter 3: 8-12. I pray that as a Church we will love one another and that we will be righteous in the eyes of our LORD and that we may be in right standing and blameless before HIM.***

**Willie van Wyk:** Currently I am only active as part of the after service prayer group for the 08:00 clock service. I was part of the intercessory group with Shireen Mylie, Clive Fourie and Stella Ernstzen.  
***My Goal/vision. We have seen an exodus of 40 something year old's over the past couple of years. These people are the elders of tomorrow and I feel that somehow we need to get them back to AMC. I for one have not left and want to therefore get involved and find out how we can get some of our old members back and to keep AMC relevant in a modern society without losing our values.***