

DEWCOM REPORT TO CONFERENCE 2025

CHAIR: REV DR SIDWELL MOKGOTHU

1. INTRODUCTION

The Doctrine, Ethics and Worship Committee (DEWCOM) is charged with resourcing the Methodist Church of Southern Africa in its theological reflection, ethical discernment, and worship life. This year's work has been undertaken within the broader focus of the Church's Pilgrimage of Renewal, culminating in the preparations for the Third Mission Congress.

The DEWCOM members committed themselves to the following guiding reflections for the committee's work:

- DEWCOM has a crucial role to play in the Pilgrimage of Renewal that the MCSA is undertaking. We should be wrestling with what the Church is wrestling with, as we are part of that larger enterprise in which the Church is engaged.
- Our work must navigate ways in which we can contribute creatively and meaningfully to the Pilgrimage of Renewal, exploring our understanding of God's Word and assisting the MCSA towards its renewal.
- We should function as a think tank that generates ideas while also renewing our own life and witness as a committee.
- We are called to demonstrate a deep sense of commitment to our work, as guided by our covenant.
- We must strive to produce thoughtful, informed, and Spirit-led inputs that will contribute to the renewal of the MCSA. Even between formal meetings, our perspectives, framing, and contributions should reflect our identity as members of DEWCOM.
- We should be engaged in discerning God's will for our Church and in charting a Spirit-led way forward for the MCSA.

2. PILGRIMAGE OF RENEWAL: THEOLOGICAL AND SPIRITUAL COMPANION

DEWCOM has commissioned and has, with the assistance of the Methodist Publishing Committee, published a theological and spiritual companion book titled, Pilgrimage of Renewal: A Theological and Spiritual Companion to the Third Mission Congress. The book was intended to be a pre-congress resource, rooted in scripture, theology, and African Christian spirituality, intended to guide circuits, districts, and individuals in a unified journey of preparation. The purpose of the book is:

- To accompany the Connexion in spiritual and theological preparation for the Mission Congress and beyond.
- To provide an accessible resource for prayer, study, and reflection during the Pilgrimage.
- To deepen communal identity and missional imagination through shared theological language.
- To affirm and integrate African Christian spirituality and lived experience in shaping renewal.

This book will help Methodists and other Christians to pray together, grieve together, discern together, and build together. By integrating theology, and spirituality, it ensures that the Pilgrimage of Renewal is not only spoken but is deeply felt and faithfully lived. The book is intended to be a sacred tool for unity, remembrance, and transformation, pointing the Church toward a Spirit-led future.

3. SEMINAR ON UKUTHWASA

As part of its ongoing theological conversation on the African spiritual practice of *Ukuthwasa*, DEWCOM fulfilled its commitment to host a webinar dedicated to the presentation of academic papers on the subject.

The webinar provided a platform for scholars, clergy, and practitioners to explore *Ukuthwasa* from historical, cultural, theological, and pastoral perspectives. DEWCOM received about 20 papers and opinion pieces, some of which were presented over two sessions.

The webinar marked an important step in DEWCOM's ongoing commitment to engage with African spiritual heritage in ways that are both critically reflective and pastorally responsive. The contributions from the webinar were collated with the intention of publishing them into a book.

Unfortunately, the Methodist Publishing Committee did not approve the publication and has promised to consider the publication in the future.

4. THE 1700TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NICENE CREED

In 2025, the global Church marked the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea (325 AD) and the adoption of the Nicene Creed. Recognising the Creed's central place in Christian faith and worship, DEWCOM hosted an online theological seminar to commemorate this milestone. The event brought together clergy, lay leaders, theologians, and students from across the Connexion, with speakers drawn from different churches, thus reflecting the ecumenical nature of the Creed itself.

Presentations explored the following themes:

- *The Historical Background to the Council of Nicaea* – Rev Martin Easson
- *Christological Conflicts* – Rev Antonio Coppola
- *The Council of Constantinople* – Dr Wilbert Gobbo
- *Challenges to Nicene Orthodoxy: Past and Present* – Mr Peter Frow

The seminar highlighted how the Creed, “having itself been forged in a crucible of controversy, contrived to sail serenely through the conflicts of the Reformation unchanged and unchallenged. And so it continues to this day as a confession of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.”

The event concluded with a reminder that if the Creed is approached only analytically, it risks becoming “dry, lifeless dogma.” However, if embraced with faith and enlivened by the Holy

Spirit, it becomes a source of joy and a means by which believers are enabled to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

This commemoration deepened the Church's appreciation of our shared theological heritage and encouraged renewed commitment to the faith we profess together.

5. RESOLUTION ON CHURCH UNITY

Noting that the year 2028 will mark the platinum jubilee (70th anniversary) of the landmark 1958 Conference resolution on Church Unity, DEWCOM reminds the Methodist Church of Southern Africa of its historic and continuing commitment to be a *"One and Undivided Church."* That resolution, adopted in the midst of deep racial and political divisions, affirmed the Methodist conviction that the Church of Jesus Christ cannot be separated by barriers of race, class, culture, or gender. It remains one of the defining theological and prophetic commitments in the history of our Connexion.

As we journey through the Pilgrimage of Renewal, DEWCOM believes this jubilee moment provides a Spirit-given opportunity for the MCSA to revisit, re-examine, and re-energise its commitment to unity. The challenges of our time, continuing racial inequality, socio-economic divides, cultural and tribal tensions, call the Church afresh to embody unity not as an abstract ideal but as a lived reality.

In this regard, DEWCOM has submitted to the Mission Congress a theological and historical reflection titled: *"One and Undivided: Church Unity in the MCSA's Pilgrimage of Renewal"* (see Appendix 1). This paper is meant to invite the Connexion to:

- Recall the bold witness of the 1958 resolution in its historical context.
- Reflect on the progress, setbacks, and unfinished tasks in our unity journey.
- Engage in dialogue on how unity can be deepened at Connexional, District, Circuit, and Society levels.
- Recommit to visible, practical expressions of being the Body of Christ, reconciled and sent into the world.

DEWCOM urges that the 70th anniversary in 2028 be marked not only by remembrance but by concrete renewal of our witness as a united and undivided Methodist Church in Southern Africa.

6. MULTI-LINGUAL AND MULTI-GENERATIONAL AND HYMN BOOK

The 2024 Conference endorsed a resolution from the Methodist Publishing Committee directing DEWCOM to re-establish the Liturgy and Worship Subcommittee as part of the broad framework of its work. It further directs that the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee serve as a member of the DEWCOM Standing Committee. The Sub-Committee is to be tasked with the work of reviewing the official liturgies of the MCSA as contained in our doctrinal Hymnals, revitalising older liturgy and usages for the present context and writing new liturgy and orders of services for various occasions which at present have not as yet been authorized.

To realise this directive, DEWCOM extended an invitation to Revs Andile Mbete, Vido Nyobole and Phezile Koekoe to discuss and conceptualise this. Revs Mbete tracked the history of the project from the Journey to the New Land and indicated how the project was stopped when conference would not fund it. Rev Nyobole shared on his own initiative to modernise the isiXhosa hymn book. The project was halted when DEWCOM requested that a comprehensive and inclusive initiative be undertaken. Revs Koekoe and Silolo discussed youth-centered liturgies to address the exodus of young people to charismatic churches, emphasizing the need for transformative worship approaches. Mrs. Hyreath Lodge and Rev. Spies shared insights on publishing challenges, including financial risks, copyright issues, and the importance of communication and market research. The meeting identified key considerations for this initiative.

- The need for decolonized, multilingual hymnals and new liturgies.
- Exploring digital platforms for hymnals and liturgies.
- Addressing copyright and ownership issues for new hymns.
- Engaging stakeholders, including youth, clergy, and ecumenical partners, while ensuring proper communication and buy-in.

The conclusion was to present to conference and lobby for the endorsement of:

- A Concept Paper providing a broad outline of this long-term project
- A proposed inter-disciplinary Sub-Committee led by DEWCOM
- The commitment to mobilise and resource the project

The Concept paper is presented in the spirit of the Pilgrimage of Renewal, to Conference, through the processes of the Mission Congress. (See Appendix 2)

7. CONCLUSION

As the MCSA journeys toward the Third Mission Congress, DEWCOM commits itself to continued engagement as a vehicle for the Church, offering thoughtful, Spirit-led, and contextually relevant resources. We do so trusting that God, who has begun a good work among us, will bring it to completion for the renewal and transformation of our Church, to the glory of God and the blessing of God's people.

8. NOMINATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2026

Rev Dr Sidwell Mokgothu (Chairperson), Rev Luvuyo Sifo (Secretary), Rev Maria Mucamba Rev Dr Vusi Vilakati, Rev Dr Roger Scholtz, Rev Raymond Keet (Ecumenical Affairs Unit), Rev Ralph Afghan, Mr Peter Frow, Ms Matsela Kolisang-Tjama, Ms Olorato Bonyongo, Ms Jessie Paremore-Hikwa, Rev Obusitswe Tiroyabone, Rev Michel Hansrod (SMMS Rep), Rev Dr Matshedesho Molale (EMMU Director), Rev Nozipho Mcineka, Rev Tim Attwell, Rev Xolisani Silolo, Rev Vuyelwa Ntshinga and Rev Dr Jacob Mokhutso.

APPENDIX 1

“ONE AND UNDIVIDED”: CHURCH UNITY IN THE MCSA’S PILGRIMAGE OF RENEWAL

Introduction

Nearing the platinum jubilee (2028) anniversary of the 1958 resolution on Church Unity, the Methodist Church of Southern Africa is called upon through the Pilgrimage of Renewal to introspect and reify God’s call on the Church to re-imagine herself as a united body of Christ. God’s call on the Church through this Renewal is firmly founded in the pivotal resolution of the 1958 Conference of the Methodist People to be “One and Undivided”. At this Conference, representatives of the Methodist People in Southern Africa declared in unison that:

The Conference declares its conviction that it is the will of God for the Methodist Church that it should be “One and Undivided”, trusting to the leading of God to bring this ideal to ultimate fruition, and that this be the general basis of our missionary policy.

The 1958 Conference sought to respond to the then escalating racial tensions within the borders of the Republic of South Africa. Notwithstanding the Connexional architecture of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa which includes the six sovereign states of Botswana, Lesotho, Moçambique, Namibia, South Africa and eSwatini, the tensions in South Africa were becoming more intense. The 1958 Conference resolution came a decade after the South African government had implemented the Apartheid systemic racial segregation law. However, this Conference also came as independence from colonial states was imminent for the other sovereign states of the Methodist Connexion. Thus, this resolution was both a clarion call to the South African state, and a reckoning of a new dawn for the broader component of the Connexion.

Beyond the Conference that adopted this essential declaration by Methodist People, the Methodist Connexion continued to experience divisions within herself. Such divisions continue to be for the Methodist Connexion, a thorn in the flesh, as it were. This has necessitated a perpetual introspection and discernment on the part of the Methodist Connexion. In 21st century Methodism, the declaration to be “One and Undivided” continues to be an essential pillar of unity for the Methodist Connexion. Various issues rear their heads to test the unity of the Church. In response to these obstacles to Church Unity, the Methodist People recall themes of unity as we journey towards the high moment of renewal. We draw these themes through the process of the Wesleyan quadrilaterals to accentuate the MCSA’s position to be “One and Undivided”.

Experience

Through the history of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa from its formative years to the present, our diversity as a Methodist People has not always brought about positivity. Instead, our diversity has to an extent challenged the unity of the Church. As a result of these challenges, members of the MCSA do not always want to work together and end up walking to far opposite directions. The racial tensions within the Connexion have not yet reached a state satisfactory for the unity of the Church.

Added to these racial dynamics are footprints of ethnic tensions. Furthermore, the economic inequality within the Connexion and the different circuits continues to challenge the unity of the Methodist Connexion as the pendulum has not yet swung on the side of the previously marginalised. The social class struggles resulting from this painful experience threatens the vision of a utopian Methodist ecosystem and vision of: A Christ-healed Africa for the healing of nations. Experience teaches us that we can be of one accord and share the same principles even when we come from different backgrounds.

There are nuances of a lack of co-operation amongst presbyters and between presbyters and the laity. These tensions challenge the concept of 'every member ministry'. In instances where there is dis-unity within the Church, the mission of the God suffers. When the Methodist Connexion focuses on conflict resolution, the mission of God takes a back seat. Within the changing landscape of ministry and mission in Southern Africa, gender diversity emerges as a serious cause of tension. Our snail's pace in embracing all people of all gender identifications challenges Wesley's teaching that freely mercy and grace are given to all people, created in the image of God.

Tradition

The unity of the Church Universal has been challenged from time immemorial. The early challenges to the unity of the Church were of a doctrinal nature. These challenges led to inter-alia the council of Nicaea, the division of the erstwhile Catholic Church into the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches, the wave of the Reformation and other later formations of Christian denominations. The Church as 'Catholic' has remained steadfast throughout, inspiring the words of a Hymn:

The Church is One Foundation
Is Jesus Christ Her Lord...
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, One Faith, One Birth.

This is testament to the history of the Unity of the Church. The Church has always been on a quest to be united. Because the Church is a microcosm of society, there have been significant events of the world that have been obstacles to the unity of the church. Systemic racism, ethnic tribalism, exclusion of the LGBTQ community, sexism, as well as ageism have troubled the unity of the Church. The Church has however always maintained its stance on a preference for unity.

Within the Methodist movement in the years of British Methodism, there have been schisms that threatened the life of the Methodist Church. The New Itinerants, the Independent Methodists, and the Primitive Methodists were formed as new Connexions in the formative years of British Methodism. Such schisms have replicated in the history of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, leading to breakaways caused by discontentment within our Connexion. We have learned from these experiences that Church Unity must always be pursued. As the new formations in England re-united to one Connexion, we learn as well in Southern Africa that we must always be "One and Undivided".

Reason

It is our united resolve as Methodist People to be united. This Church Unity we seek is about embracing Connexional unity in diversity through shared identity. The wealth of culture in the sovereign states of the Connexion gives impetus to our unity. The resolve to be one and undivided demands that the voices of all Methodist People in the sovereign states of the Connexion be embraced irrespective of the size of the state. Vociferous in this resolve is the engendering of space for all Methodist People, not only in form, but also in influence. The contexts, stories, and struggles of the People called Methodist in the six countries of the Connexion must all become part of the shared Connexional centre. In our resolve to be “One and Undivided”, we are called to be a non-racial, non-sexist and non-tribalist Methodist People. We resolve to elucidate the theological understanding that all Methodist People are part of the one human race without any racial or ethnic superiority based on the pigmentation of our skin or the dominance of any ethnic group.

In this Pilgrimage of Renewal, we resolve as the People called Methodist to be a non-sexist Church, a Church that celebrates both men and women as those created in the image of God. We resolve to be a child and youth-centred Church, holding children and youth as the glue that holds us together as a futuristic denomination. We resolve in this Renewal programme to live a truly gender-diverse worship life, embracing all people, and ensuring that all Methodist People enjoy the privilege of being in a Church that welcomes all people.

Scripture

In this discernment process, we recall scripture to illuminate God’s call for unity in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. We hear the message to the Galatian Christians (Gal. 3:28):

There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

The message of this text is that of equality and unity in diversity. Paul wrote this declaration to an assembly of differing ethnicities, yet he emphasized that in Christ all are equal. In our experiences we have noted that at times we fall into the mistake of socially categorizing and stereotyping others. We then fall into the sin of ‘othering’. We tend to assume that we are unequal to them in some way or another. Yet scripture declares that to be a fallacy. Once we have been baptised in Christ, what divides us no longer stands, there is now a new dispensation, one that unites us even with our differences.

When scripture declares that “there is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; there is neither male nor female”, scripture does not assert the obliteration of difference, but rather the obliteration of dominance. It does not mean we ought to stop being who we are, but rather, scripture calls for us to dissolve that which divides us and causes us to be at far opposite ends with each other. This oneness called by scripture does not take away the differences, but it means a new way of seeing and behaving. Gal 3:28 compels us to be together, to live as one with those who are most radically different from us. In this way, we will truly be “One and Undivided”.

Resolution

In 2025, a call is heard from the Conference platform of work for prophetic urgency and agency. In this prophetic urgency and agency, we are further called to be an alternative community. When the world struggles to be one, the alternative community is called to model to the world what it is, what it means, and what it looks like to be “One and Undivided”. Part of this call is for the Methodist People to navigate the 21st century epistemic space of the de-colonial framework. This resolution seeks to return to the 1958 declaration of unity for the Methodist People to be truly “One and Undivided”. Thus, we resolve the following:

1. Connexionality

That Connexionality be strengthened as an identity, and as a mark for unity for the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. To enhance Connexionality, we call on the breaking of the walls of race and ethnicity, to be seen as one and to live a life of unity. We resolve to affirm Connexional presence in the sovereign states of the Connexion and to put into place mechanisms to realise this ideal.

2. Geographic Circuits

That the formation and models of geographic circuits be maintained and strengthened as a model of non-racism. We call on all circuits to work towards being multi-racial, multi-ethnic, and multi-lingual circuits that embrace diversity in all its forms. We call that the Connexion profiles successful models and set them as benchmarks.

3. Cross-Cultural Stationing

That the process of cross-cultural stationing be reviewed and strengthened as a Wesleyan model of itinerant ministry. We resolve that this process be made fair and transparent for the benefit of enhancing the trust of the Methodist People. At the present moment, it is only blacks who are stationed cross-culturally.

4. White Flight

The Methodist Church investigates the withdrawal of White people from fully participating in the life of the Church. This should include the flight of White people in general and the White Clergy in particular, to other Connexions outside Southern Africa.

5. Gender Diversity

That more intense work be put into place to facilitate the embracing of all Methodist People irrespective of their gender. We resolve that the task teams put into work design more cutting-edge training manuals to teach the Methodist People what it means to be an open and welcoming Church within the Wesleyan tradition. The Connexion to be intentional in increasing the superintendency of women ministers.

6. Child and Youth-Centred Church

That we become a more child and youth centred Church that includes children and young people in its liturgical and worship formations. We resolve that leaders of worship and presbyters be trained on how to engender space for children and young people in the life of the Church. Furthermore, youth be encouraged to consider different ministries of the Church – these include presbytery, Order of Deacons, order of evangelism, local preaching and others.

7. Every Member Ministry

That the concept of every member ministry be re-affirmed and celebrated with more focus. We resolve that the tensions between presbyters and lay preachers and leader be eliminated. We further resolve that work be done to enhance positive and life-giving working relations between the laity and clergy in the leadership of the Church.

We, the Methodist People, guided by the traditions of the Methodist heritage, inspired by the flame of the Holy Spirit, being of one accord, as an alternative community, resolve that we together truly become “One and Undivided”.

CONCEPT PAPER ON

DEVELOPING A MODERN MULTI-LINGUAL, MULTI-GENERATIONAL, AND MULTI-NATIONAL HYMN BOOK WITH DYNAMIC LITURGIES FOR THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. Title

“Creative Name”: A Dynamic, Inclusive Hymnal for the Methodist Church of Southern Africa”

2. Introduction

The Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA) is a vibrant, diverse, and evolving Connexion spanning six Southern African countries: South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini, Namibia, Botswana, and Mozambique. Rooted in the rich heritage of Wesleyan theology and African cultural expressions, the Church’s worship life calls for a renewed resource that reflects its full linguistic, cultural, and generational diversity.

Currently, the MCSA’s hymnals and liturgical resources, while historically significant, do not sufficiently meet the needs of today’s congregations. They often fail to engage younger generations and appreciate realities of the Connexion and lack dynamic liturgies that address contemporary social and spiritual issues.

This concept paper proposes the development of a modern, multi-lingual and multi-generational hymn book accompanied by dynamic liturgies, designed to unify and inspire worship across all six countries of the MCSA Connexion. The hymnal will be both a repository of tradition and a platform for fresh, contextual worship expressions.

Importantly, this initiative builds on previous efforts. In the early 1990s, under the then Bishop Andile Mbetse’s leadership, the MCSA began a project to contextualise its worship resources. This did not take off after Conference complained about the “unavailability” of financial resources. More recently, the former General Secretary, Rev Vido Nyobole, upon retirement, led a personal review and modernisation of the isiXhosa hymnal, updating language and removing colonial vestiges —highlighting a continuing journey of renewal. This too was put on hold after DEWCOM asked several questions about the scope of this project and its impact on hymnals of other languages and the original idea of a modern hymnal.

This concept will be formally presented to the Methodist Conference in September 2025 for endorsement. The Conference’s approval will launch a consultative, collaborative process across the Connexion to develop this vital resource.

3. Problem Statement

Current hymnals, with their colonial vestiges, inadequately reflect the evolved context of the MCSA Connexion. Youth and younger generations find limited connection with traditional worship resources and are leaving the MCSA for other churches that embrace contemporary methods of worship. Furthermore, liturgies lack adaptability to contemporary and contextual issues.

There is no integrated resource that spans all six countries of the Connexion, incorporating their unique languages and cultures.

4. Purpose and Objectives

The project aims to develop a dynamic, inclusive, and multi-lingual and multi-cultural hymn book and liturgical resource that:

- a. Honours and reflects the Wesleyan theological tradition alongside African spirituality.
- b. Embraces and integrates the linguistic diversity of all six Connexional countries (e.g., isiZulu, isiXhosa, XiTsonga, Sesotho, Ronga, Setswana, Afrikaans, Portuguese, and others). There may be a challenge to include ALL the languages.
- c. Addresses the worship needs of all generations, including children, youth, adults, and elders.
- d. Incorporates a broad spectrum of musical styles, traditional hymns, indigenous African songs, gospel, and contemporary praise music.
- e. Provides updated and contextualised liturgies for sacraments, special occasions, and thematic services.
- f. Is available in print and digital formats (app, website, projection-friendly slides) for wide accessibility.

5. Project Scope

1. **Multi-national and Linguistic Inclusion:** The hymnal will represent the six countries of the Connexion: South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini, Namibia, Botswana, and Mozambique and will feature their languages and musical traditions. There may be limitations on the number of languages. There could be progressive addition of other languages in the future.
 - a. **Liturgical Content:** Seasonal worship (Advent, Lent, Pentecost etc), rites (baptism, communion, funerals, inductions), and services focused on justice, healing, youth, environment, and reconciliation.
 - b. **Music Selection:** A curated collection of a number of hymns and songs, blending traditional Methodist hymns with indigenous and contemporary music. The number to be determined after research.
 - c. **Theological Review:** Texts and liturgies will be carefully reviewed by multi-stakeholder and inter-disciplinary Steering Committee under the leadership of DEWCOM for theological soundness and cultural sensitivity.

- d. **Digital Integration:** Investigate the development of a companion digital platform.

6. Justification

- a. The MCSA represents a unique Connexional identity that crosses borders, cultures, and languages; worship resources must authentically reflect this reality.
- b. Engaging younger generations requires modern language, relevant themes, and diverse musical styles.
- c. Contemporary liturgies addressing social issues will deepen the Church's missional engagement.
- d. This project will strengthen unity across the Connexion by providing a shared worship framework that honours all cultures and languages.
- e. It will position the MCSA as a leader in contextual worship resources in Africa.

7. Methodology

- a. **Research and Audit:** Review current hymnals, liturgies, and worship trends across the six countries.
- b. **Consultative Process:** Engage theologians, musicians, clergy, youth, and laity through surveys, workshops, and focus groups.
- c. **Composition and Translation:** Investigate the commission new hymns and liturgies; translate and adapt existing material to ensure inclusivity and relevance. The Methodist Publishing House has warned on the complex nature of copyright and ownership of new compositions.
- d. **Piloting:** Test resources in congregations across the Connexion and gather feedback.
- e. **Editorial Review:** Final theological and musical vetting.
- f. **Publishing:** Produce print, digital, and possible app versions.

8. Expected Outcomes

- a. A unified, dynamic hymn book and liturgical resource [with a creative name] that authentically represents the MCSA Connexion.
- b. Broadened worship participation across all ages and cultures in the six countries.
- c. A possible digital platform enhancing accessibility and engagement.
- d. Strengthened Connexional identity and mission.

9. Steering Committee

There is need to have multi-stakeholder committee under the auspices of DEWCOM to drive this project. The Steering Committee may appoint different working streams based on need. The Steering Committee, with the chair of DEWCOM providing overall leadership will include the following stakeholders:

- The Doctrine, Ethic and Worship Committee [DEWCOM]
- The Methodist Publishing Committee [MPC]
- The Music Association

- Local Preachers Association

There is need to suggest to this committee a secretary and project manager. Liturgists will be appointed based on once the scope has been determined and endorsed by Conference.

10. Timeline

The established Steering Committee, with the guidance of the Methodist Publishing House will develop timelines. The MPC has advised that the development of this project not be rushed but be developed gradually in order to provide a quality product.

11. Budget Overview

The appointed Steering Committee, with the guidance of the Methodist Publishing House, will develop a budget. The Connexional Executive will, through the approval of Conference, investigate and recommend sources of funding for this project.

12. Conclusion

The New Hymnal, which fortunately comes at the time of the Pilgrimage of Renewal, will be a powerful testament to the Methodist Church of Southern Africa's commitment to unity in diversity, contextual relevance, and faithful witness. Rooted in Wesleyan tradition and African cultural richness, it will inspire worship, nurture discipleship, and connect generations and nations across the Connexion. This project represents both a continuation and a bold renewal of the MCSA's liturgical heritage, inviting the whole Church to sing, pray, and serve as one.