

Announcement:

In Sean's Minister's note that appears in the notices this morning, he has included a farewell message.

Those of you who are aware of the MCSA protocol will know that all ordained ministers within in Methodist Church, serve, by invitation for a set period, at any station, before moving on. These periods are generally between 3 to 7 years with the rare possibility of that being extended to 10 years. 2021 is Sean's 10th year with DMC and he was therefore due to leave our society at the end of this year.

Although this may come as a surprise to some of you and might even cause some concern, I would like to share further information with you that might assist in addressing some of those concerns:

Sean received an offer to join a prestigious college in KZN, Hilton College, as its Chaplain. It has long been a dream of his to serve God as a school chaplain, and after prayer and consideration, he applied to the Bishop for a secondment to enable him to accept the offer. Last Thursday Sean received the news from the Presiding Bishop that his application for secondment has been accepted with effect from 1 April 2021. The Methodist Church has given its blessing for this wonderful opportunity as well as approving the early departure to afford him and his family a smooth transition.

We have to believe that God's hand has guided us to this point and as such we ask that DMC supports Sean and his family as they depart on the next phase of their journey.

Sean, Sarah-Jane, Grace and Ben are an integral part of the DMC community and we are very thankful for their openness and willingness to share their gifts with our Society over the last 9 years. They have made a huge impact on us and we will miss them dearly.

As you are all aware, COVID has had a huge impact on churches around the world over the last year. This has also affected the MCSA standard processes in terms of stationing within our Circuit.

At DMC, we are very blessed to have had 2 ordained Ministers serving our society. With Sean leaving at the end of March, Rev Vuyelwa Ntshinga will be taking over his role at DMC. Vuyelwa is well known to our congregation and is already a valuable member of our DMC family. We welcome Vuyelwa into her new role and I have no doubt that we will all extend the same affection and respect to her as we did to Sean.

Our congregation, together with the leadership, belong to God. We need to be unified in accepting what might be a challenging but wonderful opportunity to grow stronger together as we embrace this new journey together.

We also ask that you pray for the stewards that they may continue to aid the minister and you, the congregation.

You will no doubt have a few questions or concerns but please feel free to raise these with the church leadership should you wish but, more importantly, remember that God wants us to lay all our fears at His feet.

We will be having an official farewell service for Sean and his family on Sunday 14 March 2021, where we will celebrate the contribution that they have made to our Society over the last 9 years. This service will be led by the newly appointed Superintendent of the Cape Gateway Circuit, Rev George Sass.