Forming Transforming Leaders for Church and Nation

INDUCTION OF THE GRAND CHANCELLOR

AND THE PETER STOREY ANNUAL LECTURE

ELECTRONIC BROCHURE
SMMS is built on a long history of theological education and ministerial formation that since 1867 has included Healdtown and Lesseyton, Bollihope, Fort Hare and Rhodes Universities, the Federal Theological Seminary and John Wesley College, Pretoria. Taken together, the story of these places speaks of the Methodist Church’s longstanding commitment to invest in the education and formation of those who respond to God’s call to the ordained ministry.

In 2004, MCSA Presiding Bishop Ivan Abrahams, concerned by the standards of the ministry, set up a commission to review theological education and ministerial training, chaired by Rev Dr Donald Cragg. The route the commission chose was to first profile the kind of clergy required for 21st Century Southern Africa. This was done by engaging the question, “What would an ‘effective minister for a church in mission’ look like?” and having developed their desired profile, they followed it with the question, “What kind of training and formation would best produce such a minister?” They engaged with the current MCSA theological training community, conducted surveys of
clergy and laity, toured campuses, examined what other denominations were doing, and then distilled their findings in a report presented to the MCSA Conference of 2005. The central finding of the commission was that the desired outcomes would be better achieved by an immediate return to a full three-year, residential, “in community” training regime. It was also determined to place as much emphasis on the inculcation of the Christian disciplines of piety, worship, compassion and justice – personal and social holiness - as on academic study. Essentially, while dispersed “in-service” probationers might study successfully for graduation, the commission believed that only in a disciplined community could they be formed for Ordination.

It was recommended that the new seminary be located in Pietermaritzburg because of its accessibility to what was then the School of Religion and Theology at UKZN and the opportunity for ecumenical engagement with the Pietermaritzburg Cluster of Theological Institutions.

While the 2005 Methodist Conference overwhelmingly approved the proposals of the commission subject to the availability of funds, it was two years before there was enough clarity to begin serious work on SMMS. In September, 2007 Rev Prof Peter Storey, a retired MCSA bishop recently returned from nine years teaching in seminaries in the USA was appointed to head up the project. He chaired a Planning Executive that was tasked with designing, funding and building a new seminary within three years. Amazingly, this was achieved and the pioneer seminarians entered SMMS in January, 2009. The new R64 million campus was declared open in September, 2010. One unique element in this enterprise is that SMMS is probably the only such campus anywhere in Africa built entirely without foreign funds.

The first President of SMMS was Rev Dr Ross Olivier, who served from late 2008 until his untimely death in May, 2012. He was primarily responsible for establishing the ethos that now characterizes a unique seminary. Faculty, staff and seminarians determined that the best tribute to their first President would be a joyous and successful Graduation Service later that month.

Rev Dr Olivier was succeeded by Prof Peter Storey on an interim basis until the end of 2012. In January 2013 SMMS received its third President, Rev Dr Mvume Dandala who retired at the end of 2015 and SMMS welcomed Rev Prof Simanga Kumalo in January of 2016.
The Vision of SMMS:

“To form transforming leaders for church and nation by providing the spiritual formation, academic and practical training required to develop skilled Methodist ministers of integrity, faithfulness and excellence.”

Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary “forms transforming leaders for church and nation” by providing the spiritual formation, academic, vocational and practical training required to develop skilled leaders of integrity, faithfulness and excellence. The academic faculty of the Seminary is passionately committed and qualified to develop the kind of transformational leaders the church and nation need. All are committed to teaching theology in an African context whilst retaining a sense of the international perspective - local and global worldviews - with an emphasis on empowering people for the development of our emerging society.

Our mission statement gives expression to our conviction that transformative leadership is vital if Southern Africa is to achieve its full potential and become a region that is fully healed, reconciled, able to address critical challenges, respect the dignity and basic human rights of all people, and deliver the essential and humanising
services that characterize societies at their best – a vision of transformative leadership. Within the sphere of the church, such leaders are people:

1. Whose spiritual life has been formed and continues to be nourished by the Gospel and by the rich traditions of Christian spirituality and the Wesleyan heritage.
2. Whose personal conduct and way of life are above reproach and an example to others.
3. Who have a passion to call people to Christian discipleship, to instruct them in the Faith and to build up the Church of Christ.
4. Who have been trained to think theologically, to interpret and expound Scripture faithfully and to preach effectively
5. Who have been equipped to serve in any part of the diverse southern African community and are willing to do so;
6. Who work for reconciliation and the unity of the people of God
7. Who care pastorally for the needs of God’s people
8. Who can give guidance on ethical issues and are equipped to critique the policies of government and the practices of civil society in the light of Christian teaching;
9. Who respect the dignity of all people, resisting injustice and seeking to empower all people, especially the poor and marginalized, to develop to their full potential as children of God.

Whilst these virtues and skills have special relevance for the church, they represent characteristics we believe are equally desirable for all transformative leaders working for a just, democratic society, recognising the cultural diversity of our context and expressing our explicit intention to embrace diversity. Accordingly, our program is entirely integrated in every respect. The daily chapel services are conducted on a multilingual basis and multilingual resources are constantly being developed for this purpose. The present seminary community includes people from many cultural groups from a number of southern African nations; men and women; young and old. The intention is that this community is a precursor of the diverse, yet unified, southern Africa for which so many have sacrificed so much for so long.
Who is Seth Mokitimi?

In 1963 Seth Mokitimi became the first black President of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. The Rev Mokitimi was an educationalist, leader, preacher and pastor whose life modelled the transformative servant-leadership we seek to form at SMMS. The “watchword” of a new South Africa, Mokitimi said, “must no longer be white or black, but black and white, none regarding the other as a menace but each in his own way contributing towards the full harmony of our South African life.”

The Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary has its roots in early Methodist ministerial training in Queen’s Town, Cape Town and later at Wesley House, Fort Hare. The extension of Bantu Education to Black Universities saw the Methodists leaving Fort Hare. They continued their training at the Lovedale Bible College, and in 1960 joined other Churches in establishing the Federal Theological Seminary. This was built in Alice at a site identified by the Rev. Seth M. Mokitimi, who chaired an Ecumenical delegation comprising representatives of the Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists.

Seth Mokitimi had long been involved in efforts to provide Black people with good education. Born in Lesotho, as a young Methodist Minister he served as Housemaster of the Healdtown Methodist College when the late Mr. Nelson Mandela was a student in 1938. An Ecumenist, he subsequently rose to become the President of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa in 1964, the first Black person to head any of the Protestant Churches in South Africa. It is after him that this Seminary is named. After the Federal Theological Seminary was expropriated and incorporated into the Fort
Hare University, the FedSem community moved first to Umtata and then settled outside Pietermaritzburg at Imbali.

One of the founding lecturers of the Seminary at Imbali was the Rev. Dr. Simon Gqubule. In 1995, the founding churches chose to dissolve their partnership in theological education. The Methodists resuscitated their old school at Kilnerton and used it for Theological training. The MCSA used the next ten years to reflect on its theological education, canvasing membership, ministers and theologians in order to provide a new kind of education for a post-apartheid South Africa. In the light of this the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary was established by the Conference of the MCSA and building began in 2008, with the first intake of students being welcomed on the 1 January 2009.

A word from the President:

Prof R Simangaliso Kumalo

In the words of Dr Kim Cape, the General Secretary of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, “Education is part of our Methodist DNA.” Those of us who are entrusted with the responsibility of administering, teaching and doing research at Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary (SMMS), fully align ourselves with this bold claim.
This is because we are aware that from the beginning, Methodism was born on the grounds of an institution of Higher Learning. It was initiated by theological students at Oxford University who belonged to the Holy Club and were inspired by a fellow student and tutor who was busy with this Masters of Arts in Theology, a man by the name of John Wesley. What distinguished this exuberant group of students was their commitment to bringing vital piety and knowledge into a creative synergy. The two had to be brought together for holistic wellbeing. This has remained the foundation of Methodism on which Southern African Methodism was also built over two centuries ago.

The year 2017 has been declared by the Conference of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA) as the year of celebrating two hundred years of Methodism in our connexion which spans over six countries namely South Africa, Mozambique, Swaziland, Botswana, Lesotho and Namibia.

Amongst the greatest achievements of this connexion is Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary, which is a project of the MCSA. Through this institution, the MCSA seeks to produce “Transforming Leaders for Church and Nation.” SMMS trains leaders from and for these countries. As the church has done in the past by producing great leaders such as Nelson Mandela (SA), Eduardo Mondlane (Mozambique), Arthur Khoza (Swaziland), Seth Mokitmi (Lesotho), Prof Musa Dube (Botswana) Mvume Dandala, Peter Storey, Purity Malinga, Ivan Abrahams (SA) and others, it hopes to continue this tradition in the future through SMMS.

Theological education has always been the heart and life of the church and it informs its mission so that it can make a profound impact on the world. Churches, especially those that are progressive, look up to the Seminary for passionate trained leadership and for emerging theological ideas that helps them to remain relevant in a continuous evolving environment. Since its establishment, the MCSA has always looked at its Seminaries such as Healdtown, Lesseyton, Alice, FEDSEM, Kilnerton and now SMMS for the production of transforming leaders. Indeed, none of these institutions has ever failed our church. SMMS is also committed to taking this baton forward by building on the rich legacy of the previous institutions.

Located in Pietermaritzburg on the edge of the campus of one of South Africa’s great universities the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) and being part of the Cluster of Theological Institutions which includes, UKZN, the Evangelical Seminary for Southern
Africa (ESSA), The Congregational Church House of Formation and the St. Joseph’s Theological Seminary (Catholic), it has incredibly been enriched and advantaged by this strategic location. Moreover, since it collaborates in the training of church leaders for the Congregational Church and the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), SMMS has enjoyed an ecumenical and intercultural climate. Furthermore, our partnership with institutions such as Duke University and others on the international stage has enriched our endeavour to be a centre of excellence for the study of theology.

SMMS is blessed with an excellent cadre of staff members and leaders. These range from full-time academic staff, adjuncts and international scholars from different parts of the world who offer their time and resources to us. There are also a number of outstanding leaders who offer their time and resources in the governance and leadership structures of the Seminary. Each of these people is committed to the vision of SMMS that is to “Train Transforming Leaders for Church and Nation.”

You too can join us at SMMS by being a friend of SMMS, by giving to the work that we are doing by completing the form attached in this report or by transferring your gift straight to our account. Every gift counts in SMMS. Gifts are used to support struggling indebted students with bursaries, supporting our community Field Education initiatives, meals for poor Seminarians and maintenance of our buildings.

We now invite you not only to read these pages, but also to visit SMMS, browse our website, become one of our regular sponsors, join us in our daily worship, participate in our cutting edge lectures by international scholars and experience the joy of bringing knowledge and vital piety into a creative synergy so that you too can do your part in transforming the church and our nations.
Mr Justice Dikgang Moseneke

Mосeneke was born in Pretoria and went to school there. He joined the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) at the age of 14. The following year he was arrested, detained and convicted of participating in anti-apartheid activity. He spent ten years as a prisoner on Robben Island, where he met and befriended Nelson Mandela and other leading activists.

While imprisoned he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in English and political science and a B.luris degree, and would later complete a Bachelor of Laws, all from the University of South Africa. He also served on the disciplinary committee of the prisoners’ self-governed association football body, Makana F.A. Moseneke started his professional career as an attorney’s clerk at Klagbruns Inc. in Pretoria in 1976. He was admitted as an attorney in 1978 and practised for five years at Maluleke, Seriti and Moseneke. Moseneke practised as an advocate in Johannesburg and Pretoria and was awarded senior counsel status ten years later. Moseneke also served on the technical committee that drafted the interim constitution of 1993. In 1994 he was appointed Deputy Chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission, which conducted the first democratic elections in South Africa. Between 1995 and 2001, however, Moseneke left the Bar to pursue a full-time corporate career.
In November 2001 Moseneke was appointed to the High Court in Pretoria, his hometown, by then President Thabo Mbeki. A year later he was made a judge in the Constitutional Court and, in June 2005, became Deputy Chief Justice. On 4 November 2013, Moseneke was appointed Acting Chief Justice. Moseneke is regarded as one of the strongest judges on South Africa's Constitutional Court. For example, he has been praised for his "towering legal mind" and "commitment to fairness and justice" and described as "a most independent-minded and imaginative jurist".

Moseke has five honorary doctorates: from the University of the North, University of Natal, Tshwane University of Technology, University of South Africa and CUNY. In 2006, Moseneke was appointed as Chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand. Moseneke retired from his fulltime career in 2016, yet still continues to be actively involved in various roles. He is married to Kabu Moseneke, and they have two daughters and a son.

**Honorary Doctorates, Awards of honour, performance and excellence.**

- Extraordinary Professor of Law and Social Justice – School of Law; University of Cape Town (2017)
- The Archbishop of the Anglican Church’s Highest Award of Merit (2016)
- The Congress of Business and Economics Lifetime Achiever Award (2016)
- Honorary Professor of Bioethics - School of Health Sciences; University of the Witwatersrand. (2016)
- The Methodist Church of Southern Africa’s Conference Award of Wesleyan Witness and Merit presented by the Presiding Bishop. (2016)
- Honorary Professorship in Banking Law, Unisa (2002);
- Honorary Professor in the Department of Mercantile Law, Unisa (2004-2006);
- Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*) from the University of the North;
- Doctor of Commerce (*honoris causa*) from the University of Natal; and
- Doctor of Technology (*honoris causa*) from Tshwane University of Technology.
- Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*) from the University of South Africa.
- Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*) from the City University of New York.
- the KWV Award of Excellence;
- the Black Lawyers Association Excellence Award (1993);
- Unisa School of Business Leadership Excellence Award (1997);
- Black Management Forum Empowerment Award (1998);
- Sunday Times Businessman of the Year Nominee (1998);
- International Trial Lawyer of the Year Award (from the International Academy of Trial Lawyers) (2000);
- Soweto Achiever Award (2002)
Other Positions
Between 1995 and 2001 Moseneke left the Bar to pursue a full-time corporate career in the following capacities.

- Chancellor of University of Witwatersrand
- First Chancellor of Pretoria Technicon
- Chairperson: Telkom South Africa Limited (Since October 1994)
- Chairperson: African Merchant Bank
- Chairperson: Metropolitan Life Ltd
- Chairperson: African Bank Investments Ltd
- Chief Executive: New Africa Investments Ltd
- Deputy Chairperson of Independent Electoral Commission (1994)
- Director: New Africa Publications (Pty) Ltd
- Director: Phaphama Holdings (Pty) Ltd
- Director: Urban Brew (Pty) Ltd
- Chairperson: Alisa Car Rental (Pty) Ltd (Hertz)
- Director: Life Officers’ Association
- Founder member of the Black Lawyers’ Association and of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers of South Africa.
- Visiting fellow and lecturer at Columbia Law School, University of Columbia, New York. (1986)

- Chairperson of Project Literacy for more than 10 years;
- Trustee of Sowetan Nation Building;
- Executor of the will of Nelson Mandela
- Deputy Chairperson of the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund.

THE SETH MOKITIMI METHODIST SEMINARY WELCOMES MR JUSTICE DIKGANG MOSENEKE AS THEIR GRAND CHANCELLOR!
The Peter Storey Annual Lecture

The Peter Storey Annual Lecture was established on 4 September 2010, at the Opening and Dedication of Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary, by the then Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, Bishop Ivan Abrahams, to honour the “tireless efforts, inspirational leadership, profound courage and supreme diligence of Peter Storey, which more than any other has led to the founding of Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary and the construction of this magnificent campus”. The theme of the Lecture each year is closely related to the vision of Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary, which is ‘Forming Transforming Leaders for Church and Nation.’

SMMS, as part of its Research and teaching and formation of transforming leaders is required to develop and disseminate knowledge through seminars and lectures. Such knowledge must also contribute to the development of church leadership, social cohesion and citizens’ participation in the development of both the church and the nation. Education and dialogues are the cornerstones of the formation of prophetic leadership and a Seminary like SMMS has to contribute to their development.

Prof Peter Storey, a firm believer in the freedom of all people and the imperativeness of prophetic and transformative leadership dedicated his life and work to the struggle for democratisation of the South African society, through the church. His writings and speeches as President of the Methodist Conference and Bishop of the Central District
for over a decade suggested that the church had an integral role to play in the development of a democratic South Africa.

Prof Storey is an outstanding church leader, political theologian, preacher of note and a builder of institutions who built pre-schools, SMMS, well read and well written, and chaplain to President Mandela whilst he was in Robben Island. His teachings on education, the practice of transforming ministry, the tradition of Methodism and liberation theology blended well with his life as a committed pastor and leader. Amongst his many contributions is the promotion of civil disobedience. This he did through his protest against the destruction of Duncan Village in Cape Town, opposition to the apartheid government and participation in the leadership of the ecumenical movement in South Africa as President of the South African Council of Churches, leading the Peace Committee during the turbulent years of the early 90s leading to the first democratic elections.

As SMMS grapples with the significance of transforming leadership in its curriculum, it is imperative that we draw insights from Prof Storey’s life, ministry and legacy to see if we can get some insights from him as one of the pioneers of the prophetic tradition and leadership in the MCSA. This annual lecture will bring together leaders of religious bodies, delegates from various academic institutions, anthropologists, heritage practitioners (historians, archivists, museum curators), staff and students of SMMS, politicians and cultural activists.

**Programme Scope**

This project is complementary to an existing initiative. The Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary celebrates 200 years since the arrival of Methodist in the shores of South Africa this year. In 2017 Justice Moseneke will unpack the importance of the formation of transforming leaders for a developing country like South Africa as advocated by Dr Peter Storey in a lecture titled:

“The Role of Faith Communities in the Development of Transforming Leaders for a Developing Country such as South Africa – a Perspective of the Former Deputy of the High Court of South Africa”.
The overall purpose of these lecturers is to draw inspiration on religion, politics and leadership as advocated by Prof Peter Storey. As the SMMS hosts the 6th Lecture in the context of the bicentenary celebrations of Methodism in South Africa the following milestones as achieved by Prof Storey as a servant of Methodism are emphasized:

1. *The establishment of life-line, counselling organization*
2. 1978, New Dimension, Methodist Newsletter
3. Floc Pre-primary school
4. Established Gun-Free South Africa
5. Facilitation of the building of Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary
6. Author of 4 Christian Books

The above show just how great the man is, father, journalist, preacher, scholar and politician contributed to the development of the ministry of the church as a ministry of resistance during the apartheid era. Prof Storey also elevated the Methodist people and instilled confidence in the masses to hold dear the prophetic tradition as bequeathed to them by the Wesley brothers.

### Previous Lecturers from 2011-2017

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Photo Gallery: 2016 Peter Storey Lecture:
Thank you to all who contribute to the work of “Forming Transforming Leaders for Church and Nation”.

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