



No 35 25 November 2007

Only three short items this week -- see below.

1. 2008 Sola 5 Conference

For your diaries: 4 to 7 September 2008, Cape Town, South Africa. More details to follow in due course.

2. Sermon of the week

We received indication that some readers would appreciate it if the "Sermon of the Week" is resumed. However, it will be sent under separate cover only to those who request it. Therefore, should you want to subscribe, please dispatch an e-mail to hein.strauss@sola5.org after you have written "*Please subscribe me to Sermon of the Week*" in the subject line. The plan is to commence early in 2008.

3. Minutes of the Sola 5 Annual Business Meeting, 2007 in Lusaka.

Please turn to the next page.

Minutes of the 2007 Sola 5 Annual Business Meeting

Date: 31 August and 1 September 2007

Venue: Chalo Trust School, Chamba Valley, Lusaka

1. *Constituting the meeting*

Representatives of the following member churches were present:

Church:

Antipas Reformed Baptist Church [RBC] (Pretoria South Africa)
Antipas Church (Vereeniging SA)

Brackenhurst Baptist Church [BC] (Alberton SA),
Eastside BC (Windhoek Namibia)

Emmanuel BC (Florida SA)

Free Grace BC (Boksburg SA)

Goodwood BC (Goodwood, Cape Town SA)

Kraaifontein Baptist Church (Kraaifontein, Cape Town SA)

Harare RBC (Harare Zimbabwe)

Lynnwood BC (Pretoria SA)

Mount Zion BC

Roberson Reformed Community Church (Robertson, SA)

Absent with apology:

Germiston BC (Germiston SA)

Absent without apology:

Newcastle BC (Newcastle SA)

Grace BC (Walkerville SA).

Representative(s):

Bruce Button, Jacobus de Koning, Johan Pretorius, Kobus du Plessis

Kobus vd Walt, Hein Strauss, Tim Potgieter, Gert van Deventer

Doug van Meter, Christo Beetge, Chris Thomas

Joachim Rieck, Conrad Kromberg

Des Baker

Jeff Gage

Otto Makalima

Mark Powell

Joseph Soko

Nelson Matsie

Boyce Saleni

Sybrand de Swardt

A total of 132 people were in attendance. The meeting was declared as properly constituted.

Other Churches attending, were:

Botswana – Central BC

Malawi – Grace BC (Zomba), Mzimba Living Christian BC

Namibia – Faith RBC, Westside BC, Monte Christo BC, Grace RBC

South Africa – George BC, Birchley BC

Swaziland – Manzini Fellowship church

Zambia – Calvary BC, Central BC Chingola, Evangel BC, Fairview RBC, Grace RBC Ndola,

Kabwata BC, Kambule RBC, Lusaka BC, Calvary BC, Grace BC, Trinity BC (Livingstone)

Zimbabwe – Grace RBC

Institutions represented: Bible Institute of SA.

2. *Opening and welcome*

The chairman, Bruce Button, welcomed everyone present. He read from Rev 7:9-12 and 2 Cor 8:16-19. Everything Sola 5 does should be seen in relation to the great goal of bringing all nations to faith to the glory of God. Doug van Meter committed the meeting to God in prayer.

3. *Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting 2006*

3.1 The Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting 2006 was unanimously approved as a true reflection of the meeting (proposed by Brackenhurst BC and seconded by Eastside BC).

3.2 All items from the minutes were covered by and discussed under the respective agenda items.

4. *Membership applications and renewals*

4.1 Membership renewal applications were received from all the Churches listed under Item 1 above, except Grace BC (Walkerville) and Newcastle BC. The 13 applications for membership renewal were accepted.

4.2 Applications for membership by the following Churches were approved:

Lusaka BC (Zambia)

Kabwata BC (Lusaka, Zambia)

Evangel BC (Lusaka, Zambia)

Trinity BC (Livingstone, Zambia)

Manzini Fellowship Church (Manzini, Swaziland).

5. *Associate membership applications and renewals*

5.1 Applications received from the following Associate Members were renewed:

Gerald Barnes	Watson Lifa
Simaunda Cosmas	Isaac Makashini
Hubert Dixon	Jenni Meyer
Phillip Engel	Les Mitchel
Neil Henry	Pieter Niemann
Kankwala Kafuko	Kapambwe Nsenduluka
Malcolm Horkins	Koot Piek
Paul Karstens	Emmanuel Sakala
Hennie Keulder	Bradley Tilley
Hellings Kumwenda	Errol Wagner

5.2 The following Associate Membership applications were approved:

Percy V Chisenga	Frank Otto Müller
Chiluba Lesa	Bote Phiri
David Francois Mittan	Horst Pietzsch

6. *University of Africa: Feedback and vision for the future*

Kobus du Plessis, Chief Executive Officer of the University of Africa (UA) reported briefly on the latest developments. The UA is like any university, minus the bricks and mortar. Academic activities are to commence in January 2008. Accreditation of the academic programmes was obtained via the Zambian Minister of Education.

An eighth School had been added, that of Information Technology and Enabling Technologies. Due to the nature of the UA, it will address undergraduate studies (up to a bachelor's degree) only. Kobus concluded by calling upon everyone to pray that God will be glorified by the activities and outputs of the UA.

7. *Sovereign Grace Theological Seminary (SGTS)*

Bruce Button commenced a short progress report by expressing his great joy about what has come into being. He introduced Jacobus de Koning, besides him the other current lecturer at the SGTS to the meeting. Jacobus was congratulated with his recently approved doctoral thesis.

The SGTS is really a missions opportunity. It is the desire of the Seminary to contribute to the furthering of the Kingdom. Four programmes are being offered via various study centres in southern Africa with chief focus the equipping of men for the ministry.

The SGTS is looking at addressing the great need in certain centres for a pre-tertiary bridging course, whether to proceed to tertiary training or just to be better equipped.

A need for a bursary fund was identified, even though the UA provided services and initially the salaries of the lecturers. Funds will be distributed via local churches who will form a relationship with the student and also mentor him.

Jeff Gage committed the whole venture to the Lord in prayer.

8. *Projects*

8.1 Christo Beetge updated the meeting on the status of Sola 5 Youth in the Alberton (SA) region.

8.2 Church planting in Nelspruit (SA): Steve Whitaker had accepted the call and will start in a few weeks' time as pastor.

9. *Church feedback*

Upon request, the pastors of four Churches updated the meeting on recent developments in the respective Churches:

- Kobus van der Walt for Antipas Church, Vereeniging SA;
- Mark Powel for Kraaifonein BC SA;
- Boyce Saleni for Mount Zion BC, Alice SA;
- Sybrand de Swardt for Robertson Reformed Community Church SA.

Paul Carstens begged the Lord's blessing on these and the other Churches.

10. *Consolidating the vision of Sola 5*

What can we do together to spread the vision?

- After discussion it was decided that regionalisation within Sola 5 at this stage would be premature. However, the SA dominated face should start change as we look forward to leading from Zambia more in the future.
- Sola 5 as a baptistic association of churches would seek cooperation with like-minded groups – for instance when there is an appeal to be made to government. However, cooperation with non-baptistic

reformed churches regarding church planting, for instance, would be difficult.

- An appeal was made to church leaders to become available to be nominated on the Steering Committee.
- Regarding inter-church activities, we should think at three levels: Firstly, communication and information (is it dissipated or does it remain in the pastor's inbox?). Secondly, prayer – and feedback: has the prayers been answered? From here, in the third instance, projects together. The last will only happen when the first (two) is in place.

11. *Finances*

Christo Beetge tabled a financial report and budget (see Appendix), which was approved.

12. *Discussion of possible changes to the Constitution (only to be tabled at 2008 ABM)*

- 12.1 Proposed change to Item 6.3 c) of the Constitution: To the effect of opening nominations 6 weeks prior to the ABM and close nominations at the ABM.
- 12.2 List of recommended teaching elders (Item 6.7 a) of the Constitution): Consider changing "...The candidate *will* be interviewed..." to "... The candidate *may* be interviewed..."

13. *Communication*

- 13.1 The website is helpful; no specific suggestion towards its improvement was tabled.
- 13.2 Sola 5 Chronicles: The challenge will be to get it to the people.
- 13.3 E-newsletter: helpful; no discussion.

14. *Election of Steering Committee*

The nominations of Ronald Kalifungwa, Conrad Mbewe, and Joachim Rieck were unanimously approved. The chairman appealed to the meeting to keep the whole Steering Committee in their prayers, being the mentioned three and Christo Beetge, Laban Mwashekele, Hein Strauss, Doug van Meter, and Errol Wagner.

15. *Future Sola 5 Conferences*

The following allocations were approved:

2008: Cape Town
2009: Gauteng
2010: Zimbabwe

16. *Vote of thanks to Zambia*

Joachim Rieck thanked all the organisers, contributing Churches, and kitchen staff. It was marvellous to see how graciously you took us in. We thank God for you!

17. *General*

None

18. *Closure*

The meeting was closed by singing form Grace Hymns 451 (The church's one Foundation) and by Bruce Button in payer.

Signed:(Chairman)(Secretary) Date

Appendix

Financial position for period 01 Sept 2006 to 31 August 2007

Summary

Note: These figures reflect the situation for South Africa (in ZAR) only – Namibian and Zambian Churches organize their finances locally

Income received (ZAR) (see supporting schedule below for contributing churches)	<u>67 477</u>	Expenses paid	<u>33 393</u>
		Sam Simunika (transport)	3 880
		Laban Mwashekele (transport)	2 816
		Administrative costs – Hein Strauss	12 000
		Travel	6 520
		Printing	7 068
		Bank	1 109

Payment schedule

Church	2006				2007								Total
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	
Brackenhurst	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	12000
Antipas Vaal	500	500	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	11000
Antipas Pta*	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	18000
Free Grace		250						4662					4912
Goodwood					500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	4000
Kraaifontein									500				500
Germiston												500	500
Lynnwood			1000										1000
Annonymous		300	300		640	300	300						1840
Emmanuel				2000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	10000
Newcastle				1200									1200
Eastside							2000						2000
Robertson									200	100	225		525
Total	3000	3550	4800	6700	5640	5300	7300	9662	5700	5100	5225	5500	67477

* See also "Transfers in & out" in the Regular monthly movements table below

Regular monthly movements

Income:

Antipas RBC Pretoria	1500
Antipas Church Vaal Triangle	1000
Brackenhurst BC	1500
Emmanuel BC	1000
Goodwood BC	500
Robertson Reformed Community Church	<u>125</u>
Total	5625

Expenses:

Hein Strauss	2000
Sam Simunika	520
Bank charges	<u>110</u>
Total	2630

Transfers in & out:

Antipas RBC Pretoria to Pieter Swanepoel (India)	2000
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Sola 5 monthly budget 2007 - 2008

Administration	2200
Printing	1500
Sam Simunike	520
Transport & subsidies	3000
Bank	<u>150</u>
Total	7370