



28<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Friends,

As some of you will be aware that the Revd Mmasape Zihle (Jongi's wife), is serving at present as a probationer Minister in a neighbouring district. As from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019, Mmasape will be stationed in the Barking, Ilford and Dagenham (BDI) Circuit.

This decision to move appointments by the Zihle family was not taken lightly, but for health and pastoral reasons. Jongi and Mmasape have had to live apart for nearly 2 years and as can be expected, this is not ideal.

The Zihle's will move into the manse in BDI circuit where Mmasape will be serving.

Over the last weeks, the district officers have explored with the Connexion, Jongi, and Mmasape about how we can find a way to relieve some of this stress. As a consequence of these conversations, we as Chairs, with the blessing of the District Council which met on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March, write to inform you that Jongi and Nigel will change areas of pastoral responsibility as from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019. Jongi will serve the North of the District and Nigel will serve the South of the District. Micky will continue to serve the West of the District.

To allow a smooth transition please note the following:

- Stationing Conversations that are due to take place this year will still be carried out with your current Chair until autumn circuit meetings or when a profile for a minister or circuit has been submitted to the district;
- The district office will release dates for welcome services in August and September after Synod;
- As you will be aware, the Chairs are committed to serving the whole of the district and therefore all preaching appointments that have already been agreed will be honoured. We see it as a privilege to share in worship with you throughout the district and therefore as per current practice, we are happy to accept preaching appointments across the district as a whole;
- Superintendents who are currently in supervision will continue with your current chair until it has been agreed that you have completed the training. We hope to complete most of these by the end of September;
- Synod members will be informed through tabled papers on the day of Synod;

We are grateful for all the work that you do in your circuit and communities for the sake of the Kingdom of God

With every blessing,

Nigel, Jongi, and Micky