



Task team: Congregational Witness (The mission of God in and through Congregations)

REPORT OF CONTEXTUAL BIBLE STUDY TRAINER **EC CYM FACILITATORS TRAINING**

1. Background

In August 2022 the Task Team of Congregational Ministry had a Zoom meeting with CYM Cape Region Steering Committee regarding introducing CBS to the CYM. Again, in September the steering committee members, Congregational Witness Manager, CBS Administrator, CBS Trainer had a meeting via WhatsApp to discuss strategy that will be used for CBS. From that meeting venue and dates were identified for introduction/training workshop. That CBS was a success and was well received by the group that had attended the workshop. After the workshop in October the organizers had a meeting via WhatsApp call to discuss a way forward. It was then decided that a follow-up facilitator training should be facilitated soonest while CBS is still fresh. In December a letter was sent to the steering committee requesting the same group of leaders to be trained as facilitators in January of 2023. However, the plan had been adjusted to training a smaller group of delegates per session in order to give more attention to all the trainees. The trainer with the help of Steering committee member gathered 5 delegates who were part of the bigger group that are staying in close proximity of the venue.

2. The CBS Workshop

This was a facilitators training workshop. I approached a minister of congregation (Rev Titimani from kwaZakhele Congregation) by calling him for the use of available venue within their congregation. The minister informed the church council, and I was granted permission to make use of the church hall or the vestry which ever space I saw fit. I opted to make use of vestry as we were a small group, and the space was accommodative enough for all of us and the setup was conducive to have a workshop. There was a big table that we could all sit around and write on, there wasn't a flipchart but there was a notice board on the wall that we could use, people could move around freely. We were a group of 5 people representing EC CYM from PE Presbytery (KwaZakhele and Seyisi Congregation), Uitenhage Presbytery, Aliwal North Presbytery.

When we all got to the venue, we had a meet and greet session offered people coffee and water just to allow everyone to settle in. From then I asked one of the delegates to open with the prayer. Because the group has previously been introduced to CBS, I then proceeded by asking the delegates what they remember about CBR. One of the delegates noted that today we did not light a candle but in the last session we had together I had mentioned to them the importance of lighting a candle. I then asked him to go and light the candle (as this was intentional on the trainer's side).

The group proceeded by mentioning what they remembered – the CBR methodology (**SEE, JUDGE/DISCERN, ACT**), that led us to the training. As the trainer I had prepared slides on how to facilitate CBR making use of the Ujamma centre manual. But first I started by explaining the process (calls, meeting, text messages, social media etc.) of gathering the group of people with the intention



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of doing CBS stressing the importance of diversity within the group especially after the theme has been chosen I then proceeded to identifying a venue that will be suitable for facilitating CBR. I explained to the delegates the process of how to facilitate, but first we had to understand the objectives of CBR then continued to facilitate **SEE** making use of the stick-on papers, mention the importance of being present when you facilitate a CBR. We proceeded to **DISCERN**, on this part we discussed how do we guide the group to choose a Bible text, and how do we formulate the questions. After that session we had a break for 30 minutes then we continued to **ACT** again here the facilitators were encouraged to guide the group to get to a **SMART** action plan when they get to this step.

The workshop continued by looking at the Dos and Don'ts of the facilitator guided by the manual from Ujamma centre. The facilitators were each allowed a very brief time to show how they would facilitate CBS and allowed each individual to ask questions about how to facilitate. After that session we ended the day and the facilitators were asked to write down what there thoughts about the training and this is what they had to say:

Today's training was informative I really learnt a lot. Being able to present the aims and objectives of CBR. Always encouraging and getting every person's voice is critical. I have attended CBR before, but today I was taught to be in active set. Motivated and encouraged to achieve practical outcomes....Mantho Sehapi

Today was informative, from today I can proudly say I CAN DO CBR to a larger group Siyathanda. Bola

Today was great, I have learnt more about how to approach the Bible and ha a great time doing it. I learnt about the challenges (SEE) I did it with my mom and the church....Mpho Sehapi

Today I have learnt how to speak to people and engage yourself with your community. I have learnt that I should also ask myself questions about what I have read from the Bible.....Siya Hini

This training has made me to be more flexible and confident to do presentation in front of people and to be more confident in talking to them as I am a shy person, I now can talk to people freely....Awiwe Geni

3. Conclusion

Because this was a smaller group, I had time to give attention to each person and to focus on other details. I am hoping to work more closely with this group and to also have them as trainers as well. I remain hopeful that we will reach and empower more young people by reading and training them to facilitate CBS.

Rev. Babalwa Sifuba

CBR Facilitator/Trainer