

Report Deputies Needy Churches (art. 11) to Synod August 2017

1 Purpose

This report was written for the Synod of the FRCSA to be held DV 7-11 August 2017. The report is based on the interim report submitted for Indaba held on 26-27 February 2016 (*printed in Italic*) with changes and additions thereafter. The Indaba report is referenced below where applicable.

2 Membership of deputyship & changes

Current Members

- Wim Hofsink (Chairman)
- Wolter Miske
- Arrie Bijker
- Marius Bijker (scribe)

Br Arrie Bijker requests that his membership of Art 11 be terminated on grounds of age and his other commitments within his congregation.

No other changes since last Indaba report. Br Wim Hofsink was appointment chairman – he was only acting chairman as per previous Indaba report.

3 Instructions of Synod 2014

Income

- a To assess the churches for the calendar years 2014- 2017 as follows: for 2014: R380 000, for 2015: R400 000, for 2016: R420 000 and for 2017: R435 000.*

Expenditure

- b To consider any new request for financial support coming from one of the churches and, once the merits of the request have been ascertained, to send a proposal to the other churches to help the needy church according to ability.*
- c To use the guidelines, as determined by Synod 2011, as a framework for deputies' decision making process.*

Reporting

- d To organise an Indaba according to Article 28, Synod decided: 2, of these Acts, during the end of 2015 or beginning of 2016.*
- e To submit an interim report for discussion during an Indaba to be held end 2015 or beginning 2016.*
- f To report to the next synod and formulate recommendations according to Article 11 of the Rules of Synod.*

4 Report on activities 2014-2017

- 4.1 The activities of Art 11 are summarised in Appendix 1; budget and comparison between years.*
- 4.2 FRC Soshanguve-North is currently vacant (the previous minister rev Thabo Matlaela accepted a missionary post). There is currently no need to assist in supporting a minister but financial assistance may be needed once a minister is called.*
- 4.3 FRC Mamelodi: Rev Sam Matlhokoane currently serves this congregation. Art.11 has been involved in financial aspects of calling and also involved Harm Snijder to assist with financial planning / PAYE / policies.*

The congregation sold property and have reserve funds but might need assistance once funds run out. The Church council of Mamelodi requested financial advice and support of deputies Art.11 and a meeting was held on 16 Oct 2014. We (Art.11) explained that we cannot support them as the congregation is technically no longer needy. We have advised them on how to apply surplus capital (repair buildings, buy car, reserves for one year and give remainder to other needy churches / projects). This however falls outside the mandate of Art.11. There is evidence that the congregation has problems in managing its finances.

- 4.4 *FRC Belhar requested a meeting with Art 11. Wolter Miske, Marius Bijker & Wim Hofsink met in Cape Town during 2015 to discuss financial needs (this coincided with business trips). An apparent strong case was put forward by Belhar. The problem put forward by Art 11 was that Belhar does not submit budgets in time. For example, Art 11 has currently only received statements for the years ending 2014/02/28 and 2015/02/28 but no (provisional) budgets for the year ending 2016/02/28), and not for that of 2017/02/28. But once the formal statements for 2013/14 and 2014/2015 were received the financial position appeared much better than was informally conveyed at the meeting.*

Update FRC Belhar – after the Indaba we received statements up to year ending 29 February 2016, the budget and details on why an increase is required based on the latest financials (showing R41 000 net income for the year) still needed to be discussed with the Belhar church council. Art.11 has planned a visit during June / July 2017 and will include relevant information once details are clarified.

- 4.5 Johannesburg. As per previous synod instructions Art.11 was responsible for financial contributions towards Reverend PJ Retief's pension. Reverend Retief passed away early 2017 and Art.11 contributions were paid until end of February 2017. His wife is not a member of the Johannesburg congregation and it was agreed with all relevant parties that financial contributions will only continue during his lifetime.
- 4.6 FRC Bethal – refer to Indaba report. The congregation was terminated and Reverend Breytenbach was called for a new position as per section 4.7.
- 4.7. Reverend Breytenbach was called by the FRC of Pretoria as missionary with special tasks in the fields of theological training and capacity building of elders. *The financing of Rev Breytenbach is jointly borne by Curators (Deputies Theological training of FRCSA 10%; Mission Deputies of FRCSA 45%; Art.11 by means of financial contribution received from Sister churches of Australia 35% and Mukhanyo Theological College 10%. (These percentages may have changed slightly but the concept is the same).*

FRCSA Deputies Curators has (through Art.11) requested the FRC Australia for continuing support. Australia granted this request and recommended that the funds are channelled to Art.11 as before. Art. 11 then transfers these to the FRC Pretoria which remunerates Rev Breytenbach.

Update since Indaba February 2016:

Art. 11 communicated to the FRC Australia that, strictly speaking, these funds are not used for needy churches as was previously the case. They replied that they recognise this but prefer the use the Art. 11 channel. Essentially, they give us freedom to spend these funds in the best possible way.

This has also been discussed at the Indaba. The underlying uneasiness of Art.11 is that funds are collected in Australia for the purpose of Needy Churches in South Africa. But actually these funds are allocated to a joint mission project of Curators, Mission and other parties. After communication this with Australia, they replied that their mandate is clear and cannot be currently changed – supporting Needy Churches in SA. Art.11 met with Curators and initially wanted to request synod to extend our mandate to beyond that of Needy Churches. The underlying problem is that we in South Africa experience a problem of a lack of ministers serving our congregations. This is even worse than not having sufficient money to support

ministers. This is true for all our churches and not a problem specific to race or area. After extensive debate which led to a better mutual understanding, the conclusion was that Art.11 must be clear, transparent and consistent in how it manages its funds. But we will also have to address the underlying need. The responsibility of Art.11 is limited to financial matters. The responsibility of overseeing the spending of these funds lies mainly with Deputies Curators and with Deputies Mission.

Given that the future financial position remains uncertain, the mandate of Art. 11 is to assist the needy congregations in supporting their minister/s. The ongoing involvement of Art 11 in the financing of rev Breytenbach is an exception purely based on its historical background. But Art. 11 cannot assume responsibility for such projects.

The decision is therefore to report on the financial activities regarding this project as a separate item in the Art 11 budget given Australia's commitment to assist in this project.

- 4.8 Synod Bethal 2014 appointed Deputy Art. 11 to organize the indaba halfway between the 2 synods of 2014 and 2017. The indaba was held at the FRC of Pretoria during February 2016 with the help of br C Roose who contributed excellent administrative and organisation skills. See separate attachment: Minutes of Indaba.

5 Report of Art 11 at the Feb 2016 Indaba

- 5.1 We are grateful for a sufficient source of funding to support the church-councils to support the stipend of their ministers. We thank the Lord for this but we acknowledge the financial support by the Reformed Churches of Canada and Australia who were instruments in His hand.
- 5.2 As per budget and current actuals the Art.11 picture has changed dramatically. A few years back, there were 5 needy churches within the FRCSA. This increased the outflow of Art 11 funds and increased their dependence on Art. 11, It became clear that the method and process of dealing with new Needy church requests had to be dealt with differently. See the Art 11 report to synod 2014 and the Indaba report. The responsibility of SA Churches and our own contributions have been discussed and implemented with relative success in the past few years. Today the situation has changed radically and our financial picture has moved from great concern to a more sustainable position.
- 5.3 One of the changes Art.11 has implemented was to introduce a formal structure in the dealings of Needy Churches, of how they can request funds from Art 11, the concept of basic vs non-basic needs on the stipend of a minister has been implemented. (Please refer to the previous Synod report with diagram used that illustrates the process in detail – see appendix 2).
- 5.4 The current number of congregations receiving funds from Art.11 has decreased to one congregation only, namely: Belhar
- 5.5 Less dependence on foreign funding has also been implemented with a 10% year-on-year decline policy.
- 5.6 Transparency and financial details: During Indaba 2016 we highlighted that our responsibility and mandate is to financially assist the relevant church councils in shortcomings for minister's stipend. The Bethal contributions received from Australia were transferred to financially assist for the new position of Reverend Breytenbach. This was communicated to Australia and details were discussed.
- Refer to note 4.7 on discussion and details
- 5.7 Although we are grateful to report that the current income exceeds expenditure, we could technically survive from fewer contributions from local churches or from international sources. But the full picture is not that simple.
1. Some congregations (specifically Soshanguve) will most likely be needy if a minister becomes available and is called.

2. There are a number of non-needy congregations without a minister - although they seem to be financially strong, and will not become needy in the near future.

6 Current situation

Based on the latest budget, it is clear that Art11 currently has sufficient funds. At the end of 2016 Art11 had R1 381 495 accumulated funds available. End of 2017 there will be another R450 000 surplus funds that can be added. In 2012 and 2013 Art 11 did not make use of the Jan Hulser fund that was also allocated to them (R115 000 in 2012, and R118 000 in 2013). If these funds are also taken into account, the available funds will be more or less R2 000 000 at the end of 2017.

At the moment only Belhar is a needy church, although it might change in the near future. There are currently sufficient funds and reserves.

Given the current scenario and financial picture we reported on, we feel small and humble that God has provided more than enough for the current financial year, and for the past few years.

Although the main focus for the past few years was to ensure financial stability, Art.11 believes that the current financial need of our bond of churches lies more with the training of new ministers. This requires the underlying support to ensure that such ministers can be trained and be made available for a call to serve the South African churches.

7 New Members

Marius Bijker and Wolter Miske have already served 2 terms. Wolter Miske has been co-opted by Art 11 Deputies as he was not formally reappointed by synod.

Br Arrie Bijker also asked to be replaced. Thus the synod needs to appoint 2 new members.

We recommend for the sake of continuity, to re-reappoint either Wolter or Marius. Practical experience is important for Art 11. The two remaining members have indicated that such experience is required for at least another term.

For the 3rd member we want to recommend the following person / persons: We have however not contacted anyone of them.

1 :Tjeerd de Wit (Pretoria - he is currently serving his last term in the SDSA)

2: Roelof Middeljans (Maranata)

3. Hermien Bijker (Johannesburg)

8 Recommendations to Synod

1. Decrease the local FRCSA allocation to Art.11 to at least R 100 000 per year. This equates to about 25-30% of the current allocation. The current needy church requires between R 150 000 – 180 000 per year which can be financed from local and some funds from Canada plus reserves should that be required. We believe that this can assist in financing other (currently more important) functions like Curators and Theological training
2. Based on the current situation and local contributions (as above), we need to decide on either maintaining our 10% decline per year of foreign support as per current budget, or to terminate the foreign contributions of Canada. Our recommendation is the gradual decrease of foreign support by means of 10% decrease per year. This is in line with the previous Synod's decision to be less dependent on foreign funds.

The synod needs to decide on the above proposal, ultimately we can also cancel foreign support. We believe that the decision of the 2014 synod to increase Art.11 support significantly can now be reversed and that this support can now be decreased.

Based on discussions and (informal) communication with both Australia and Canada, both committees have indicated that they have enough funds available should there be any additional financial needs arising from Art. 11 deputies. This is a note for the Synod but based

on current scenario and plan to decrease international dependency we cannot request for additional support ..

3. Confirm the Art.11 role in the Curator project (Breytenbach financing). This report summarizes the detail regarding support received from Australia, but we need confirmation or advice from Synod regarding the continuation of this practice.
4. Appoint 1 x new member (see paragraph 8.0)

9 Conclusion

Art 11 deputies asks that our Lord will provide wisdom to the delegates of the forthcoming Synod. Our prayer is that their decisions will serve to His glory, and will serve His church in South Africa!

It is a privilege for us to serve as members of this committee and we wish and pray the newly appointed delegates all the wisdom from above to serve His church in the best interest.

The deputies

- Wim Hofsink (Chairman)
- Wolter Miske
- Arrie Bijker
- Marius Bijker (scribe)

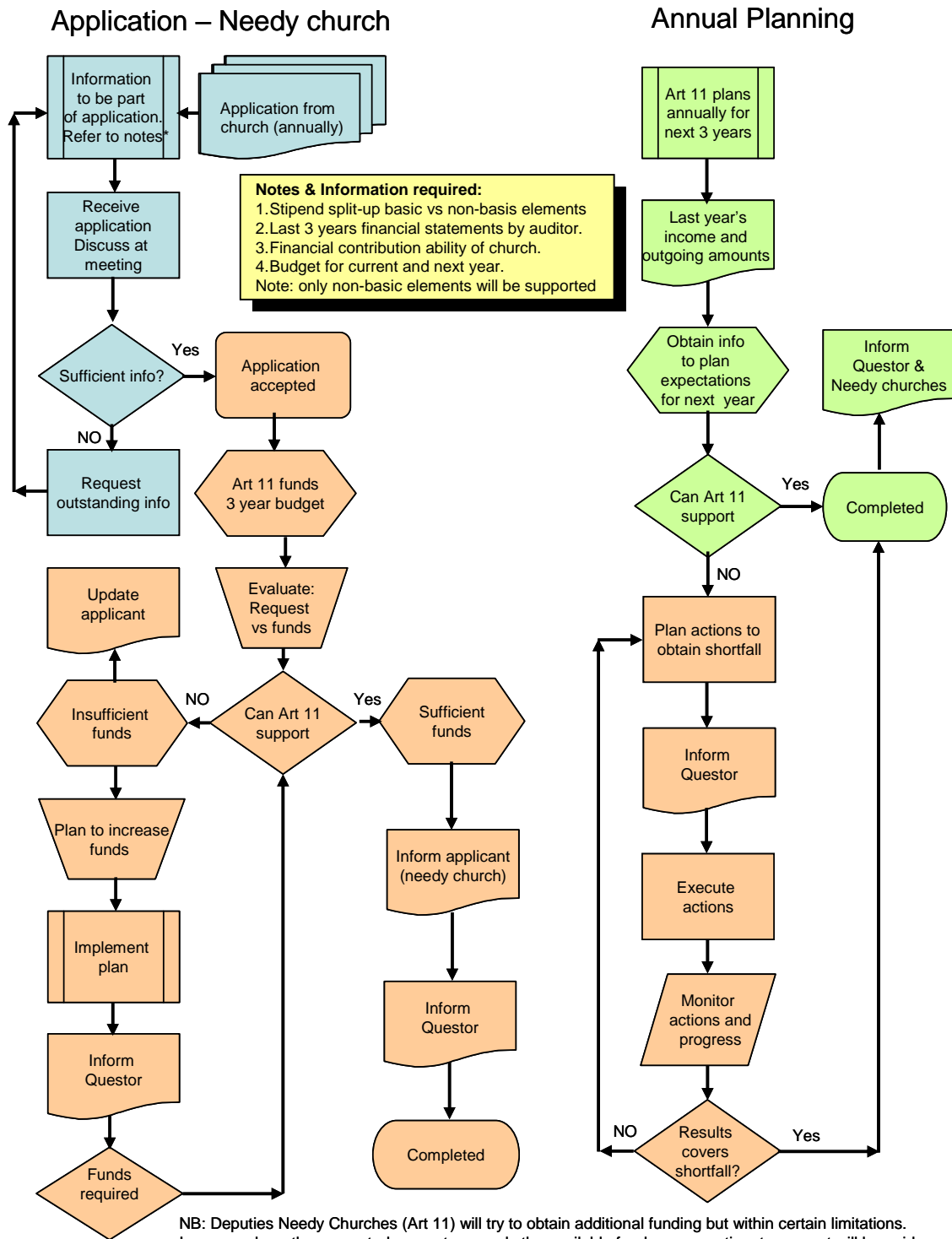
13 May 2017

Appendix 1: Budget and Income statement

	Deputies Art11 (Needy Churches) of the Free-Reformed churches in South-Africa					Deputies Art11 (Needy Churches) of the Free-Reformed churches in South-Africa											
	Income statement for the years 2009-2016 and budgeting for 2017 -2020					Income statement for the years 2015-2016 and budgeting for 2017 -2020											
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Actuals still needs to	Budget	Budget	Budget						
Needy Churches																	
Opening balance	200 200	556 645	439 931	440 707	398 212	744 984	928 928	1 381 495	1 837 745	2 062 045	2 294 498	2 019	2 294 498	2 020	2 536 260		
Balance / year	356 445	(116 714)	776	(42 495)	346 773	297 292	183 944	452 567	456 250	224 300	232 453	2018	232 453	2019	241 763		
Income	722 086	908 592	1 160 208	1 132 725	1 228 683	1 082 204	1 065 447	1 174 869	1 143 037	1 118 180	1 154 717	2018	1 154 717	2019	1 194 405		
Income received	245 900	247 300	286 400	357 167	373 175	392 020	416 840	420 000	441 000	463 050	486 203	2018	486 203	2019	510 513		
Johannesburg	11 100	9 500	22 220	25 650	25 665	24 160	27 200	19 166	20 124	20 124	20 124	2018	20 124	2019			
Kaapstad	82 200	82 600	90 860	115 425	120 655	128 000	136 000	146 985	154 334	154 334	154 334	2018	154 334	2019			
Maramatha	69 600	66 400	73 040	93 480	96 760	99 520	104 720	135 732	142 519	142 519	142 519	2018	142 519	2019			
Pretoria	8 300	88 800	97 680	121 125	130 095	139 840	148 920	112 027	117 628	117 628	117 628	2018	117 628	2019			
Belhar						500		731	768			2018	768	2019			
Mamelodi			2 600	1 487				2 470	2 594			2018	2 594	2019			
Soshanguve								2 889	3 033			2018	3 033	2019			
Total received	449 440	619 355	855 739	761 640	846 304	654 824	589 241	653 656	652 037	639 130	652 514	2018	652 514	2019	667 892		
SDSA	150 000	80 000	60 000	40 000	20 000							2018		2019			
Jan Hulsjerfonds			100 000	Note 1	Note 2							2018		2019			
Anoniem			100									2018		2019			
Australië		184 000	419 073	418 632	419 316	379 316	359 316	435 031	462 037	469 130	497 514	2018	497 514	2019	527 892		
Canada	299 440	355 355	276 566	303 008	406 988	275 508	229 925	218 625	190 000	170 000	155 000	2018	155 000	2019	140 000		
Interest received	26 747	41 937	18 069	13 918	9 204	35 360	59 366	101 213	50 000	16 000	16 000	2018	16 000	2019	16 000		
Expenditure	365 641	1 025 306	1 159 432	1 175 220	881 910	784 912	881 503	722 302	686 787	893 880	922 264	2018	922 264	2019	952 642		
Total paid out :	363 771	1 023 334	1 157 067	1 173 444	878 167	779 870	877 067	717 948	682 037	889 130	917 514	2018	917 514	2019	947 892		
Johannesburg	120 840	231 735	149 565	152 220	165 667	100 964	185 587	224 931	40 000			2018		2019			
Mamelodi	126 030	136 836	136 836	91 224	-	19 500	1 500	-	-	120 000	120 000	2018	120 000	2019	120 000		
Soshanguve	93 001	168 630	189 999	190 000	142 500	509 406	540 000	45 000	-	120 000	120 000	2018	120 000	2019	120 000		
Bethal		199 333	380 667	440 000	420 000		540 000	292 887	462 037	469 130	497 514	2018	497 514	2019	527 892		
Pta / Currators - Dr Breytenbach								5 130				2018		2019			
Other								150 000	180 000	180 000	180 000	2018	180 000	2019	180 000		
Belhar	23 900	286 800	300 000	300 000	150 000	150 000	150 000	150 000	180 000	180 000	180 000	2018	180 000	2019	180 000		
Bank charges	1 870	1 972	2 365	1 776	3 743	5 042	4 416	4 354	4 750	4 750	4 750	2018	4 750	2019	4 750		
Note 1 & Note 2 : Jan Hulsjer Funds still need to pay out 2 x payments to Art11 (R115 000 in 2012 & R118 000 in 2013) , but the money are kept in the Jan Hulsjer fund until it will be needed by Art 11																	
* An additional R100 000 originally earmarked for mission was donated to Art 11 as a once off , donated by Canada.																	

Appendix 2 :

Flow diagrams for Deputy Needy Churches



NB: Deputies Needy Churches (Art 11) will try to obtain additional funding but within certain limitations. In cases where the requested support exceeds the available funds, a proportionate amount will be paid. If churches want to obtain foreign funding outside art 11, an application should be made to Deputies RFC (BBK).

Appendix 3

Indaba 2016 minutes held on 26 / 27 February 2016 at Pretoria Church.

WM	Wim Hofsink	CB	Cobus Bron	EV	Ernst van Vondel
HP	Harry Pouwels	RM	Ronald Meeske	DD	Douwe Drijhout
KR	Kees Roose	LS	Linus vd Sluis	GK	Gert Klapwijk
GH	Gerard Hagg	JL	Jopie vd Linden	MB	Marius Bijkre
PGB	Pieter Boon	TW	Tjeerd de Wit		

Br Wim Hofsink welcomes everyone and opens the indaba. We sing Ps 25: 1 and 2 and read from scripture Philippians chapter 1.

1.1 Apologies received

- Rev Matleala (Sick)
- Johann Struwig
- Delegates were asked to sign attendance list and record is kept electronically.
- Attendance register updated on separate spreadsheet.

1.2 Setting of agenda

- (HP) Harry Pouwels : suggest extra agenda point as summary / communication (Effectiveness , reports, interaction etc)
- (PGB) Minutes are taken, Indaba just discussion but no decisions can be taken. Preparation to next synod.
- (GM) raises point why Mamelodi and Soshanguwe Is not invited or present - KS replied that invitations were sent out but no responses were received.

1.3 Explanation of Indaba (19h20)

- WH explains reason, grounds and reason why Indaba is held.

1.4 Agenda 1 – Deputy Relations churches in SA

- KR provides summary of report submitted
- Comments or Questions
 - o GH mentions that the report and presentation do not have any reference to discussions held on Capetown, Bellville with churches in Bellville area.
 - o PGB confirmed that no official contact exists with Bellville area, but good idea to contact, include and assess this
 - o GK mentions that there are good discussions in Capetown and agree that cooperation and contact is important for all.
 - o KR mentions that the rules have been defined n previous synod and that the Bellville church council should know about this.
 - o GM asks about who is responsible with contact Dutch reformed churches in Africa.
 - o GH mentions that proposal is that the local church council takes this responsibility

- KR agrees but that local church council reports back to Deputy.
- PGB summarizes that local churches should be involved, but that deputy oversees and define more details. Not only for Bellville but also local churches in Pretoria.
- GH has Concern that we should not “speed-up” on local level only to hold back on national level – national deputies should be involved and up to date.
- GK explains that Capetown tried to determine common grounds – although there are numerous concerns but first need to build relationship and trust before effective results can be achieved with regards to differences.
- PGB – mentions that last mandate is to continue contact with RCSA on national level, also stimulating local contacts.

Question 2: How should developments in the RCSA regarding ‘new’ hermeneutical methods be addressed?

- - PGB stresses importance again stresses with example of rev Kurpershoek as reply on
 - <http://www.netwerk24.com/Stemme/Aktueel/Daarom-is-vrou-vry-om-te-dien-20150123>
 - HP
 - Grateful of last special synod that women in office not taken further. Deacon maybe an issue but thankful that
 - Cannot put unity above the bible (Unity , not focused on unity in the Lord but rather
 - Propose that Deputy sends letter to congratulate and see how to take it further.
 - DMB – ideas on how to congratulate but also assist them in the process. Also more communication.
 - PMB - Input to report and communications imported
 - GH – diaconal office should also be follow-up, cannot leave this as-is.
- 1. Q3 about suggested contacts with the Church of England on a church council level?
 - GK: Church of England - Capetown loses church members that go to this church.
 - Reasons discussed and possible obstacle with contact with reformed and Church of England as members moved over to these congregations.
 - In Pretoria this has been experienced as potential obstacles, Capetown not sure but can be stumbling block. LS mentions that this can also assist as an x-member is now the link between combined mission work in English churches on the “Kaapse vlakte”
 - DMB: More information required specifically on Church of England as report is not clear on way forward.
 - CB mentions that Johannesburg congregation has been relationship with church of England.
 - Room to take it further, also on national and local levels.
 - RM – Johannesburg scenario tried making contracts but some constraints based on no interest / limited common grounds and then also x-members that are not really interested.
 - Session 1 closed and we have a quick break.

Session 2 (21h00)

- Deputies Relation Churches Abroad

- DMB presents report and explains the detail
- HP: Correspondence with Holland, asks what has been done up to now?
 - o Synod Bethal send letter and brother Kees Roose read the letter to the synod.
 - o Dutch Synod feedback was that the communication was too late and did not officially reply.
 - o Letter also forwarded afterwards based on request.
 - o DMB confirmed that no other formal feedback has been received
-
- Well documented Report on hermeneutics also mentioned in previous session – surely this can be used in correspondence with deputies in Holland.
- Our Synod and Holland’s synod are always in the same time period – which makes communication and response very difficult based on timeframes and feedback.
- Communication on why decisions have been taken on theological training – correspondence to Kampen to at least discuss. Question, what body takes these decisions – Synod, but also then needs to be follow-up / communicated from synod level?
- Practical reasons mentioned, but if no biblical grounds exist then such letter would not add value. RM added that the last move was for Kampen to be based on scientific way, no longer pure scripture. This is major concern but might not have been noted in detail on reports.
- In 2011 there were 4x reasons of practical nature and 1x possible concern, this concern has however grown and during 2014 a significant concern. What is however correspondent officially Holland?
- Theological training maybe separate additional agenda point for agenda.
- Pension fund scenario discussed where pension provision between countries can travel with ministers. This is important for our churches as if calling ministers that might be a bit older cannot be done as the pension would be lost.

Session 2 closed with singing of Ps 26:6 and prayer by Br Magagula.

2016/02/27

WM welcomes everyone

We sing Ps 121, read from scripture: Psalm 121

WM opens the day with prayer.

HP presents summary of reports (Powerpoint name: 030 MDSA Report Indaba 2016.pptx)

Presentation and financials discussed

- 95% support from Holland, processes changed from funds provided to being applied for.
- Unhealthy situation.
- Mission projects perceived not to be “exciting” as PR not been performed.
- LS: Willingness to go the Holland to present mission is there, some scenarios difficult due to sickness of wife.
- GM: Needs to define what should be done and processes.
- Church-based mission moved to more business-based?
- Holland moves mission process from Organized (higher level) to local churches. These churches however require more detail and communication.

- MDSA done a lot of PR work in last few months.
 - o Tanya-Bijker, Corine Moes (Capetown), Christien Agema.
- Proposal to send PR person as well, if missionaries join they should also be equipped. Also realistic that some have difficulty with PR skills/ language.
- PR: Information flow , but also to be present.
- Mandate: “word and deed”, p22 point a-m.
- The classis points 1-5 not technically part of mandate?
- RM asks for directions and details for Johannesburg congregation as they have also called Jopie and need the same direction, standards, reports and processes. HP replied that Roel Snijder has attended and know the detail.
- LH: Some clarity on ZAM – not only MDSA only also other projects like Khutkatsong, Shoemansdal and Tusano.
- LS added that there is a not only local but also regional structures in Holland. Not driven from Synod, but from congregations running upwards.
- Capetown focus has no real focus on mission based on own problems but rev Bijzet is doing a lot of work to get this refocused. Also if MDSA has problems with Capetown it should can be discussed with Capetown church council.
- PGB: Synod decision with regards to Harm Snijder not being reappointed due to the maximum term of 3 terms of 3 years. Exceptional cases exist but needs to be managed accordingly. Relation with Capetown has improved; appointments by Synod in Capetown did not work out from practical point of view.
- John Mahlangu : Pretoria supports this work and not managed or financed through Holland.
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Session 1 of day finalized, we stop for a quick break.

Session 2 started 10:50

RM summarizes and provides some feedback from Curators.

What is the need in our churches at the moment? Lord has blessed our bond of churches based on pureness and scriptural correctness.

- Currently 3x vacancies in our bond of churches
- Johannesburg member has indicated that even they need to give up their language to have a minister that preaches the pure gospel that would be ok.
- Profound statement, but indicates criticality but also need for pure gospel.
- Instruction / mandate from synod – end goal is to provide ministers that can preach the pure gospel to our churches.
- This mandate versus what has been done (and can be done) indicates that there is still a huge gap.
- In the past we have started our own seminary – maybe it is time to evaluate and take full responsibility for this again?
- GH: “Recruitment” of students also a problem, no one enrolls making the problem worse.
- Hamilton should be made aware of our needs and technology / processes exist to make some content / classes / online learning available locally in South Africa. Concept of going to Holland/Canada for 4-6 years makes the proposal more difficult for potential students.
- Example: Long summer holidays in Canada (3 months), maybe this can also be utilized for our need

- JL: Currently advise for African students to go to Mukhanyo first (4 years), afterwards they go for languages -
- JL: Synod decision was clear, no long-distance theological training allowed, mainly due to mentoring? RM advised that mentorship program (required manpower) should be in place. Also professors in Reformed Churches available locally that has been retired can be also add significant value in these programs.
- Australia has the same problem except the language barrier, surely we can work on combined solution
- CB: This is a lot of appetite abroad to assist in process / lecturing / helping out in developing countries.
- GM: Different training programmes for African / white churches? Ideal one training programme, can also involve Mukhanyo with mentorship programme.
- Tension of different programmes / realities should be addressed moving forward with one training programme for all.
 - o Outcomes already defined by synod – even when two different training programmes are followed.
- If meeting feeling is to explore these various options and provide feedback to Synod deputy Curators would be willing to investigate options with Hamilton / online / hands-on seminary.
- Deputies Curators will investigate accordingly and advise on the next Synod.
- Situation at Mukhanyo is that half the lecturers resigned, another few pending to leave. Ad-hoc mentors are used from around the world for short periods of time. Long-time commitment working fulltime with students critical.
- HP: Relation with Mukhanyo – chosen for students but there are shortcomings. Official relation and has concerns been addressed with them.
- Current memorandum of agreement as we require representation on the board. Internal problems at Mukhanyo has caused some delays. RM: Not ideal institution to follow as current lecturing, lecturers and mentorship programmes lacking.
- RM Indicated that we have done a lot to show shortcomings at Mukahnyo, but is has not changed. We don't have control, not ever who they appoint or what the lecture. Communication is available if required.
- GH: Structural problems at Mukhanyo, not easy to fix.
- JL: Educational perspective – training pace slow based on someone without any knowledge or base. Comparisons between Mukhanyo and Potchefstroom were that Mukhanyo was about half the level of education in comparison.
- Interaction limited to Brian de Vries, actual participation with board or alternative methods not working and problems become bigger and bigger.
- Kampen: Grounds raised were purely practical, suggestion is to formally communicate and take it to synod that Kampen cannot be used as theological training anymore. In 2011 there were concerns; in 2014 this has become principal issues. HP mentions that the 2014 synod report do have an official statement stating such, this needs to be done properly. Need to have this official.

050 – Liturgical Music (11h55)

JL provides summary

- Feeling that the deputy do not live in the churches, except in a negative way.
- In the “waiting game”, not a lot of feedback received

- Is this really something we should be pushing at the moment? There are a lot of other obstacles we need to address. A few congregations without ministers at the moment, Curators, help all around not only for Jopie but most probably for all of us.
- Current “*Calvyn Jubileum Fonds*” bundle being taken to the press

Discussions

- WH mentions that this has been coming from 1992, should take synod instruction seriously and finalize the “smaller issues”
- TW: English hymns (85) have been approved already
- PGB: Perception around “to sing or not to sing” tends to polarize and both directions have a negative effect in bond of churches. “Let’s not blow up this issue”, it will become out of control.
- Strong viewpoints on both sides, not building up at this stage.
- WH: Remains a challenge but need to get clarified.
- Emotional loaded-ness makes discussion for every hymn very difficult. Martin Luther favourite hymn is still not included in our hymns.
- LH: 2x issues – the concept of singing hymns have been approved by synod some time ago. The process of evaluating and accepting is where we are now – congregations have different viewpoints and feelings. Feeling that “starting to sing hymns” is the beginning of the end.
- GH: “Fear” cannot be resolved by arguments – this has become an emotional level.
- Overreaction also occurs where one member steers 5 degrees left, other over-reacts with 5 degrees right and difference becoming force.

060 Reports on bible translation

JL provides summary and background

- Direct translation from source, some examples mentioned
- Follow principles, looks very good but final verdict / say still in process
- Will be different to the ones we are used to, but a good challenge.
- Source-oriented translations come around more or less every 50 years. We need to take this serious and provide our feedback and input. If this is not successful we will be in 2060 with a 1930 translation.

Discussions

- DR: positive feedback from session with RCSA Oos-Moot as difference compared as Mercedes vs tractor ; ploughs deep and forces you to read it extensively and not just runs over the text like a Mercedes.
- PGB: Recommendation, keep on communicating and provides input and feedback on all levels.
- Asks if we have a formal approved English Transactions approved by the synod?
- Will be taken to next synod as no-one known if such approval exists.
-

070 Article 11

MB provides overview of Art.11 report

- Discussion point 1
- Discussion point 2

080 Kwestor

EV provides overview of report

- Proposal for inflation increase for 2016 as the new model is not in place yet.
- Responsibility for church councils to determine actual figures but can follow up

090 Report of Deputies for revision of Synod rules

KR provides overview of report

- Proposal rejected and updated.
- 4 month rule proposed to 2 months but there are some considerations like church council meetings, input from congregation etc.
- To be evaluated and discussed but preparation and submitting on time.
- Report to classis doesn't make sense; direct report to synod makes more sense.

010 Contact with government

- No report filed.

011 Deputy Liturgical forms

DD presented summary of report

- Where did guidelines come from? Deputy themselves

012 Internet

HB presented summary of report

- New website being developed
- Language to English, content , congregations and relevant deputies should be involved
- Self-service aspect important.
- Were some constraints but currently manageable (original report mentioned that development stalled)

130 Report of Deputies Stated clerk and Archive to Indaba 2016

KS presents summary of report

- Archiving system not in place as yet.
- Electronic copies
- Printed copies will be available but limited copies based for archiving and formal processes.

200 Summary of Indaba and feedback

Discussions and overview

- **HP: Grounds that is important that is not discussed**
 - Church councils were asked to submit items, no feedback were received.
 - Concern that Mamelodi and Soshanguwe were absent on Indaba.
 - Same for brs that attended Friday but not Saturday, specifically since mission and important aspects were discussed
 - Can be taken to classis as relevant congregations need to be involved.

- **Indaba overall feedback**
 - Informal atmosphere, no pressure to take decisions.
 - Added a lot of value as bigger picture and other input.
 - Bigger strategy and details discussed
 - Inclusivity – most participants taken part in discussions
 - Minutes and detail –to whom it will be sent to?
 - Media statement to be released?
 - Did Indaba succeed in the goal to ensure that Deputies have alignment and shared insight, concerns and knowledge with other deputies?

Word of thanks to Art.11, relevant deputies.

We sing Ps 121:3 and PGB concluded meeting with prayer.

Appendix 4: Minutes FRCSA Indaba 2016 by CR

Date	Description	By when	By
26/02	Opening		
	W Hofsink		
	Welcome Sing: Ps. 25: 1, 2 Scripture reading: Philipians 1		
	KBK		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary presented by CR - Contact with church council FRC Kaapstad regarding their contacts with GKSA Bellville to be established in order to be in line with 5-point discussions and other possible contacts. - FRC Jo'burg hampered in contacts with RCSA in area due to losing members to that church. - Local contacts with REACH-SA does it mean contacts in other areas? Yes - Future contacts with RCSA: be careful with more intensive contacts in situations like 5-point discussions. Still enough reasons for concern. - Proposal to write letter to GKSA with thanks for their correct decisions in Synod 2016. - Additional report considered not positive enough. Tendency to concentrate on negative points. Should be a positive approach. - Dep promise that positive gratitude will be expressed in next combined meetings. - In next 5-point meetings, memorandum with NGK should be discussed. - Local contacts with REACH-SA in Cape Town might be affected by FRC members leaving FRC and joining REACH-SA, but not necessary stumbling block. - Could more info on REACH be published? Anything achieved up to now? Very little. FRC Jo'burg had some contacts. - 		
	BBK		
	DM Boersma: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary and update of report. - Answer regarding women in office to GKV was sent, but more info on our interpretation of Biblical rules will be sent. - Info booklet will be regularly updated and placed on the FRCSA web site. - Which communication existed between BBK FRCSA and the GKV. Letter from Synod Bethal was read in Synod Ede, but not officially reacted upon. Should that not be followed up? Should letter be sent again in order to reach GKV in time for discussion in next synod? Should GKSA decision about women in office not be communicated for the GKV's attention? 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rev Boersma said to take above points to the next BBK meeting. - Is reluctance to make use of Kampen Univ. justified or not? System adapted, more in line with our systems, but principle concerns not yet solved. - Dep. Curators should be involved in matters regarding Kampen. - New developments with DGK in discussions about acceptability of double correspondence. - Theological training is an issue in which various deputies are involved. Could that be utilised to have an overall theme for the next indaba? - Issues regarding pension for Dutch originated ministers for our churches should be clarified and taken care off. 		
	Afsluiting		
	Sing: Ps. 25: 6		
	Rev. P. Magagula leads in prayer		
27/02	Opening		
	W Hofsink Ps 121: 1, 2 Scripture reading: Ps 121		
	SDSA		
	Led by H Pouwels - No notes here due to use of laptop for presentations.		
	Dep Kur		
	Info on task of Rev Breytenbach (paper)		
	<p>R Meeske leds discussion on Dep Curators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Problem: Hugh gap between synod instructions and what Dep Curators achieve. - Rethinking of theological study requirements to be done due to our present environment. - Other problems: to recruit students and study time will probably remain 7 years. - Curators concentrated on Afrikaans speaking students and on Mukhanyo as other channel. More intertwining should be considered. - Distance teaching with CanRC Hamilton should be investigated again. - Sending students overseas poses risk to loose student to that country. Bond with mother church should be practically maintained. - Curators consider turning study path around. First 4 year theological studies at Mukhanyo and afterwards 3 year language studies in local study centres as Hamilton or Kampen will not allow that. - What about possible use of GKSA retired professors for our student training? - Will usage of differential training paths for students from different cultures not cause unhealthy differences and friction 		

	<p>between ministers? The idea is to end up with only one training path.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Curators should be realistic and aim to find ways which are sustainable against the background of various actions in the past which fell flat. - What about accreditation? Is not really relevant at this stage. The basic needs should be established first. - Critical requirement to guide students with the aim to have them reaching the required outcomes. - Is our co-operation with Mukhanyo properly described and understood and properly communicated between all parties? Not everyone satisfied about that, but not due to lack of communication but to different viewpoints of individual persons in the board. There is no way to get everything as we would like it, but as it will not change we have to work with it as it is. There are also different views between the (non-FRC) board members. 		
	Dep Lit mus		
	<p>Rev J v d Linden:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feeling that issue not lives in the congregation and wondering whether efforts are worth it. In general considered in a negative way in our churches. - But synod instructed to do the work and church councils should actively do the testing to help deputies to complete their work. - Other side that issue causes friction in churches; considered to make churches true or false by some members. - In SA hymns became symbolic for deviation of churches from the Biblical truth and is therefore considered as the path for becoming unfaithful. 		
	Dep Afr Bybelvertaling		
	Rev J v d Linden		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Positive about newest Afr. Bible translation, even better than the 1953 translation. - Final publication of full translation expected during 2018/2019. - Churches should be regularly informed about latest developments in order to be prepared to adopt it if approved. - Should synods not be encouraged to to adopt (an) English translation(s) officially? Deputies to consider that 		
	Middagete		
	R Meeske prays for food		
	Dep Art 11		
	Marius Bijker presents Art. 11 report		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes in list of needy churches. Left at this stage Belhar and Johannesburg for Rev Retief part, and Pta for Rev Breytenbach. - Using Au money, previously used for supporting Bethal, for financing Rev Breytenbach's new function, via Pretoria, does not seem right and Art 11 proposes that this is not a task for Art 11. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - According to Dep Curators an arrangement with FRCA was made but on the condition that Art 11 should act as a post box in order to simplify money transfer in stead of changing the pay channel. - For the moment that seems to be acceptable, but should be rectified in future as the task does not fit into the art 11 task description. - Problem with needy churches that churches do not provide proper budgets. - Regarding Belhar, E v Vondel offers to help Belhar with creating budgets. - Previous synod decided that needy churches should also contribute according to their ability to Art 11 funds. If they refuse that, they are not supposed to be financially supported. - All churches should provide average income levels. 		
	Kwestor		
	<p>E v Vondel presents report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Calculation still done on old system. - Explains basis for new differentiated contribution model. - System not implemented yet. - Proposal to use old system with inflation rates applied for the remaining years until Synod 2017 and to obtain new info on church income levels and to implement new system after Synod 2017. - Are funds cumulated over the years also shown in reports to synods? Yes, as cumulative funds. 		
	Dep Syn Rules		
	<p>CR presents report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why using Afrikaans? = synod instruction - To be discussed between deputies. - Point time schedule: - In sister churches due date 6 months?? - Local consistories should be allowed to study reports before synod. - Due date is one thing, but complying with the rule more important, and reports sent in too late should not be accepted. - 3 Months seems to be a better option. Also takes care of unexpected situations. - Reporting member changes to Classis?? - Meeting agrees with reporting to synod - Reporting changes to stated clerk should be synod rule. - 		
	Dep owerhede		
	Nothing up to now. First meeting next week		
	Dep Lit forms		
	<p>D Drijfhout presents report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explains membership changes. - Explains part of report - Some new proposed forms discussed in Kompas. - Where did the guidelines come from? Wrote them ourselves. 		

	Dep Internet		
	H Bijker reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Website was started 20 years ago. - Explains functioning and lay out of web site - Still in process of upgrading. - There should be an English version. Is planned. - Deputy reports should be published on web site. 		
	Dep Syn admin		
	CR presents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paper copies still required? - Nie soveel nie, maar wel copies vir elke kerkraad – proposal for next synod - In Afrikaans want laaste nie-Afrikaans sprekende afgevaardigde is weg - Acts should be published on web site. 		
	Opsomming		
	Terugvoer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kerkrade moes geleentheid gebruik het om sake wat hulle wil bespreek op die agenda te plaas. - Afwesigheid van Mamelodi en Soshanguve behoort verder gevat te word. Dit gaan oor bevordering van funksionering van elke deel van die kerkverband wat begin by betrokkenheid. - Indaba sinvolheid: - Sinodale druk nie aanwesig nie – ruimte vir meer oop gesprekke. - Besprekingspektrum baie wyer as sinodale vergaderings. - Voordeel: informele atmosfeer. - Meer betrokkenheid van plaaslike kerke as by sinodes. - Beindruk met werk deur deputate vir indaba, meer dinamies - Gaan notule in kerkblaai gepubliseer word. Ja Persverslag - Het deputate gebaat by indaba? Ja 		
	Afsluiting		
	WH se dankie namens Art 11. Sing: Ps 121: 3, 4 PGB sluit af met gebed		