

21.6 BESKRYWINGSPUNT (IN TERME VAN KO, ART 46) – GK POTCHEFSTROOM-OOS OOR DIE VROU IN DIE BESONDERE DIENSTE AS ‘N NIE-WESENTLIKE SAAK (Art 115, 299)

21.6 POINT OF DESCRIPTION (IN TERMS OF CO, ART 46) – GK POTCHEFSTROOM-OOS REGARDING WOMEN IN THE SPECIAL OFFICES AS NON-ESSENTIAL MATTER (Arts 115, 299)

- A. Die Beskrywingspunt is gestel.
The Point of description is tabled.
- B. **Besluit:** Word verwys na Kommissie Leerstellig.
Decision: Referred to Commission Doctrinal.
- C. Ds PJ Jansen van Nieuwenhuizen rapporteer namens Kommissie Leerstellig.
Rev PJ Jansen van Nieuwenhuizen reports on behalf of Commission Doctrinal.

D. BESKRYWINGSPUNT / POINT OF DESCRIPTION

1. Inleiding 1.1 Die Kerkraad van die GK Potchefstroom-Oos het by ‘n spesiale vergadering op 23 Mei 2017 besluit om: 1.1.1 gevolg te gee aan hierdie Beskrywingspunt; 1.1.2 die Beskrywingspunt langs die kerklike weg (KO, art 33) deur te gee vir behandeling en besluitneming deur Klassis Potchefstroom.	1. Introduction 1.1 The Church Council of the GK Potchefstroom-Oos decided, at a special meeting on 23 May 2017, to: 1.1.1 address this Point of Description; and 1.1.2 forward this Point of Description to Classis Potchefstroom for review and resolution, in accordance with church procedure (CO, art 33).
2. Agtergrond 2.1 Die standpunt, dat die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste ‘n wesentlike saak is, spruit voort uit besluite van die Algemene Sinode van die GKSA van 2015. 2.2 Daar is geen ‘direkte besluit’ deur die Algemene Sinode 2015 genotuleer dat die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste, ‘n wesentlike saak is nie. In die lig hiervan kan daar nie versoek word dat die ‘besluit’ in die lig van KO, artt 31 en 46 ter syde gestel moet word nie. 2.3 Daarom word die saak as Beskrywingspunt ter tafel gebring.	2. Background 2.1 The stance that the matter of women in the special offices is an essential matter is the result of decisions made by the GKSA’s General Synod 2015. 2.2 The Minutes of General Synod 2015 does not indicate any “specific decision” on whether women in the special offices is an essential matter. In light of this, the “decision” cannot be set aside in terms of CO, arts 31 and 46 as requested. 2.3 Thus the matter is tabled as a Point of Description.
3. Beskrywingspunt (KO, art 46) Die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste is ‘n nie-wesentlike saak.	3. Point of Description (CO, art 46) The matter of women in the special offices is a non-essential matter.
4. Motivering : Beskrywingspunt 4.1 <i>Motivering 1</i> Geen “direkte besluit” van die Algemene Sinode 2015 bepaal dat die saak van die vrou in die besondere	4. Motivation: Point of Description 4.1 <i>Motivation 1</i> No “specific decision” of the General Synod 2015 makes the matter of women in the special offices an essential matter.

<p>dienste 'n wesentlike saak is nie.</p> <p>4.1.1 Bewysvoering: Motivering 1</p> <p>4.1.1.1 Die Notule van die Algemene Sinode 2015 gee geen "direkte besluit" weer waar die Sinode besluit het dat die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste, 'n wesentlike saak is nie.</p> <p>4.1.1.2 Sinode 2015 besluit dat die "verwysde Beswaarskrifte wesentlik is" (Acta 2015:320, 7.3.2, a).</p> <p>4.1.1.3 'n Besluit van Sinode 2015 oor 'n spesiale Sinode, in die lig van 'n Kommissierapport, aanvaar die volgende aanbeveling: "<i>All die ter-saaklike Beswaarskrifte handel oor die vrou in die besondere dienste. In die lig daarvan dat die Sinode besluit het dat die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste 'n wesentlike saak is, word aanbeveel dat al die Beswaarskrifte na die Spesiale Sinode verwys word</i>" (Acta 2015:323, 2.1).</p> <p>4.1.1.4 Beswaarskrifte is nie sonder meer 'n wesentlike saak nie. Beswaarskrifte kan wesentlike sake ter tafel bring.</p> <p>4.1.1.5 Die Beswaarskrifte wat Sinode 2012 na die Deputate Eenheid in Verskeidenheid verwys het (Acta 2012:353, 3.2) word nie inhoudelik beoordeel aan die hand van die riglyne oor wat wesentlik en wat nie-wesentlik is nie.</p> <p>4.1.1.6 Geen motivering word gegee waarom die Beswaarskrifte en die saak in die verwysde Beswaarskrifte, dié van die vrou in die besondere dienste, 'n wesentlike saak is nie.</p> <p>4.1.2 Bevinding: Motivering 1</p> <p>In geen "direkte besluit" van die Algemene Sinode 2015 is daar met voldoende motivering besluit, dat die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste 'n wesentlike saak is nie.</p> <p>4.2 Motivering 2</p> <p>In die lig van die besluit van die Algemene Sinode 2015 (Handelinge:313) insake die onderskeid tussen wesentlike en nie-wesentlike sake, is die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste, 'n nie-wesentlike saak.</p> <p>4.2.1 Bewysvoering: Motivering 2</p> <p>4.2.1.1 Die Algemene Sinode 2015 gee</p>	<p>4.1.1 Substantiation: Motivation 1</p> <p>4.1.1.1 The Minutes of General Synod 2015 does not reflect a "specific decision" that indicates the Synod decided that the issue of women in the special offices is an essential matter.</p> <p>4.1.1.2 Synod 2015 ruled that the "<i>Petitions of Protest referenced are essential</i>" (Acta 2015:320, 7.3.2, a).</p> <p>4.1.1.3 A decision of Synod 2015 over a Special Synod, in light of a Commission Report, accepts the following recommendation: "<i>All the relevant Petitions of Protest relate to women in the special offices. Given that the Synod deemed the matter of women in the special offices an essential matter, it is recommended that all Petitions of Protest are referred to the Special Synod</i>" (Acta 2015:323, 2.1).</p> <p>4.1.1.4 A Petition of Protest is not in itself an essential matter. It can raise essential matters.</p> <p>4.1.1.5 The content of the Petitions of Protest, Synod 2012 referred to the Deputies Unity in Diversity (Acta 2012:353, 3.2), are not evaluated according to the guidelines on what is essential and what is non-essential.</p> <p>4.1.1.6 No motivation is given for deeming the Petitions of Protest and the matter in the Petitions of Protest, i.e. women in the special offices, as an essential matter.</p> <p>4.1.2 Finding: Motivation 1</p> <p>In no "specific decision" of the General Synod 2015 was it decided, based on proper motivation that women in the special offices is an essential matter.</p> <p>4.2 Motivation 2</p> <p>Given the decision of the General Synod 2015 (Acta:313) on the distinction between essential and non-essential matters, the matter of women in the special offices is a non-essential matter.</p> <p>4.2.1 Substantiation: Motivation 2</p> <p>4.2.1.1 General Synod 2015 does not</p>
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<p>geen motivering waarom die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste 'n wesentlike saak is nie.</p>	<p>4.2.1.2 Beoordeel aan die riglyne vir wesentlike sake is die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste 'n nie-wesentlike saak omdat:</p>	<p>4.2.1.2.1 geen direkte teks uit die Skrif voorskryf dat die vrou in die besondere dienste mag dien of nie (Acta 1997:580, 2.2.3; Acta 2003:557, 3.3.5);</p>	<p>4.2.1.2.2 geen besluit van die Sinodes van die GKSA met Skrifberoep aandui dat die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste 'n wesentlike saak is nie;</p>	<p>4.2.1.2.3 geen besluit van die Sinodes van die GKSA aandui dat die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste, op grond van direkte Skrif-beginsels wat uit die Skrif afgelei is, 'n wesentlike saak is nie;</p>	<p>4.2.1.2.4 geen besluit van die Sinodes van die GKSA, met die nodige motivering, bepaal dat die saak van die vrou in besondere dienste 'n belydenis saak is nie.</p>	<p>4.2.1.3 Beoordeel aan die riglyne vir nie-wesentlike sake, is die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste 'n nie-wesentlike saak omdat die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste:</p>	<p>4.2.1.3.1 nie direk/uitdruklik in die Skrif voorgeskryf word nie;</p>	<p>4.2.1.3.2 nie direk/uitdruklik uit die Skrif afgelei word nie – daarom word daar verskil oor die saak;</p>	<p>4.2.1.3.3 nie uitdruklik in die Belydenisskrifte vermeld of uit die Belydenisskrifte afgelei kan word nie. Sinode 1988 het al tot die bevindings gekom: "Die Belydenisskrifte gebruik die taal van die Skrif sonder om hulle eksplisiet vir of teen die vrou in die amp uit te spreek" (Acta 1988:516, 3.3.2).</p>	<p>"Wanneer kerke na langdurige en biddende bestudering van die Skrif onder leiding van die Heilige Gees tot die slotsom kom dat vrouens wel in 'n besonder amp mag dien, sal moeilik beweer kan word dat so 'n besluit strydig is met</p>	<p>motivate why the matter of women in the special offices is an essential matter.</p>	<p>4.2.1.2 Reviewed against the guidelines for essential matters the topic of women in the special offices is a non-essential matter, because:</p>	<p>4.2.1.2.1 there is no actual text in Scripture that stipulates that women may serve in the special offices (Acta 1997:580, 2.2.3; Acta 2003:557, 3.3.5);</p>	<p>4.2.1.2.2 none of the decisions of the GKSA's Synods indicate, in accordance with Scripture, the matter of women in the special offices as an essential matter;</p>	<p>4.2.1.2.3 none of the decisions of the GKSA's Synods indicate that the subject of women in the special offices is an essential matter, based on specific Scriptural principles deduced from Scripture; and</p>	<p>4.2.1.2.4 none of the decisions of the GKSA's Synods determines, with the necessary motivation that women in the special offices is a confessional matter.</p>	<p>4.2.1.3 Judged according to the guidelines for non-essential matters the matter of women in the special offices is a non-essential matter, since the matter of women in the special offices:</p>	<p>4.2.1.3.1 is not specifically/expressly stipulated in Scripture;</p>	<p>4.2.1.3.2 is not specifically/expressly deduced from Scripture – hence the debate on the topic;</p>	<p>4.2.1.3.3 is not expressly mentioned in or deduced from the Confessions and Synod 1988 already found that: "The confessions are written in the language of Scripture, without explicit reference for or against women in the special offices" (Acta 1988:516, 3.3.2).</p>	<p>"Should churches conclude women may indeed serve in a special office, after in-depth and prayerful study of Scripture and guided by the Holy Spirit, it would be difficult to claim that such a decision is in conflict with Reformational confessions – at</p>
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	<p><i>Reformatoriese Belydenisskrifte – hoogstens dat dit in spanning is met Gereformeerde tradisie</i>” (Acta 1988:516, 3.3.3; Acta 2009:664, 10.16.2).</p> <p>Geen besluit van die Sinodes van die GKSA het tot ‘n ander slotsom gekom nie. Daarom is die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste, nie ‘n belydenis-saak nie;</p>	<p><i>most that it is not in line with Reformed tradition</i>” (Acta 1988:516, 3.3.3; Acta 2009:664, 10.16.2).</p>
4.2.1.3.4	<p>geen besluit van die Sinodes van die GKSA voer noodsaaiklike of onvermydelike redes aan waarom die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste ‘n saak is wat deur almal oral en altyd gehandhaaf moet te word nie. KO, art 85 dien as bevestiging hiervan: “In middelmatige dinge moet die buitelandse kerke by wie ander gebruikte as by ons in swang is, nie veroordeel word nie”.</p>	<p>None of the decisions of the GKSA’s Synod has come to any other conclusion and, therefore, the matter of women in the special offices is not a confessional matter;</p> <p>4.2.1.3.4 none of the decisions of the GKSA’s Synods offers the necessary or unavoidable grounds why women in the special offices is a matter that has to be upheld by all everywhere and always. CO, art 85 substantiates this as follows: “In non-essential matters, churches whose customs differ from ours shall not be denounced”.</p>
4.2.1.3.5	<p>geen motivering word in die besluite van die Algemene Sinode 2015 gegee om aan te dui dat die Skrif en apostolieke gewoonte die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste nie aan die kerke self oorlaat, of nie.</p>	<p>4.2.1.3.5 no motivation is provided with the decisions of General Synod 2015 indicating whether Scripture and apostolic custom leave the matter of women in the special offices to churches or not;</p>
4.2.1.3.6	<p>Deur te besluit dat vroue ook as diakens mag dien (Acta 2009: 668) het ‘n vorige Sinode aangedui dat die geslag van die persoon in die kerklike dienste <i>“in die lig van die Skrif”</i> ‘n nie-wesentlike saak is.</p>	<p>4.2.1.3.6 the decision to allow women to serve as deacons (Acta 2009:668) by a previous Synod indicates that gender is not an essential matter, <i>“in light of Scripture”</i>, in terms of church offices; and</p>
4.2.1.3.7	<p>Die reëling van die Kerkorde dat diakens in uitsonderlike gevalle ook tot die Kerkraad gereken kan word (KO, art 38), tesame met die feit dat ‘n Sinode besluit het dat vroue <i>“in die lig van die Skrif”</i> diakens mag wees, impliseer dat ook die Kerkorde die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste as ‘n nie-wesentlike saak hanteer.</p>	<p>4.2.1.3.7 the ruling of the Church Order that deacons may also be deemed part of the Church Council, in exceptional cases (CO, art 38) and a Synod decision that women <i>“in light of Scripture”</i> may be deacons imply that the Church Order treats the matter of women in the special offices as a non-essential matter.</p>
4.2.2	<p><u>Bevinding: Motivering 2</u></p> <p>Bogenoemde motivering toon dat die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste, beoordeel in die lig van die riglyne vir wesentlike en nie-wesentlike sake, ‘n nie-wesentlike saak is.</p>	<p>4.2.2 <u>Finding: Motivation 2</u></p> <p>The above motivation indicates that the matter of women in the special offices is a non-essential matter, judged against the guidelines for essential and non-essential matters.</p>
4.3	<p><u>Motivering 3</u></p> <p>In die lig van besluite van die</p>	<p>4.3 <u>Motivation 3</u></p> <p>Given the decisions of General Synod</p>

<p>Algemene Sinode 2015 is die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste, in die lig van KO, art 85, 'n nie-wesentlike saak.</p>	<p>2015, the matter of women in the special offices is a non-essential matter, in light of CO, art 85.</p>
<p>4.3.1 Bewysvoering: Motivering 3</p>	<p>4.3.1 Substantiation: Motivation 3</p>
<p>4.3.1.1 In KO, art 85 het ons as kerke in die GKSA ooreengekom om buitelandse kerke, by wie ander gebruikte as by ons in swang is, nie in middelmatige sake te veroordeel nie.</p>	<p>4.3.1.1 The churches of the GKSA agreed in CO, art 85 to not denounce international churches that follow other customs.</p>
<p>4.3.1.2 Die verslag van die Deputate Eenheid in Verskeidenheid (Acta 2015:306-307, 4.3) maak 'n onderskeid tussen middelmatige en wesentlike sake. Die besluit van die Algemene Sinode 2015 aanvaar die Deputate se aanbeveling <i>om te onderskei tussen wesentlike sake en sake waarin mense se gewetens nie gebind mag word nie</i>. In die lig van die uiteensetting en bevinding is dié sake, waarin gewetens nie gebind mag word nie, middelmatige sake. Later word 'n onderskeid gemaak tussen wesentlike en nie-wesentlike sake. Die Rapport van die Deputate en die besluite van die Algemene Sinode 2015 hanteer nie-wesentlike sake en middelmatige sake as sinonieme.</p>	<p>4.3.1.2 The Report of the Deputies Unity in Diversity (Acta 2015:306-307, 4.3) distinguishes between non-essential and essential matters. The decision of General Synod 2015 accepts the Deputies' recommendation <i>to distinguish between essential matters and those in which people's conscience may not be bound</i>. Given the motivation and finding, the matters not deemed conscience bound are middling matters. Later a distinction is made between essential and non-essential matters. The Deputies' Report and decisions of the General Synod 2015 consider non-essential and middling matters as synonyms.</p>
<p>4.3.1.3 Die besluite van die Algemene Sinode 2015 handhaaf ekumeniese eenheid met die Christian Reformed Churches in North America (CRCNA) en met die Reformed Churches in Japan. Ekumeniese eenheid beteken dat die kerke een is, in leer, diens en tug.</p>	<p>4.3.1.3 The decisions of General Synod 2015 uphold ecumenical unity with the Christian Reformed Churches in North America (CRCNA) and with the Reformed Churches in Japan. Ecumenical unity means the churches are one in doctrine, service and discipline.</p>
<p>4.3.1.4 Bogenoemde kerke het besluit dat die vrou in die besondere dienste mag dien. 'n Verklaring op die webblad van die CRCNA lui as volg: <i>All congregations in the Christian Reformed Church in North America may allow women to serve in the office of minister, elder, deacon, or commissioned pastor. The CRC recognizes that there are two different perspectives and convictions on this issue, both of which honor the Scriptures as the infallible Word of God.</i></p>	<p>4.3.1.4 The above churches decided that women may serve in the special offices. The CRCNA website features the following declaration: <i>All congregations in the Christian Reformed Church in North America may allow women to serve in the office of minister, elder, deacon, or commissioned pastor. The CRC recognizes that there are two different perspectives and convictions on this issue, both of which honor the Scriptures as the infallible Word of God.</i></p>
<p>4.3.1.5 Ekumeniese eenheid met die kerke</p>	<p>4.3.1.5 Ecumenical unity is not ended with</p>

<p>word nie verbreek nie omdat die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste 'n middelmatige saak is (KO, art 85). 'n Middelmatige saak is 'n nie-wesentlike saak en daarom 'n saak waaroor gelowiges, in die lig van die Skrif, van mekaar kan verskil.</p>	<p>these churches, because the matter of women in the special offices is a non-essential matter (CO, art 85) and thus believers may differ in this regard, according to Scripture.</p>
<p>4.3.1.6 In die besluite van Sinode 2015 oor ekumeniese eenheid word die saak van die vrou hanteer as 'n middelmatige saak (KO, art 85).</p>	<p>4.3.1.6 Decisions on ecumenical unity by Synod 2015 treat the matter of women in special offices as a non-essential matter (CO, art 85).</p>
<p>4.3.1.7 As 'n middelmatige en nie-wesentlike saak is die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste, in die lig van die Skrif, 'n saak wat aan die vryheid van die kerke oorgelaat behoort te word.</p>	<p>4.3.1.7 As middling or non-essential matter and in light of Scripture, the matter of women in the special offices should be left to the discretion of the churches.</p>
<p>4.3.2 <u>Bevinding: Motivering 3</u> In die lig van besluite van die Algemene Sinode 2015 oor ekumeniese eenheid, is die saak van die vrou in besondere dienste, 'n middelmatige en 'n nie-wesentlike saak.</p>	<p>4.3.2 <u>Finding: Motivation 3</u> Given the decisions of General Synod 2015 over ecumenical unity, the matter of women in the special offices is a middling or non-essential matter.</p>
<p>5. Gevolgtrekking: Motiveringsgronde 1, 2 en 3</p>	<p>5. Conclusion: Motivation Grounds 1, 2 and 3</p>
<p>5.1 Geen besluit van die Algemene Sinode 2015 – soos weergegee in Acta 2015 – bepaal dat die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste 'n wesentlike saak is nie;</p>	<p>5.1 None of the decisions of General Synod 2015 – as rendered in Acta 2015 – makes the matter of women in the special offices an essential matter.</p>
<p>5.2 Geen motivering – in enige van die besluite van die Algemene Sinode 2015 – word gegee om aan te dui waarom die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste, 'n wesentlike saak is nie;</p>	<p>5.2 No motivation – to any of the decisions of General Synod 2015 – is provided to indicate why the matter of women in the special offices is an essential matter.</p>
<p>5.3 Die besluite van die Algemene Sinode 2015 om ekumeniese eenheid te handhaaf met kerke waar die vrou toegelaat is om in al die besondere dienste te dien, wys dat die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste, 'n middelmatige saak (KO, art 85), 'n nie-wesentlike saak is.</p>	<p>5.3 The decisions of General Synod 2015 to uphold ecumenical unity with churches that allow women to serve in all the special offices reflect that the matter of women in the special offices is a middling/non-essential matter (CO, art 85).</p>
<p>6. Versoek: Beskrywingspunt Die Algemene Sinode word versoek om gevolg te gee aan die Beskrywingspunt en te besluit dat die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste 'n nie-wesentlike saak is.</p>	<p>6. Request: Point of Description The General Synod is requested to address the Point of Description and to decide that the matter of women in the special offices is a non-essential matter.</p>

<p>7. Implikasies: Besluit</p> <p>7.1 In nie-wesentlike sake kan kerke van mekaar verskil. Daarom is dit nie nodig dat kerke wat in die Algemene Sinode vergader, ‘n “eenstemmige” besluit daaroor moet neem nie.</p> <p>7.2 Nie-wesentlike sake waarin gelowiges – en kerke – van mekaar kan verskil, is sake wat tuishoort by die plaaslike kerk. In die lig van die Skrif en Kerkorde is die verkiesing van die besondere dienste ‘n saak vir die plaaslike kerk. In die plaaslike kerk word gawes aan gelowiges gegee. Hulle word as gawes in die gemeente gegee om die gemeente as liggaam van Christus op te bou. In die plaaslike kerk word hulle wettig geroep en bevestig.</p> <p>7.3 As volledige en selfstandige kerk, waarin die Here gawes gee om in die besondere dienste te dien, besluit die Kerkraad in samewerking met die gemeente oor wie die gawes ontvang, en tot die dienste geroep word. Die beginsels van die Presbiteriale kerkregering, waardeur die selfstandigheid van die plaaslike kerk as volledige kerk van Christus gehandhaaf word, laat nie toe dat ‘n meerder vergadering kan besluit wie in ‘n gemeente in die besondere dienste kan dien of nie.</p> <p>7.4 Omdat gelowiges – en kerke – in nie-wesentlike sake van mekaar mag verskil, word gelowiges – en kerke versoek om in liefde aan mekaar die ruimte te gee om oor die saak te verskil.</p>	<p>7. Implications: Decision</p> <p>7.1 Churches may differ in non-essential matters and that makes it unnecessary for churches assembling in the General Synod to come to a “unanimous” decision.</p> <p>7.2 Non-essential matters in which believers – and churches – differ from each other are the providence of the local church. In light of Scripture and the Church Order, the election of special offices is a matter for the local church. Believers have been given gifts in the local churches to build up the body of Christ and so local churches lawfully call and ordain them.</p> <p>7.3 As complete and independent church to which the Lord provided gifts to serve in the special offices, the Church Council and congregation collectively decide who received such gifts and are to be called to the offices. The principles of Presbyterian church governance, in which the autonomy of the local church as complete church of Christ is upheld, does not allow for a major assembly to determine who can or cannot serve in the special offices of a congregation.</p> <p>7.4 Since believers – and churches – may differ on non-essential matters, believers – and churches- are requested to lovingly allow each other the room to differ in this regard.</p>
<p>8. Versoek: Klassis Potchefstroom</p> <p>8.1 Indien Klassis Potchefstroom besluit om gevolg te gee aan die Beskrywingspunt word u versoek om dit deur te stuur (KO, art 33) na Streeksinode Noordwes vir behandeling en besluitneming, met die versoek:</p> <p>8.1.1 dat indien die Streeksinode gevolg gee aan die Beskrywingspunt, dit deurgestuur word na die volgende Algemene Sinode vir besluitneming.</p>	<p>8. Request: Classis Potchefstroom</p> <p>8.1 Should Classis Potchefstroom decide to address Point of Description, please refer it (CO, art 33) to Regional Synod North West for deliberation and decision and with the request that:</p> <p>8.1.1 should the Regional Synod decide to address this Point of Description, it be referred to the next General Synod for resolution.</p>

E. RAPPORT VAN DIE KOMMISSIE / REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

<p>1. Sake waarvan die Sinode kennis neem</p> <p>1.1 Die Sinode neem kennis van 1.1.</p> <p>1.2 Hierdie Beskrywingspunt stem feitlik woordeliks ooreen met die Beskrywingspunt van Streeksinode Randvaal (21.7) wat handel oor dieselfde saak.</p> <p>1.3 Die Kommissie het ook oor die ontvanklikheid van hierdie Beskrywingspunt gehandel (KO, art 46) en besluit om weens die sensitiwiteit van die saak oor die vrou in die besondere dienste tog die Beskrywingspunt te hanteer.</p> <p>Besluit: Punte 1.1 tot 1.3 kennis geneem.</p> <p>2. Sake waaroer die Sinode besluit</p> <p>2.1 Die Kommissie beveel aan dat daar nie gevolg gegee word aan die Beskrywingspunt nie.</p> <p>Besluit: Goedgekeur.</p> <p><u>Motivering</u></p> <p>2.1.1 <u>Motivering 1:</u> "Die Beskrywingspunt voer aan dat geen besluit van die Algemene Sinode 2015 bepaal dat die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste 'n wesentlike of 'n nie-wesentlike saak is nie".</p> <p>2.1.1.1 Die Sinode het twee besluite geneem dat die saak oor die vrou in die besondere dienste (VIDA) 'n wesentlike saak is. Dit kom na vore in die volgende besluite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) "Besluit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Dat verwysde Beswaarskrifte wesentlik is</i>" (Acta 2015:320, 7. a.). b) "<i>Al die tersaaklike Beswaarskrifte handel oor die vrou in die besondere dienste. In die lig daarvan dat die Sinode besluit het dat die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste 'n wesentlike saak is, word aanbeveel dat al die Beswaarskrifte na die Speiale Sinode verwys word.</i> <p><i>Besluit: Goedgekeur</i>" (Acta 2015:323, 2.1).</p> <p>Hoewel die Sinode nie die besluit "direk" genotuleer het, soos die Beskrywingspunt beredeneer nie, maar tog duidelik in bogenoemde besluite bedoel, dat die saak oor VIDA wesentlik is.</p>	<p>1. Matters that the Synod take note of</p> <p>1.1 That the Synod take note of 1.1.</p> <p>1.2 This Point of description agrees verbatim with the Regional Synod Ranvaal (21.7), which deals with the same matter.</p> <p>1.3 The Commission also deliberated on the receptivity of the Point of description CO, art 46) and decided, in light of the sensitivity of the matter of women in the particular offices, to handle the Point of description.</p> <p>Decision: Points 1.1 to 1.3 noted.</p> <p>2. Matters that the Synod decide on</p> <p>2.1 That the Point of description is not carried.</p> <p>Decision: Approved.</p> <p><u>Motivation</u></p> <p>2.1.1 <u>Motivation 1:</u> "<i>The Point of description argues that no decision of the General Synod 2015 determined that the woman in the particular offices is an essential or non-essential manner...</i>"</p> <p>2.1.1.1 The Synod took two decisions that the woman in office (WITO) is an essential matter. It emerges in the following decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) "<i>Decision:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>That the referred Petitions of Protest are essential</i> (Acta 2015:320, 7. a.). b) "<i>All the relevant Petitions of Protest deals with women in the particular offices. In light of the Synod's decision that women in the particular offices is an essential matter, it is recommended that all of the Petitions of Protest are referred to the Special Synod.</i> <p><i>Decision: Approved</i>" (Acta 2015:323, 2.1).</p> <p>Although the Synod did not directly record the decision, as the Point of description argues, it is clear from abovementioned decisions that the matter regarding WITO is essential.</p>
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<p>2.1.2 <u>Motivering 2:</u> “Die Beskrywingspunt voer aan dat die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste, beoordeel in die lig van die riglyne vir wesentlike en nie-wesentlike sake, ‘n nie-wesentlike saak is”.</p> <p>2.1.2.1 Motivering 2 handel oor die wyse waarop die Sinode 2015 sy riglyne vir wesentlike sake hanteer het. Sinode 2015 het aan die hand van sy riglyne bepaal dat die saak van VIDA wesentlik is. Hierdie motivering is in wese ‘n beswaar wat langs die weg van KO, artt 31 en 46 aan die orde behoort te kom.</p> <p>2.1.3 <u>Motivering 3:</u> “Die Beskrywingspunt voer aan dat in die lig van besluite van die Algemene Sinode 2015 is die saak van die vrou in die besondere dienste, in die lig van KO, art 85, ‘n nie-wesentlike saak”.</p> <p>2.1.3.1 KO, art 85 reël onder meer “eenheid en verskeidenheid in die ekumene” (Spoelstra 1989:466). Hierdie artikel handel oor die wyse tov ekumeniese verhoudings tussen kerke en buitelandse kerke. Die Beskrywingspunt lig tereg uit dat kerke nie vir ‘n onbepaalde tyd verdraagsaam kan wees aangaande verskille in wesentlike sake nie. Die bedoeling van KO, art 85 is egter nie om te bepaal of ‘n saak wesentlik of nie-wesentlik is nie.</p> <p>Besluit: Punte 2.1.1 tot 2.1.3.1 goedgekeur.</p>	<p>2.1.2 <u>Motivation 2:</u> “The Point of description argues that the woman in the particular offices, adjudicated in light of the guidelines of essential and non-essential matters, is a non-essential matter.”</p> <p>2.1.2.1 Motivation 2 deals with the manner in which Synod 2015 handled its guidelines for essential matters. Synod 2015 concluded, on the basis of its guidelines that the matter of WITO is essential. This motivation constitutes a protest that must be dealt with according to CO, arts 31 and 46.</p> <p>2.1.3 <u>Motivation 3:</u> “The Point of description argues that in light of the decisions of the General Synod 2015, the matter of women in the particular offices, in light of CO, art 85, is a non-essential matter”.</p> <p>2.1.3.1 CO, art 85 arranges inter alia “unity and diversity in ecumenics” (Spoelstra 1989:466). This article deals with the way of ecumenical relations between churches and international churches. The Point of description correctly points out that the churches cannot indefinitely tolerate differences in essential matters. The intention of CO, art 85 is, however not to determine whether a certain matter is essential or non-essential.</p> <p>Decision: Points 2.1.1 to 2.1.3.1 approved.</p>
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