

REFORMED CHURCHES IN SOUTH AFRICA

ACTA

OF THE FIRST GENERAL SYNOD OF THE REFORMED CHURCHES IN SOUTH AFRICA HELD IN POTCHEFSTROOM ON 5 JANUARY 2009 AND FOLLOWING DAYS AS WELL AS 29 JUNE 2009 AND FOLLOWING DAYS

1. OFFICIAL OPENING

1.1 *Opening 5 January 2009 (Art 1)*

The Chairperson of the Calling Church Council, Potchefstroom-North, rev HS Coetzee, opens the meeting by reading from Ezra 1:1 and 2; 2:68-70; 3:1-6 and 3:10-13, and leading the meeting in prayer. The meeting sings from Psalm 89:1 en 2 en Psalm 20 (as arranged by prof Rantoa Letsosa).

1.2 *Opening 29 June 2009 (Art 295)*

The Chairperson, dr CJ Smit, opens the meeting by reading from Romans 14 and 15, addressing a few words to the meeting, singing from Psalm 123:1 and Psalm 124:3, 4 and leading in prayer.

1.3 *Welcoming (Artt 2, 296)*

5 January 2009: Rev HS Coetzee warmly welcomes all the delegates on behalf of the Calling Church Council.

29 June 2009: The Chairperson welcomes all delegates and advisors, especially dr Kwon from Korea, dr Nsenga from the Congo and dr Hannes Breytenbach from the VGKSA.

1.4 *Constitution (Artt 3, 297)*

Credentials have been received from all the Deputies Correspondence of the Regional Synods. They are properly signed and are found to be in order.

1.4.1 The following delegates are present – 5 January 2009:

Regional Synod Bosveld

Ministers (Primi)

Rev SJMS Smit

Dr ALA Buys

Rev PJ Venter

Rev JH Grobler

Rev SA Cilliers

Dr EJ de Beer

Rev CB Swanepoel

Rev JG Noëth

Elders (Primi)

Elder P Aucamp

Elder JP Viljoen

Elder HJ Prinsloo

Elder JTS van der Merwe

Elder MC Duvenage

Elder CNW Ligthelm

Elder CJ Kruger

Elder HFP Kruger

Dr VE d'Assonville
Rev G Opperman
Rev HPM van Rhyn
Rev N Boy
Rev PJJ van Nieuwenhuizen
Rev SP Venter
Rev CJ Nagel [jr] (sec)
Rev DP Prinsloo
Rev JA Berg
Rev CJJ Putter
Rev LAS Nel
Rev NN Ligege
Rev WM Snyman

Elder J Groothof
Elder SJM Swanepoel
Elder JA Hoogenboezem
Elder MC Hattingh
Elder H van der Wateren
Elder R Boshoff
Elder CB Pretorius
Elder HLM Erasmus
Elder WSS Roets (sec)
Elder LJE Venter
Elder JHJ Hoffman (sec)

Eastern Regional Synod

Ministers (Primi)

Rev EJ Tiemensma
Rev LH van Schaik
Rev CA Jansen
Rev J van Schaik
Dr SP van der Walt
Rev MA Modise
Rev DJ Bakker
Rev CJH Breed
Rev AH Steyn
Rev LSD du Plessis
Dr SF Kruger
Rev C Kruger
Rev PJ van der Walt
Rev PW Kurpershoek
Dr AJ Krüger
Rev OJ Struwig
Rev MJJ Erasmus
Dr JH Howell
Rev DF Coetzee
Rev PC van Rooy

Elders (Primi)

Elder DE Niemand
Elder F vd B Postma
Elder WJD Fouché
Elder TM Buys
Elder FPC Viljoen
Elder P Moshia (sec)
Elder OJF Hartung
Elder NJ Hartung
Elder BD Bakker
Elder IJA van Wyk
Elder BH Venter
Elder DL de Beer (sec)
Elder BJ Vorster
Elder JJ van Niekerk
Elder W Smit

Regional Synod Free State and KwaZulu-Natal

Ministers (Primi)

Rev DG Zwemstra
Rev HF van Wyk
Rev JA du Preez
Rev AP de Jager
Rev MJ Smidt
Rev PA Odendaal

Elders (Primi)

Elder HG Kruger
Elder C Theron (sec)
Elder P Welken (sec)
Elder SE Masankane
Elder MN Hermann
Elder JW du Plessis

Dr SJ van der Walt
Rev PK Lourens
Rev JL van der Schyff
Dr N Vorster
Rev TJ van Vuuren
Rev AP Kruger
Rev MS Mbatha
Dr JA Erasmus
Rev VA Rankhotha
Rev JP Sithole (sec)
Rev HJ Stoltz (sec)
Rev JH Cilliers
Rev AF Berg
Rev J Temba
Rev AH Stavast (sec)

Regional Synod Pretoria

Ministers (Primi)

Rev C Aucamp
Rev HJP de Beer
Rev IW Ferreira
Dr HG Stoker
Rev BCG Fourie
Rev SD Snyman
Dr DG Breed
Rev MJ Erasmus
Dr GJ Meijer
Rev GS Kruger
Rev MA Sekhauelo (sec)
Dr PH Heystek
Rev PJ Nel
Rev PG Geertsema
Rev CJ van Heyningen
Rev HL Stavast
Rev L du P van der Vyver
Rev WGM Kotze
Rev HH Seoole
Rev HLJ Momberg (sec)
Rev GC Verhoef (sec)

Regional Synod Randvaal

Ministers (Primi)

Dr G Breed
Dr D Lartz
Dr FP Kruger
Rev FM Dreyer (sec)

Elder DJ Coetzee
Elder JC van der Walt
Elder T van Eeden (sec)
Elder L van den Brink
Elder SC van der Walt
Elder MJ Nakeli
Elder JA Kruger (sec)
Elder JF Venter
Elder FH Roets (sec)
Elder DJ de Klerk
Elder JJ Pretorius
Elder RJ Muller
Elder HAH de Klerk

Elders (Primi)

Elder FC du Toit
Elder MJL van der Meer
Elder PS van Emmenis
Elder AT van der Wetering
Elder BJ Kruger
Elder JFK Mulder
Elder WC Heystek
Elder WN Prinsloo
Elder P van Staden
Elder HS van der Walt
Elder DJP Erasmus
Elder PWB Kruger
Elder GJ Oosthuizen
Elder GLM Erasmus
Elder THB van Dam
Elder K Ndou

Elders (Primi)

Elder CCA van den Berg
Elder G Kotzee
Elder CF Reinecke
Elder JJ Howell

Dr EJ Smit
Dr WC Vergeer
Dr ME Schalekamp
Dr DM Nkulu
Dr AL Rheeder
Dr JM van Tonder
Rev L Kruger
Rev HC van Rooy
Rev AP Tredoux
Rev JA Schutte
Rev P Fanoy
Rev H Goede
Rev LH Moretsi
Rev D van 't Zand
Dr AJ Krüger
Rev HG Schutte

Southern Regional Synod

Ministers (Primi)

Rev RG Aucamp
Rev B Companie
Dr MJ du Plessis
Rev DPJ Erasmus
Dr JV Fatuse
Rev JP Fleischmann
Rev MP Fourie
Rev BR Kingma
Rev J Malan
Rev D Pansegrouw
Rev TJ Potgieter
Rev H Reinecke
Rev HW Schutte
Rev WP van der Merwe
Rev JP van der Walt
Rev KAJ van Rensburg
Rev HV Venter
Rev JH Venter
Rev DHP Wijnbeek

Regional Synod North West

Ministers (Primi)

Rev JC Aucamp
Rev LJ Buys
Rev JJ Cloete
Rev HS Coetzee
Rev PA Coetzee

Elder NJ van Rensburg
Elder CJH van Wyk
Elder HP Erasmus
Elder NF Greyling
Elder JP Jooste
Elder P Greyling
Elder K van der Merwe
Elder J van der Wel
Elder JG Jansen van Vuuren
Elder SP Janse van Vuuren
Elder DB van der Merwe
Elder JH Kruger
Elder JH van der Merwe

Elders (Primi)

Elder P Aucamp
Elder AB du Plessis
Elder CG Foster
Elder B Mtana (sec)
Elder TE Gxotani
Elder B Jager
Elder SN Klaas
Elder FJ Kruger
Elder L Yozo (sec)
Elder IJ Lessing
Elder F Manuel
Elder PA Marais
Elder MN Ras
Elder GJ Swanepoel
Elder JA van Jaarsveld
Elder J van Milligen

Elders (Primi)

Elder PWH Aucamp
Elder G van der Walt
Elder MC Erasmus
Elder PJ Jones
Elder JA Coetsee

Rev TC de Klerk
Rev JB du Plessis
Rev JC Erasmus
Dr J Lion-Cachet (sec)
Dr WC Opperman
Dr CJ Smit
Dr J Smit
Dr SJ van der Merwe
Rev AB van der Walt
Rev P Venter
Rev SL Oostruis
Rev W Vogel
Rev PM Lekgetho (sec)
Rev MR Ramalisa
Rev OI Rooibaadjie

Elder SO Oostruis
Elder PJ Snyman
Elder DC Kruger (sec)
Elder AJ du Plooy
Elder FJWJ Slabbert
Elder DA Steenkamp
Elder F Venter
Elder TF Schutte
Elder D Taljaard
Elder IJ Malunga
Elder SJP du Plessis
Elder DF du Toit
Elder DJ de Kock (sec)
Elder PH Lemmer (sec)

1.4.2 The following delegates are present – 29 June 2009:

Regional Synod Bosveld

Ministers (Primi)

Rev SJMS Smit
Rev PJ Venter
Rev JH Grobler
Rev SA Cilliers
Dr EJ de Beer
Rev CB Swanepoel
Rev JG Noëth
Rev HPM van Rhyn
Rev N Boy
Rev PJJ van Nieuwenhuizen
Rev SP Venter
Rev WM Snyman
Rev DP Prinsloo
Rev JA Berg
Rev CJJ Putter
Rev LAS Nel
Rev NN Ligege
Dr DJ de Kock (sec)
Rev NJ van der Walt (sec)
Rev HB Hattingh (sec)

Elders (Primi)

Elder P Aucamp
Elder JP Viljoen
Elder JTS van der Merwe
Elder HFP Kruger
Elder J Groothof
Elder JG Opperman
Elder SJM Swanepoel
Elder JA Hoogenboezem
Elder MC Hattingh
Elder H van der Wateren
Elder CB Pretorius
Elder LJE Venter
Elder JAJ Hoffmann (sec)
Elder BP Lessing (sec)

Eastern Regional Synod

Ministers (Primi)

Rev EJ Tiemensma
Rev LH van Schaik
Rev CA Jansen
Rev J van Schaik

Elders (Primi)

Elder DE Niemand
Elder WJD Fouché
Elder TM Buys
Elder OJF Hartung

Dr SP van der Walt
Rev MA Modise
Rev DJ Bakker
Rev CJH Breed
Rev AH Steyn
Dr SF Kruger
Rev C Kruger
Rev PJ van der Walt
Rev PW Kurpershoek
Dr AJ Krüger
Rev OJ Struwig
Rev MJJ Erasmus
Dr JH Howell
Rev PC van Rooy
Rev JJJ Erasmus (sec)

Elder NJ Hartung
Elder BD Bakker
Elder IJA van Wyk
Elder BH Venter
Elder BJ Vorster
Elder W Smit

Regional Synod Free State and KwaZulu-Natal

Ministers (Primi)

Rev DG Zwemstra
Dr HF van Wyk
Rev JA du Preez
Rev AP de Jager
Rev MJ Smidt
Rev PA Odendaal
Rev PK Lourens
Rev JL van der Schyff
Dr N Vorster
Rev TJ van Vuuren
Rev AP Kruger
Rev MS Mbatha
Dr JA Erasmus
Rev VA Rankhotha
Rev JP Sithole (sec)
Rev HJ Stoltz (sec)
Rev JH Cilliers
Rev AF Berg
Rev J Temba
Rev PJ [Peet] van der Walt (sec)

Elders (Primi)

Elder MN Hermann
Elder JW du Plessis
Elder DJ Coetzee
Elder L van den Brink
Elder JC van der Bijl (sec)
Elder T van Eeden (sec)
Elder JA Kruger (sec)
Elder P Welken (sec)
Elder CS van Heerden (sec)
Elder HJ Grobler (sec)
Elder MJ Nakeli
Elder DJ de Klerk
Elder JJ Pretorius
Elder RJ Muller
Elder HAH de Klerk

Regional Synod Pretoria

Ministers (Primi)

Rev C Aucamp
Rev HJP de Beer
Rev IW Ferreira
Dr HG Stoker

Elders (Primi)

Elder MJL van der Meer
Elder PS van Emmenis
Elder BJ Kruger
Elder JFK Mulder

Rev BCG Fourie
Rev SD Snyman
Rev MA Sekhalelo (sec)
Rev GC Verhoef (sec)
Rev HLJ Momberg (sec)
Rev GS Kruger
Dr PH Heystek
Rev PJ Nel
Rev HL Stavast
Rev L du P van der Vyver
Rev WGM Kotze
Rev A Venter (sec)
Rev M van Helden
Rev HH Schoole

Regional Synod Randvaal

Ministers (Primi)

Dr G Breed
Dr D Lartz
Dr FP Kruger
Rev FM Dreyer (sec)
Dr EJ Smit
Dr WC Vergeer
Dr DM Nkulu
Dr AL Rheeder
Rev L Kruger
Rev HC van Rooy
Rev AP Tredoux
Rev JA Schutte
Rev HG Schutte
Rev P Fanoy
Rev H Goede
Rev LH Moretsi
Rev D van 't Zand
Rev PM Modise
Dr AJ Krüger
Rev ASA de Bruyn (sec)

Southern Regional Synod

Ministers(Primi)

Rev RG Aucamp
Rev B Companie
Rev RP van Wyk (sec)
Rev DPJ Erasmus
Dr JV Fatuse
Rev JP Fleischmann

Elder WC Heystek
Elder WN Prinsloo
Elder HS van der Walt
Elder DJP Erasmus
Elder PWB Kruger
Elder THB van Dam

Elders (Primi)

Elder CCA van den Berg
Elder G Kotzee
Elder JJ Howell
Elder NJ van Rensburg
Elder HP Erasmus
Elder NF Greyling
Elder JP Jooste
Elder K van der Merwe
Elder J van der Wel
Elder JG Jansen van Vuuren
Elder SP Janse van Vuuren
Elder DB van der Merwe
Elder JH van der Merwe

Elders (Primi)

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Elder CG Foster
Elder W Grové
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Elder B Jager

Rev MP Fourie
Rev BR Kingma
Rev J Malan
Rev D Pansegrouw
Rev TJ Potgieter
Rev H Reinecke
Rev HW Schutte
Rev WP van der Merwe
Rev KAJ van Rensburg
Rev DHP Wijnbeek
Rev JH Venter
Rev LM Kruger (sec)

Elder SN Klaas
Elder FJ Kruger
Elder IJ Lessing
Elder JA Niesing
Elder PA Marais
Elder MN Ras
Elder GJ Swanepoel
Elder JA van Jaarsveld
Elder WJA Steyn
Elder CJH Schutte

Regional Synod North West

Ministers (Primi)

Rev JC Aucamp
Rev LJ Buys
Rev JJ Cloete
Rev HS Coetzee
Rev PA Coetzee
Rev TC de Klerk
Rev JB du Plessis
Rev JC Erasmus
Dr J Lion-Cachet (sec)
Dr WC Opperman
Dr CJ Smit
Dr J Smit
Dr SJ van der Merwe
Rev AB van der Walt
Rev P Venter
Rev PM Lekgetho (sec)
Rev W Vogel
Rev MR Ramalisa
Rev OI Rooibaadjie

Elders (Primi)

Elder PWH Aucamp
Elder G van der Walt
Elder MC Erasmus
Elder PJ Jones
Elder JA Coetsee
Elder SO Oostruis
Elder PJ Snyman
Elder AJ du Plooy
Elder DA Steenkamp
Elder AJ van Wyk
Elder TF Schutte
Elder D Taljaard
Elder SJP du Plessis
Elder DF du Toit
Elder C Kruger (sec)
Elder DJ de Kock (sec)
Elder PH Lemmer (sec)
Elder S van Wyk (sec)

1.4.3 *Advisors:* Proff CFC Coetzee, BJ de Klerk, FW de Wet, A le R du Plooy, PH Fick, JJ Janse van Rensburg, GJC Jordaan, PP Kruger, RS Letsosa, TD Mashau, HF van Rooy, FP Viljoen and JM Vorster.

1.5 *Election of Moderamen (Art 4)*

The proposed Order Commission is appointed as Counting Commission.

The Synod elects the following Moderamen:

Chairperson	Dr CJ Smit
Vice-chairperson	Rev SD Snyman
Scribe	Rev LH van Schaik
Vice-scribes:	Rev HJP de Beer and Rev MA Modise

The Moderamen take their places.

The Chairperson welcomes all delegates, visitors and professors to the Synod (Art 5).

1.6 *Public Declaration* (Artt 6, 298)

The Vice-chairperson, Rev SD Snyman, reads the Public Declaration to the meeting and all rise to show their agreement.

2. DELEGATES OTHER CHURCH DENOMINATIONS, GREETINGS, ECT

2.1 *Greetings*

2.1.1 MESSAGE OF GREETING FROM THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY POTCHEFSTROOM

In this special celebratory year the Theological Seminary predominantly has feelings of gratitude, as does the Reformed Churches. The theme of the celebrations translates the spirit and attitude of the TSP excellently: Humble before God. We are humble before God in our gratitude for his love and patience with the TSP. Just like the churches can look back over a century and a half of grace, the Theological School also celebrates a round number: 140 blessed years of training servants of the Word.

Since the establishment of the Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika on 11 February 1859, it was clear that provision would have to be made for the need for ministers. Rev Dirk Postma included a clause in his suggested church order that provided for the training of ministers. This matter also appeared on the agenda of the first church meeting in 1862. It was decided that two ministers (rev Postma and rev J Beijer) would do the training privately. However, the need for an independent theological seminary grew stronger and stronger during those first years.

In May 1869 the fourth General Synod, held in the small church building in Potchefstroom, took the decision that a theological school would be established in Burgersdorp. The decision was taken in faith. The festive opening of the School took place over the weekend of 26-29 November. It was 10 years after the establishment of the first Gereformeerde Kerk in Rustenburg. Only 14 churches with four ministers took this brave decision at this Synod. The decision also included that teachers and students who wanted to follow other professions, would be trained at Burgersdorp.

In 1905, after the tumultuous war years during which many of the theological students died, the School moved to Potchefstroom. Since then ministers have also been trained at Dube, later at Hammanskraal, and in Venda, until all the places of training amalgamated in 1995 and became based in Potchefstroom. The more than 650 ministers who had been trained through the years, have proclaimed the Gospel in many languages inside and outside of South Africa. Gereformeerde congregations were established and built up, children have been instructed, and people have converted.

In a certain way the Theological School was ahead of the Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika. Since 1995 all the ministers from all the ethnic groups have been trained in one place according to one syllabus, and have been united in practical exposure. This experience has been incredibly enriching and a precursor of what can now be seen at this Synod as a blessing from the Lord, that all the churches can express their unity in Christ together and can take responsibility for the interests of the Theological School Potchefstroom together.

We can do our work with great gratitude because churches and members continually pray for us and support us financially. We can testify that the Curatorium still looks after the work of the School with the same love and conscientiousness. The wonderful spirit, sustained diligence and support of professors and administrative staff make it a joy to work at the School.

With the love of our hearts we pray for the blessing of the Lord over the Synod. May this Synod with its decisions, but also with the opportunities for mutual sympathy,

inspire us to meet the future with faithful courage, trust and enthusiasm and to use the gifts, opportunities and energy that the Lord granted us to the fullest in the interest of our churches, the society within which God has placed us and the Kingdom of God.
Rector: Prof BJ de Klerk.

2.1.2 MEETING MESSAGE TO THE REFORMED CHURCHES DURING THE OPENING OF THEIR NATIONAL SYNOD, 5 JANUARY 2009

Discussions on synodal level between the three Afrikaans Churches regarding specifically the issue of church unity between the three churches have been held for the past fifty years. It was disappointing for many when the Inter Church Council, where the discussions are held, acknowledged last year that no progress was evident during the past half century. This fact led to a shift in focus in the ICC during the last couple of years, away from the problematic issue of church unity to cooperation between the churches. Regarding cooperation the churches had a good agreement during the last few years. It is with great appreciation to the Lord of the Church that unity of the Church regarding issues like education, work of mercy, mutual translations of the Creeds, the creation of poetry of the Psalms, mutual testimony regarding the authorities and many other areas of cooperation can be acknowledged and that it is shaped in the sense that there is cooperation in the Church Communities and that there is good growth and progress with regards to the cooperation.

Back to the discussion on church unity. In bilateral discussions between amongst others the Reformed Churches and the NHK it became clear that progress has been made within the church communities. This progress boils down to the fact that different church communities acknowledge that it is part of being a church by not speaking out of one mouth. Diverse viewpoints regarding issues like church unity, becoming one, view of the Scriptures, authority of the Scriptures, the relationship between the Scriptures and Confessionals and various other church and ethical issues, is not only found between our churches that has the same confessional foundation. It is also found internally within each church community.

This diversity and variety can be viewed as an embarrassment by some. The point of departure is then that everybody should speak with one mouth. That all functionaries, church councils and churches should hold the same viewpoints with the consequences that those that do not think in the way the group does, becomes a heretic. The time for handling the Church and fellow believers in this way, is something from the past. The more progress that is made in discussions between churches, and the deeper and more probing the discussions within every church, the more penetrating the challenge to hold unity within the acknowledgement of diversity. The time has come that we as Churches and as groups within Churches do now expound heresies to others that think differently about theological and church issues, but acknowledge the diversity as a given fact and rediscover the multi faceted and fine nuances of the gospel of Jesus Christ in it.

But the acknowledgement of the diversity does not mean that boundaries no longer exists. This is also one of the challenges for the Church of today: The Church should not fall into relativism within the secularised world in which everything is allowed, in which truth does not exist any longer and the Church can no longer make an appeal on the world with the gospel.

Members, church councils and functionaries of the Reformed Churches and the Hervormde Church in a lot of congregations struggle, to overcome the challenge of unity within diversity of the theology, liturgy, ethos and church habits and remain Church of Jesus Christ amidst the challenges from the relativism on the one hand and a strict denial of the diversity on the other hand.

With this background I send greeting to your Synod from the NHK. May the Lord of the Church bless your Synod with wisdom and the power of discrimination to distinguish the things of importance. May the Lord of the Church lead you as a Church of the Reformation in order for His Word that should be the only measure for

your decisions and that there will be space within this for diversity. May the grace be with you as Churches and with all of you because of the never-ending love that the Lord Jesus Christ loves you with.

Vice-chair: Commission of the General Church Meeting: Dr DJC van Wyk.

2.1.3 GREETING MESSAGE FROM THE AFRIKAANS PROTESTANT CHURCH

It is a great honour and privilege to deliver a greeting message at the National Synod of the Reformed Churches in South Africa on behalf of the Central Churches Commission of the Afrikaans Protestant Church.

The Synod of the Reformed Churches sitting at the beginning of 2009 will surely often reflect and decide on being church in current times. World revolutions are happening fairly often. Within all the troubles and changes it remains a challenge to be the church of the Word in the world. All attempts and pressure from various places for renewal and change should be heard but also sifted in order for this not to determine the direction of the church, but only the Word should determine it. This alone makes the Church of Jesus Christ an object of beliefs and not only an object of debate, discussion and speculation. Not the humanism or so called post-modernism should be determining for the Church of the Lord, but the predestination of the believers in Christ. Therefore the church remains standing and because it is the bride of Christ, we can declare with Maarten Luther: If Christ is maintaining the church; the anger of the hell is in vain!

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with a hand of brotherhood in this way. It is with gratitude that we know that the hand of brotherhood existing between the Reformed Churches in South Africa and the Afrikaans Protestant Church denomination is more wide-ranging than only via messages of greeting since there are penetrating discussions between the two churches. We believe and trust that the discussions between the Reformed Churches in South Africa and the Afrikaans Protestant Church will be further supported and obtain momentum in this synod in order for us to take hands and cooperate to build the reformed religion from the Bible and confessions and to build the being of the reformed church further in this country.

We pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit during the synod and that all the reflections and decisions will be to the power and the glory of the Trinity. Amidst all of this it is our prayer that the sitting will be blessed to such an extent that each member of the church will know and experience that we have a Father in God whom we can call Father (Rom. 8:15), but also a mother because the church is the mother of all believers (Calvin) at the end of the synod.

Member of the Twelfth Central Churches Commission: Dr SD Nel.

2.2 *Motions and Congratulations* (Artt 10, 30, 100, 126, 137, 156, 167, 172, 197, 218, 226, 232, 345)

2.2.1 Condolences

Synod shows their deepest empathy with the families of brothers and sisters who have preceded us to our Father's home. We pray for the peace of the Lord for the families of the following persons:

Dr F van der Walt and Elder F van der Walt whose brother passed away.

Elder TA Nokosi of KwaThema who died on Sunday.

Elder JG Jansen van Vuuren whose niece died on Sunday.

Elder P van Staden whose brother died on 12 January 2009.

Rev MA Modise whose brother-in-law has died.

A motion of empathy is accepted with Elder G van der Walt whose brother-in-law was missing in an airplane. The airplane was found and it proved to have been a fatal accident. We pray for peace and strength for the family of Brother van der Walt and his family. The meeting shows its respect and empathy by standing up.

2.2.2 Motions of encouragement

Elder IJA van Wyk who has been in hospital and is recuperating at home.

Elder F Viljoen who had to return home after his health has deteriorated.
Elder W Grové who would have attended the Synod as delegate, but who withdrew due to the diagnosis of cancer in his 3-year-old grandchild and the impending treatment.
Elder M Erasmus who was sick during the session of 8 January.
Elder F Schutte whose wife has been admitted to hospital.
Rev CJ van Heyningen who is recuperating at home after he had been admitted to hospital for heart tremors.
Rev JP Bingle with his illness.
Rev DF Coetzee whose daughter has been in a car accident.
Elder G van der Walt whose brother-in-law is ill.
Elder PS van Emmenis who became sick and had to return home.
Thankful that Rev JP Sithole's brother has been found.
Rev Norman Ligege whose mother-in-law is seriously ill.

2.2.3 Congratulations with birthdays/anniversaries

5 January

Elder FJ Kruger with his birthday.
Rev HV Venter with his wedding anniversary.

6 January

Prof PH Fick and Elder N Ligthelm with their birthdays.
Rev Abel Modise with his 30th wedding anniversary and 30th year in the ministry.

7 January

Rev PW Kurpershoek, Mrs Sylvia Letsosa, wife of Prof RS Letsosa with their birthdays.

Elder JH van der Merwe with his 42nd wedding anniversary.
Mr Neels Jackson (of Die Beeld) with his 25th wedding anniversary.
Rev MP Fourie with his wife's birthday.

8 January

Elder MN Hermann with his birthday.

9 January

Elder C van der Merwe with his wife's birthday.
Rev HH Sehoole whose birthday is this weekend.
Elder T Buys with his wedding anniversary.

10 January

Elder S Oostruis, Rev AP Tredoux, Dr FP Kruger and Elder P Jooste with their birthdays.

12 January

Elder WJD Fouche with his 25th wedding anniversary.

13 January

Rev JH Grobler whose wife's birthday was on 12 January.

14 January

Dr GJ Meijer, Dr DF Coetzee, Rev HG Schutte and Elder W Smit with their birthdays.

15 January

Rev P Venter and Elder D Snyman with their birthdays.

2.2.4 Other congratulations

Prof GJC Jordaan, Dr JC Aucamp and JA du Preez with the baptism of their grandchildren.

Dr MJ du Plessis with the baptism of a great-grandchild.

Rev MJ Erasmus with the call to Bergsig/Andeion-combination.

2.3 *E-mail letters* (Artt 30, 114, 137, 172)

A message of Prof Piet Strauss, moderator of the Dutch Reformed Church, in which he prays of God's blessing for the Synod.

Congratulations and blessings for Synod from GK Reddersburg with reference to Ps 124:1 and 124:8.

Congratulations and blessings from dr J Visser to the Synod, the Moderamen and specifically the chairperson, dr CJ Smit.

A message of thanks from Elder Wouter and sr Rina Grové and family.

A message of dr JL Ras in which he congratulates the Moderamen with their election and wishes the meeting well with the proceedings.

3. CLOSING DEVOTIONS

- 3.1 Monday, 5 January 2009 (Art 27)
Elder DB Bakker leads the closing devotion by reading from Psalm 133. The meeting sings Psalm 133:1 and 2 and unites in prayer.
- 3.2 Tuesday, 6 January 2009 (Art 97)
Elder JJ Howell leads the closing devotion by reading from 2 Peter 1 from verse 16. The meeting sings Psalm 147:1, 2 and unites in prayer.
- 3.3 Wednesday, 7 January 2009 (Art 123)
Elder IJ Lessing leads the closing devotion by letting the meeting sing Scriptural Hymn 14-2 and leading in prayer.
- 3.4 Thursday, 8 January 2009 (Art 134)
Elder TM Buys leads the closing devotion by reading from Ephesians and leading the singing of Scriptural Hymn 2-2:3 and in prayer.
- 3.5 Friday, 9 January 2009 (Art 153)
Elder MC Erasmus leads the closing devotion by reading from Psalm 2, letting the meeting sing Psalm Ps 25:2, 5 and leading in prayer.
- 3.6 Saturday, 10 January 2009 (Art 168)
Elder PWB Kruger leads the closing devotion by reading passages from Hebrew 11 and 12, letting the meeting sing from Scriptural Hymn 15-1:1-4 and leading in prayer.
- 3.7 Monday, 12 January 2009 (Art 194)
Elder DL de Beer leads the closing devotion by reading from Psalm 147, letting the meeting sing from Psalm 147:1, 4, 5 and leading in prayer.
- 3.8 Tuesday, 13 January 2009 (Art 215)
Elder SJP du Plessis leads the closing devotion by letting the meeting sing from Psalm 25:2 and leading in prayer.
- 3.9 Wednesday, 14 January 2009 (Art 230)
Rev N Boy leads the closing devotion by leading in prayer.
- 3.10 Thursday, 15 January 2009 (Art 260)
Elder JJ van Niekerk leads the closing devotion by reading from Psalm 42, letting the meeting sing from Psalm 42:1, 5 and leading in prayer.
- 3.11 Monday, 29 June 2009 (Art 306)
Elder DE Niemand leads the closing devotion by letting the meeting sing Psalm 149:1, 2 and leading in prayer.
- 3.12 Tuesday, 30 June 2009 (Art 313)
Elder NJ van Rensburg leads the closing devotion by reading Psalm 147:1 and leading in prayer.

4. OPENING DEVOTIONS

- 4.1 Tuesday, 6 January 2009 (Art 28)
The Chairperson, dr CJ Smit, leads the opening devotion. The meeting sings *Jehova Morena* and Psalm 145:1, 2, 3, 11 and 12. Dr Smit reads from Genesis 35. The meeting sings Psalm 89:1, 6 and 7 and unites in prayer.
- 4.2 Wednesday, 7 January 2009 (Art 98)
Rev JC Erasmus leads the opening devotion by reading from John 16, letting the meeting sing from Psalm 149 verse 1 to 4 and leading in prayer.
- 4.3 Thursday, 8 January 2009 (Art 124)
Rev SA Cilliers leads the opening devotion by reading from Luke 9:18-36, letting the meeting sing Psalm 145:1, 2, 10, 11 and 12 and leading in prayer.

- 4.4 Friday, 9 January 2009 (Art 135)
Rev MA Modise leads the opening devotion by reading from Deuteronomy 31:1-8, letting the meeting sing from Psalm 18:1 and leading in prayer.
- 4.5 Saturday, 10 January 2009 (Art 154)
Rev RG Aucamp leads the opening devotion by reading from Genesis 36, letting the meeting sing from Psalm 90:1 and 9 and leading in prayer.
- 4.6 Monday, 12 January 2009 (Art 169)
Rev EJ Tiemensma leads the opening devotion by reading from Ephesians 3:14-21, letting the meeting sing from Psalm 33:6, 11 and leading in prayer.
- 4.7 Tuesday, 13 January 2009 (Art 195)
Dr SJ van der Walt leads the opening devotion by reading passages from Isaiah 40, 41, 42, 43, 46 en 49, letting the meeting sing Psalm 130:1, 3 and 4 and leading in prayer.
- 4.8 Wednesday, 14 January 2009 (Art 216)
Rev SD Snyman leads the opening devotion by reading Psalm 124, letting the meeting sing Psalm 31:1, 2, 5 and leading in prayer.
- 4.9 Thursday, 15 January 2009 (Art 231)
Dr JM van Tonder leads the opening devotion by reading a few verses from Psalm 139, letting the meeting sing Psalm 16:1, 3 and leading in prayer.
- 4.10 Friday, 16 January 2009 (Art 261)
Rev NN Ligege leads the opening devotion by reading from Acts 20:17, letting the meeting sing from Psalm 42:1, 3 and leading in prayer.
- 4.11 Tuesday, 30 June 2009 (Art 307)
Rev LH van Schaik leads the opening devotion by reading from Hebrews 13:20-21, letting the meeting sing from Psalm 25:2, 6 and Psalm 86:1, 6 and leading in prayer.
- 4.12 Wednesday, 1 July 2009 (Art 314)
Rev C Aucamp leads the opening devotion by reading Acts 15, letting the meeting sing from the Scriptural Hymn 15:1-4 and leading in prayer.

5. DAILY PRESENCE

- 5.1 Monday, 5 January 2009 (Artt 9, 14, 17, 23)
Rev NN Ligege, dr AJ Krüger and VE d'Assonville, di SJMS Smit, BCG Fourie and Elders D de Kock, JHJ Hoffmann (sec) and H van der Wateren join the meeting and show their agreement with the Public Declaration by rising. They obtain full right to session.
- 5.2 Tuesday, 6 January 2009 (Art 44)
Di HH Schoole, B Companie, JA Schutte, HLJ Momberg (sec), HL Stavast, dr DM Nkulu JV Fatuse, Elders IJ Malunga, DJP Erasmus, HAH de Klerk and JH van der Merwe join the meeting and show their agreement with the Public Declaration by rising. They obtain full right to session.
Rev AB van der Walt excuses himself of a part of the day.
- 5.3 Wednesday, 7 January 2009 (Art 99)
Elder K Ndou will depart for Pretoria after lunch for urgent matters and will join the meeting again the next day. Rev J Temba will most probably not join the meeting again and therefore Rev AH Stavast is welcomed as delegate in his place. Rev AH Stavast shows his agreement with the Open Declaration by standing up. He obtains full right to session.
- 5.4 Thursday, 8 January 2009 (Art 125)
Elder G Jansen van Vuuren is excused for a funeral.
- 5.5 Friday, 9 January 2009 (Artt 136, 146)
The following delegates will be absent during the course of the day: Elders CJ Kruger, C van Wyk, di JP Sithole, MA Sekhaulelo, HH Schoole, MS Mbatha, HW Schutte and dr ALA Buys.

- 5.6 Saturday, 10 January 2009 (Art 157)
The following delegates are absent with apology: Revs MA Modise, HH Sehoole, JG Noëth, W Vogel, JA Schutte, HC van Rooy, G Opperman, D van't Zandt, SA Cilliers, RLA Buys, drs WC Opperman, W Vergeer, Eldere P Moshia, JW du Plessis, H van der Wateren, W Smit, FJWF Slabbert, JG van der Well, NJ van Rensburg, NT Greyling and S de Kock.
- 5.7 Monday, 12 January 2009 (Art 171)
Revs A Kruger, N Boy and Elder G van der Walt will join the meeting later. Elders PH Lemmer and F vd B Postma will not attend Synod further due to illness. Rev J Temba is present in the meeting once more. Elders JH Kruger and DB van der Merwe are present as delegates. They show their agreement with the Open Declaration by standing up. They receive full rights to session. Absent due to illness: Elder IJA van Wyk and Rev CJ van Heyningen.
- 5.8 Tuesday, 13 January 2009 (Artt 196, 205)
Absent with apology: Elder F du Toit. Absent for a period: Rev DF Coetzee. Rev GC Verhoef (sec) takes the place of Rev J van Heyningen who has become ill. Rev Verhoef shows his agreement with the Open Declaration by standing up and receives full right to session. Rev JH Venter is excused since he has to depart for Bloemfontein urgently. Rev W Vogel will join the meeting later during the morning. Rev CJ Nagel requests to return home. In his place Rev WM Snyman is welcomed. Rev Snyman shows his agreement with the Open Declaration by standing up and he receives full right to session. Elder PA van Emmenis is sick and departed for home.
- 5.9 Wednesday, 14 January 2009 (Artt 217)
Dr AL Rheeder, revs PW Kurpershoek and MP Fourie will be absent from the meeting for some time. Rev DPJ Erasmus has gone home for urgent matters.
- 5.10 Thursday, 15 January 2009 (Art 232)
Elder Gert van der Walt is back in the Synod.
- 5.11 Friday, 16 January 2009 (Art 262)
Elder DA Steenkamp, revs JB du Plessis and D Pansegrouw have already departed. Revs WM Snyman, DP Prinsloo, SJMS Smit, dr ALA Buys, Elders L van den Brink and PJ Jansen will depart later during the morning.
- 5.12 Monday, 29 June 2009 (Artt 301, 304)
Rev PM Modise, Elder JH Schutte, dr DM Nkulu, revs C Aucamp and DPJ Erasmus join the meeting, show their agreement with the Open Declaration by standing up and receive full rights to session.
- 5.13 Tuesday, 30 June 2009 (Artt 308, 311)
Elder HP Erasmus is excused for the day. Revs M van Helden and HH Sehoole join the meeting, show their agreement with the Open Declaration by standing up and receive full rights to session.
The following brothers are absent with apology: dr E Peels, rev J Rogers, Rev M van Leeuwen and prof BJ de Klerk.
- 5.14 Wednesday, 1 July 2009 (Artt 315, 330, 336)
The following delegates are absent with apology: Elders F van Wyk, F van Vuuren, B van der Merwe, NJ van Rensburg, F Greyling, M Erasmus, revs JA Schutte, FM Dreyer, P Fanoy and later in the day dr D Lartz. Elder JH van der Merwe and Rev MJ Erasmus join the meeting, show their agreement with the Open Declaration by standing up and receive full rights to session.

6. VISITORS

The following visitors are welcomed: Christelle Raubenheimer and Sam Meiring of SABC News. They will make recordings for the news (Art 51).

Brs H and P Schutte (Art 101).

Revs R Makungo, GNV Botha, dr PWA Mulder as well as a few editorial members of *Kruispad* (Art 108).

Rev J Rogers, prof E Peels, dr R Sikkema and A van den Bout (Art 128).

Rev Jeff van Schie of Australia (Art 133).

Rev S le Cornu and student S Pretorius (Art 136).

Revs A Reitsema and JPB van der Walt [emeritus] (Art 146).

Rev KM Kabongo of the Congo and hon WA MacRae of the Presbyterian Church of Western Australia (Art 155).

Dr L Anthony Autra, Rev B Adema, who is accompanied by his father, sr L Cloete, wife of Rev JJ Cloete, the wives of prof E Peels, rev JM van Leeuwen, P Nel, DJ de Kock and JH Jordaan (Art 170).

Prof T van der Walt [emeritus] (Art 175).

Prof L Floor (emeritus), revs Hannes Breytenbach of the VGK, ED Pelele, WM Snyman and br Andries Opperman, son of Rev G Opperman, drs LA Curto, A Wilson, revs B Adama and D McNiel (Art 185).

Rev PC Buys [emeritus], theological student Karel Steyn and br Joop Stoker (Art 196).

Rev S Hibbert, drr PJ Vermeulen, CN van der Merwe and his wife (Art 205).

Rev L Geel of the *Hervormde Kerk* (Art 221).

Dr D van Wyk (Hervormde Kerk), Rev D Nel (APK) and prof P Strauss (NGK) (Art 225).

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

7.1 The Minutes are presented from art 1 to 119 (Art 159).

7.2 The Minutes are presented from art 120 to 255 (Art 291).

7.3 The Minutes are presented from art 1 to 294 (Art 317).