

16. Retirement Provision

16.1 REPORT DEPUTIES RETIREMENT PROVISION: ACCORDING TO CHURCH ORDER, ARTICLES 11, 13 AND 20 (Artt 61, 64, 143)

- A. Rev EJ Tiemensma delivers the Report.
- B. The Report will be concluded during the Synode session.
- C. Rev PA Coetzee delivers the Supplementary Report.
- D. **Decision:** The Supplementary Report is referred to the Commission Retirement Provision.
- E. Rev JC Aucamp reports on behalf of the Commission Retirement Provision.

(Minutes of the acts of the Deputies are added as unpublished Appendixes.)

This division is a report on the general work by the Deputies according to the assignment by the Synod.

F. REPORT

1. Issues for notification by the Synod

1.1 *Assignment*

To handle general issues surrounding CO, art 11, 13 and 20.

Decision: Noted.

1.2 *Meetings*

1.2.1 The Deputies Retirement Provision (chosen members and named Trustees) met at least three times a year to complete tasks regarding PPF (*Ministers Pension Fund*), EVT (*Retirement Provision Trust*) and medical affairs and to execute assignments. Minutes of the acts of the Deputies are added as unpublished Appendixes.

1.2.2 Consultants of amongst others ABSA, SANLAM, Advantage and Liberty Medical Scheme met with the Deputies yearly for submissions.

Decision: Points 1.2.1 to 1.2.2 noted.

1.3 *Internal matters*

1.3.1 At the start of the activities by the Deputies and Trustees for the current term a training opportunity regarding duties and responsibilities of Trustees and related issues was held.

1.3.2 Except for the division of work into Commissions to continuously handle issues regarding PPF, EVT and Medical affairs, the following Committees were increase the level of activity: Audit committee, Cooperative committee (to stay abreast of the Pension Act, regulations, etc.) and Executive Committee (to monitor the activities of the Trustees and ensure smooth operation of the same).

1.3.3 During the meetings continuous attention was given to the execution of Synod assignments by using a standard procedure list.

1.3.4 A questionnaire for self-evaluation of Trustees was used to test the activities of the Trustees twice a year and to refine it according to it to keep the standard high.

Decision: Points 1.3.1 to 1.3.4 noted.

1.4 *Other activities*

1.4.1 Classes and Church Councils were visited from time to time and enquiries were answered.

1.4.2 The Executive Committee completed letters (correspondence) needed and assigned to them.

1.4.3 It was organised that members of the Deputies get the opportunity to speak with the students on issues regarding PPF and the Medical Fund.

- 1.4.4 Advantage did presentations on the current state of investments. The core of this presentation is in the Report of the Chair and will be part of the Supplementary Agenda.
- 1.4.5 The Trustees include all issues that should be attended to in the next term in the standard procedure list. This helps with the continuation of activities in the next term.
- 1.4.6 The names of knowledgeable people to be appointed by the Synod for the next term were submitted to the Administrative Bureau.
- 1.4.7 The Deputies handled the care of emeriti from the old Midlands Synod. This report will be part of the Supplementary Agenda.

Decision: Points 1.4.1 to 1.4.7 noted.

2. Issues for decision by the Synod

2.1 Word of thanks

- 2.1.1 The personnel of the Administrative Bureau involved in the activities of the Deputies Retirement Provision are thanked for their work.
- 2.1.2 The Deputies Retirement Provision thanks the churches for the trust placed in them over the last three years.

Decision: Approved.

G. SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

1. Background

There are emeriti, widows and possible orphans from previous Synod Midlands who are not properly cared for. In the light of CO, artt 13 and 20 the Deputies should bring this matter to the attention of Synod. Since there is no assignment from previous Synods that addresses this issue, we request Synod 2009 to assign to us to accept this matter as Deputies Emeritus Care as part of our assignment.

Decision: Note taken of background. The request is approved.

2. Establishment of an Aid Fund

The Deputies already considered the establishment of a fund that will aid emeriti and their dependents, but which will in future also aid emeriti whose pension from the GKSA Pension Fund is too little for honourable existence. This aid is especially for emeriti and their dependents from the previous Synod Midlands. There is currently an amount of just more than R16 000.00 in the treasury of previous Synod Midlands.

Recommendation: That an aid fund is established and that the available funds from the treasury of the churches are applied to this.

Decision: Approved as amended.

3. Name of the Fund

Thuso is both Sotho and Tswana for "assistance".

Recommendation: That the name of the fund will be Thuso for Emeriti (TFE).

Decision: Approved.

4. Further assignment to the Deputies

We request Synod 2009 to give Deputies the following assignments:

- 4.1 Determine the number of ministers and their dependents and their needs and compile a list of everyone who need help from the fund.

Decision: Approved as amended.

- 4.2 Build the fund with donations and/or other ways of fund raising.

Decision: Approved as amended.

- 4.3 A part (no more than 50%) of the revenue of the Fund may be used for pay-outs. Estimated contributions can, as approved by the Synod, be asked to build the fund.

Decision: Approved as amended.

- 4.4 Compile Stipulations for the Thuso for Emeriti. (TFE).

Decision: Approved.

4.5 Deputies receive a mandate to act in urgent cases to the best judgement of the Deputies, with a report to the following Synod.

Motivation: Although it is a very wide mandate and not a well-described assignment (CO, art 49), the Deputies can not predict now which challenges will present themselves with the creation of the Fund.

Decide: Approved.

4.6 Two brothers from the previous Synod Midlands should be appointed to serve on the Deputies Emeriti Care.

Decision: Approved.