

## 17. Financial matters

### 17.1 REPORT DEPUTIES OF ADVICE REGARDING PROMISES FROM THE INTEREST OF THE SUSTENTATION FUND (Artt 70, 71, 269)

- A. Rev MP Fourie delivers the Report.
- B. **Decision:** The Report is referred to the Commission for Finances.
- C. Rev PJ Nel reports on behalf of the Commission for Finances.

#### D. REPORT

##### 1. Assignment

The assignment is documented in Acta of 2006:283.

**Decision: Noted.**

##### 2. Issues for notification by the Synod

2.1 For the standing of the capital and interest funds of the Sustentation fund we refer the Synod to the statements of the Administrative Bureau.

##### 2.2 Applications

2.2.1 Despite repeated requests and explanatory notes, the applications of many congregations were not complete and it did not meet the requirements of the Regulations. There were applications from congregations that were complete and neat with all the necessary information and explanations. Some Classes did a thorough job, while others neglected their responsibility to properly motivate the application.

2.2.2 Applications were handled and judged according to the Regulations, as in the past. Churches that completed an application for sustentation were asked for a ministry strategy so that the way in which the church adheres to its calling is clear. Also compare this with the procedures in the Regulations (Acta of 2006:277-282).

2.2.3 The applications of churches to the Sustentation Fund for 2007 were R4 465 264. The Deputies endorsed an amount of R3 035 617 of which the Sustentation Fund contributed R1 660 200. Regional Synods and Classes contributed the rest.

2.2.4 The applications of the churches to the Sustentation Fund for 2008 were R3 874 157. The Deputies endorsed an amount of R3 314 433 of which the Sustentation Fund contributed R1 800 000. Particular Synods and Classes contributed the rest.

2.2.5 An additional report will be submitted by the Deputies regarding the applications and allocations for 2009.

**Decision: Points 2.1 to 2.2.5 noted.**

##### 3. Issues to be decided by the Synod

##### 3.1 Allocations

Eastern Regional Synod for 2007 and 2008 and Regional Synod Pretoria for 2008 dealt with the sustentation applications resorting under them themselves and we are very grateful for this.

Regional Synods	2007	2008
Bosveld	17 000	75 000
Pretoria	37 000	0
North West	147 000	47 000
Eastern	0	0
FS and Natal	537 000	602 000

Southern	765 500	925 000
Randvaal	156 000	151 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 660 200</b>	<b>1 800 000</b>

### 3.2 Recommendation

The Synod notes the allocations that were made and endorses the actions of the Deputies.

**Decision: Approved.**

### 3.3 *Fundraising*

3.3.1 A letter was directed to all churches asking them for contributions.

3.3.2 The Synod is thankful for the great contributions of churches and members. See the financial states for the amounts that were contributed.

3.3.3 The collections in churches did not come close to the guideline of R10.00 per member per year.

### 3.3.4 Recommendations

3.3.4.1 That the Synod with gratitude acknowledges the ample contributions of churches and members.

3.3.4.2 That the Synod gives the assignment to the Deputies to continue with fund-raising for the Sustentation Fund by asking churches and/or instances and/or persons for voluntary contributions.

3.3.4.3 That the Synod endorses 5 collections per year for the Sustentation fund with R10.00 per member per year as a guideline.

3.3.4.4 That the Synod requests that Classes encourage churches to supervise (amongst other by visitation) collection of the approved collections.

**Decision: Approved.**

## 4. **Assignments**

4.1 The Synod again name Deputies according to the Regulations to adhere to the following assignment:

4.1.1 To in accordance with the Regulations of the Sustentation Fund grant awards from the interest on the funds.

4.1.2 To increase the Sustentation Fund.

4.1.3 That it is reported annually to Classes, Regional Synods and the National Synod regarding the manner in which sustentation is allocated.

**Decision: Approved.**

## E. **SUPPLEMENTERARY REPORT**

### 1. **Assignment**

The assignment is in the Acta of 2006:283.

**Decision: Noted.**

### 2. **Matters for notice by Synod**

2.1 For the status of the Sustentation Fund's capital and interest fund, see the financial reports of the Administrative Buro.

#### 2.2 *Applications*

2.2.1 Applications were dealt with and evaluated in the same manner as in the past according to the Regulations. Churches who request sustentation are asked for a ministry plan so that the way in which the church wants to fulfil her calling is clear. Most churches who applied for sustentation in 2009 presented a ministry plan. The churches' ministry plans were studied in depth and this gives a good overview of the method of the churches.

2.2.2 The applications by churches to the Sustentation Fund for 2009 handled by the Deputies amounted to R4 858 733. The Deputies approved an amount of R3 730 084

of which the Deputies of Particular Synods<sup>a</sup> and Classes indicated that they could contribute R1 314 760. After awarding all the available funds in the Sustentation Fund, a shortfall of R396 785 remains. This means that churches can only receive 83% of their application. The Deputies call on the General Synod to appeal to churches to contribute generously through their collections so that the shortage of R396 785 can be granted to churches.

**Decision: Points 2.1 to 2.2.2 noted.**

### 3. Matters for decision by Synod

#### 3.1 Grants

Granted to Regional Synod	Total amount of applications	Amount from own funds	Grant from Sustentation Fund
Bushveld	150 696	114 551	36 145
Pretoria	108 000	108 000	0
North-West	1 004 142	537 060	467 082
Eastern	116 325	116 325	0
Freestate and KwaZulu-Natal	787 059	98 825	688 234
Southern	1 141 571	164 999	976 572
Randvaal	422 291	175 000	247 291
<b>Totaal</b>	<b>3 730 084</b>	<b>1 314 760</b>	<b>2 715 324</b>

Of the granted amount, there is only funds for R2 000 000, which means that there is a shortfall of R715 324. However, if the shortfall is met by collections and contributions, the total amount will be granted.

#### 3.1.1 Recommendation

Synod takes note of the grants made and approves the actions of the Deputies.

**Decision: Approved.**

#### 3.2 Fund raising

3.2.1 A circular was sent to all churches asking for contributions.

3.2.2 Synod should with gratitude take note of the wonderful contributions of churches and members. See the financial reports for the amounts contributed.

3.2.3 Not all churches gathered collections for the past year. As a result the income from collections were not close to the guideline of R10-00 per confessing member.

#### 3.2.4 Recommendations

3.2.4.1 Synod takes note with gratitude of the wonderful contributions from churches and members.

3.2.4.2 Synod assigns to the Deputies to be named to continue with fund raising for the Sustentation Fund by asking donations from churches and/or institutions and/or persons.

3.2.4.3 Synod approves 5 collections per year for the Sustentation fund with a guideline of R10-00 per member per year. Churches are asked to contribute generously to meet the shortfall of R715 324.

3.2.4.4 Synod requests Classes to encourage churches to guard (through visitation) that the churches take up collections and transfer it to the Administrative Buro.

**Decision: Points 3.2.1 to 3.2.4.4 approved.**

<sup>a</sup> During the meeting of 3-4 November 2008 Deputies were present from these Particular Synods. By the end of November they formally assembled as Regional Synod in a new composition.