

18.3 REPORT DEPUTIES YOUTH CARE (Artt 114, 244)

- A. Rev LJ Buys delivers the Report, and br PJ Grobler presents the Kruispad group to Synod assisted by a visual aid presentation.
- B. **Decision:** The Report is referred to Commission Youth and Education.
- C. **Decision:** Matters with financial implications are referred to the Commission for Finance.
- D. Points 5.5 and 5.6 of dr AJ Krüger's Report are referred to the Commission for the appointment of Deputies.
- E. The Chairman directs a word of special thanks to dr AJ Krüger for his initiative with *Kruispad*, to rev LJ Buys as representative of the Deputies and br PJ Grobler as first Editor. Sr Maureen van Helden is wished all the best with her editorship. The blessing of Ps 134:4 is sung to the brothers and sister.
- F. Rev AP Tredoux reports on behalf of the Commission for Youth and Education.
- G. Rev J van Schaik reports on behalf of the Commission for Finance.

H. REPORT

1. Assignment

The Synod gave the following assignments to the Deputies of Youth Care (Acta 2006:377-378).

Decision: Noted.

2. Execution of assignments

2.1 *Co-operation with Deputies for Catechism and Deputies for Christian Education (Acta 2006:377, 2.1)*

- 2.1.1 A structure in which co-operation can occur must be created.
- 2.1.2 Preparatory material and literature should be made available to Church Councils by mutual publications.
- 2.1.3 Rev AL Pelsler attended various joint meetings of the Deputies Youth Care, Catechism and CE in which levels of commonality were discussed.

2.2 *Preparation material and program hints for youth work (Acta 2006:377, 2.2)*

- 2.2.1 The Youth Deputies should perform a thorough stocktaking of all available literature and make it accessible to Church Councils.
Rev PJ van Blerk collected the existing literature over the last three years and it will be handed to the *Kruispad* group, after the approval by the Synod, so that it can be adapted after which a decision can be made whether it is possible to republish.
- 2.2.2 The literature of the last four train tours will be processed into preparatory material and program hints and made available to Church councils.
The literature was gathered and it will be handed to the *Kruispad* group after the approval by the Synod so that it can be adapted after which a decision can be made whether it is possible to republish.

2.3 *Assistance to other GKSA Synods in Youth Care (Acta 2006:377, 2.3)*

- 2.3.1 The deputies should take the initiative in connecting with the Deputies/Youth leaders of the other GKSA Synods.

Letters have been sent out and no assistance was asked. The Deputies helped a member of the other Synods to renew contact with camp attendees.

2.4 *The set up of a central Youth Office (Acta 2006:377, 2.4)*

- 2.4.1 The Deputies must set up a central Youth Office to coordinate effective use of the Internet and other means of communication.

The activities of the intended central youth office will form part of one leg of the *Kruispad* group. This is not an administrative office, but rather a workshop for the development of aids for the current and next generation. The central youth office is currently known as the *Kruispad* youth office with the following vision:

To assist local congregations with youth ministry by making aids for the current and next generation available, with the focus on the identification, coordination,

mobilisation and integration of youth ministries. With the development of the *Kruispad* youth office tasks like 2.1, 2.2, 2.4.2, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 can possibly be performed better.

2.4.2 The creation of our own GKSA youth web page will be handed to the youth office. www.kruispad.net and the *Kruispad* magazine were introduced on 1 September 2007 at Barnyard in Menlyn. The web page has 5 interactive forums as well as the archive of the previous editions of *Kruispad*. A lot of changes are still implemented into the web page to suit the needs of the GKSA youth and youth workers. Dirk Kruger is the current web master and the web page also functions as part of *Kruispad* Publications.

2.4.3 The youth office must examine the feasibility of the distribution of publications of the Youth and Catechism Deputies.

Close cooperation with the Deputies: Our Covenant Youth, made it possible for the *Kruispad* publication to form part of the Youth Office in order to reach the target group in the most effective way.

One of the strongest aspects of the *Kruispad* group is *Kruispad* publications. This includes the magazine and web page. An attempt will also be made to provide other publications that will also be to the advantage of the youth of the total denomination.

Kruispad magazine:

The Synod can take note of the following information regarding the magazine:

- (a) The editing team of the magazine comprises out of about 15 members of which 3 are full-time personnel, with various voluntary and part-time personnel.
- (b) *Kruispad* is currently issued every second month, within and outside the GKSA.
- (c) About 6 000 copies are distributed.
- (d) At the time of writing of this report 8 editions would have been published, with the last two consisting out of 40 pages of reformed reading material.
- (e) The magazine is registered internationally (ISSN number: 9 771 998 063 001) and is ready to be distributed to shops.
- (f) The dream is to send a certain amount of magazines to Reformed congregations for free and to distribute the rest of the copies to subscribers. To achieve this, the help of the denomination is needed.
- (g) There is a plan to examine the possibility of another multi-lingual edition.
- (h) Zeroplus printers do the printing and we thank them for excellent work. They received a bronze award for the printing of the *Kruispad* magazine from the Northern Chamber of the South African Federation of Printing Industries on 16 April 2008.

Decision: Points 2.1.1 to 2.4.3 noted.

The Synod notes the following report by dr AJ Kruger:

1. Assignment from the Synod 1985/2006

1.1 The Deputies for Church Journals requested at the 2006 Synod that the Synod should provide guidance in the handling of *Bondsjeug*. This was done through appointing dr AJ Krüger as deputy for the *Bondsjeug*.

1.2 No specific assignment was given, and looking at Synod decisions, it can be seen that the Synod 1985 gave the assignment that the *Bondsjeug* should be published as independent magazine after it featured as an appendix to the *Kerkblad* since 1981 (Acta, 1985:77).

1.3 The reading target of *Bondsjeug* is high school children, students and working young people (1985:77).

1.4 The assignment to the deputy is therefore based on the decision of the Synod 1985.

Decision: Points 1.1 to 1.4 noted.

2. Issues to be noted by the Synod

2.1 Course of events

- 2.1.1 After the 2006 Synod Rev (then Theological Student) Paul Grobler did his practical in Youth Work under the new editor of *Bondsjeug* through the providence of the Lord.
- 2.1.2 Discussions concerning the properties and requirements of a youth magazine that will purposefully speak to the current target market were conducted. Rev Grobler delivered various inputs and showed great enthusiasm in this regard. He was then (Feb 2006) co-opted as a member of the deputy group.
- 2.1.3 Rev Grobler took various initiatives, and gathered a team of knowledgeable young people to restart the publication of the magazine. These young people are (mostly) Reformed professional graduates and students of the NWU and TSP.
- 2.1.4 The decision was made to call the magazine *Kruispad*. The title indicate the two characteristics thereof:
 - 2.1.4.1 The magazine wants to serve young people in the light of the cross of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
 - 2.1.4.2 The young people in the target group are on various crossroads in life (e.g. career choices, life partners, church involvement, etc.). The magazine wants to lead young people in making these decisions in the light of the cross.
- 2.1.5 Early in 2007 an introductory magazine (named *Padkaart*) was sent to the congregations in the GKSA with the first edition in February 2007. The first editions were sent to congregations for free, with an encouragement to readers and Church Councils to subscribe to the magazine. Currently free examples are still sent to congregations and the rest to subscribers.
- 2.1.6 The magazine has since appeared regularly (every second month).

2.2 Important points of departure

- 2.2.1 *Kruispad* is a contemporary magazine with a Reformed contents focused on current issues, directed towards growing believers between 17 and 23 years to provide them with equipment to make informed choices leading to growth in faith.
 - 2.2.2 This vision is realised by setting out an interactive medium discussing relevant themes and motivating young believers to walk the way of the cross of Christ and become adults in faith, with, as result, the building of the church. All the praise given to God for this.
- 2.3 The magazine also has a web site (www.kruispad.net) with various columns and the possibility to communicate with the editorial team.

Decision: Points 2.1 to 2.3 noted.

3. Future handling of *Kruispad*

- 3.1 It was evident, during the early re-edition of the *Bondsjeug/Kruispad*, that there is much overlapping between assignments for *Kruispad* and the Deputies Youth Care (e.g. both had the assignment to create a magazine and a web page).
- 3.2 Various meetings were held with the Deputies Youth Care, and it was decided to coordinate them. This gave rise to the decision that it should be recommended to the Synod that *Kruispad* should form part of the assignments for the Deputies Youth Care in future.
- 3.3 A more extensive report of *Kruispad* will be given at the 2009 Synod resorting under the report of the Deputies Youth Care.

Decision: Points 3.1 to 3.3 noted.

4. Finances

- 4.1 No budget for *Bondsjeug/Kruispad* was provide for at Synod 2006.
- 4.2 The *Vroueblad* kindly gave us R25 000 in advance to get started.
- 4.3 We are of the opinion that a periodical like *Kruispad* cannot be financially independent. The future finances of *Kruispad* are reported and budgeted for by the Deputies Youth Care.

4.4 With the merging of the work of *Kruispad* and the Deputies Youth Care specific congregations were approached to cooperate as donors towards the global ministries of the youth in the GKSA. The financing of *Kruispad* thus far existed out of these donations and subscription fees.

Decision: Points 4.1 to 4.4 noted.

5. Issues that the Synod has to decide on

5.1 The Synod endorses the developments within the magazine, including the transfer of responsibility for the magazine to the Deputies Youth Care.

Decision: Noted.

5.2 The Synod gives thank to the Lord for a magazine serving the youth of the GKSA and wider than the GKSA that can be read and marketed.

5.3 The Synod thanks and congratulates Rev PJ Grobler with the founding of the magazine.

5.4 The Synod thanks all the co-workers that made the publication possible. A special word of thanks to Sr Adri Breed for being the first editor: Content of the magazine.

Decision: Approved.

5.5 The Synod endorses the fact that the assignment regarding *Bondsjeug/Kruispad* is now transferred to the Deputies Youth Care. The task of the undersigned is thus completed.

Decision: Noted.

5.6 The Synod appoints br Paul Grobler as Deputy for Youth Care with the assignment: *Kruispad*. The assignment of the undersigned is thus completed.

Decision: Refer to Commission appointing of Deputies.

5.7 The Synod endorses the budget for *Kruispad* as part of Deputies Youth Care.

Decision: Refer to Financial Commission.

[End of dr AJ Krüger's Report]

2.4.4 The examination of the desirability and viability of a "service year action" for the GKSA youth.

The desirability and viability of a "service year action" for the youth of the GKSA was examined and will commence on DV. Feb. 2009 under the name: *Kruispad* year of giving. The focus of the year of giving is to give a year of your life for work in the kingdom and to be equipped to grow in faith. In the first year there will be approximately 6-8 young people that are from the editorial team of *Kruispad* magazine. Our project developer, in cooperation with various knowledgeable people, compiles the curriculum. There is the possibility that the young people will all stay in Pretoria at a plot that was given for this use by the Reformed Churches Rietvallei and Waterkloofrand. There are also negotiations with the ATKV to provide writing courses. With the writing of this report the functioning of the year of giving was still in the planning phase.

2.5 *Presentation of youth gatherings countrywide (including Train tour) with the means of helping churches with youth care (Acta 2006:378, 2.5)*

2.5.1 The presentation of a yearly countrywide action like the train tour by the Youth Deputies in cooperation with the named organising committee.

The presentation of joint camps, tours and actions forms part of the planning of the central youth office that already started.

The yearly train tour happened in another format in 2006 while certain new external circumstances in 2007 seriously influenced the tour. For the sake of clarity the full report of Rev. HJP de Beer is presented to the Synod.

Decision: Points 2.4.4 to 2.5.1 noted.

I. REPORT GKSA YOUTH TOURS

1. Assignment

The presentation of a yearly countrywide action like the train tour by the Youth Deputies in cooperation with the named organising committee (Acta 2006:378, art 2.51).

Decision: Noted.

2. Method

The organising committee of 2005 was assigned to organise the tours in 2006, 2007 and 2008 following the assignment of the Synod 2006.

Decision: Noted.

3. Youth Tour 2006

Youth train 2006 should have left for the Eastern Cape on the 29th of June 2006. The planning by the committee concerning this excursion was done in time and full detail to be followed through.

The following complication happened unexpectedly:

- 3.1 **Tuesday 30 May** the following e-mail was received from Spoornet without any warning:
“Due to high level of traffic and the shortage of locomotives, this train is not approved to run”. This message was received after the train has been booked in August 2005 and a quotation for the cost has been received and accepted from Spoornet, and the final arrival and departure times were handed in with them.
- 3.2 Protests were handed in with Spoornet immediately with the request to reconsider the cancellation of the youth train 2006 (other train tour operators took Spoornet to the High Court at a cost of R40 000 without any success).
- 3.3 **Thursday 1 June** at 15:30 a telephonic confirmation of one of Spoornet's high officials was received that, regardless of the protests for reconsideration for the youth train 2006 that have been handed in, the train will still not be allowed to depart because of Spoornet's logistic problems (locomotives and drivers).
- 3.4 **Thursday evening 1 June** the organising committee met to discuss the issue and decided that, because Youth Tour 2006 does not have rails it will get wheels.

The following arguments were used:

With the unhappy events of Spoornet giving the committee notice less than a month from departure that they do not have the logistic ability to let the train depart, it raised the following question: What is this tour actually supposed to be?

- (a) Is this a train tour that has to be replaced by a bus tour?
- (b) Is the motive of the committee responsible for this tour and also the broader denomination (measured by the reaction in application), the love for trains and the tour in it?

In answering these questions the history of this action had to be examined, or at least of the last two years, during which the current committee arranged the tour. As point of departure the committee emphasised the purpose at various opportunities (introductions, reports, articles) as follows:

- (a) To equip the tour attendants with the Gospel to make a difference in their own and other people's lives.
- (b) To expose tour attendants to church unity to try to end the “small church syndrome” amongst young people.
- (c) To send tour attendants back with enthusiasm regarding the Church and Kingdom to their various congregations and to the GKSA.
- (d) To expose tour attendants to the wonder of God's creation.

From this it was clear that it was not marketing of train tours, bus tours, boat tours or whatever in the first place, but the provision of equipment opportunities for the youth of the Reformed Churches of South Africa. Therefore the committee had no other choice but to continue with the tour, because in reality the means of transport and the area that is visited, is not the essence of these tours. Therefore the “obstacle course” of Spoornet did not alter the purpose of Youth Tour 2006.

The committee thus decided the following:

- (a) Eight semi-luxury busses will be reserved for the tour.
- (b) Departure on 29 June 2006 from Pretoria and Potchefstroom.
- (c) The tour will still end on 8 July 2006.
- (d) Destination – Natal (Drakensberg and South Coast).

Through the grace of God this tour happened in 2006 and was received well by the tour attendants (376 of them). No other noteworthy problems were experienced.

Decision: Noted.

4. Youth Tour 2007

For Youth Tour 2007 there were negotiations with Spoornet to make a train part of the tour once more (even if it is only on the way from Pretoria to Port Shepstone and back), the negotiations were successful since a complete train scheduled daily was reserved. Excellent facilities for housing and relaxation in Port Shepstone was discussed further, negotiations with other instances provided an exiting adventure program and particular spiritual equipment aimed at the high school youth was planned.

The tour was also introduced at various opportunities within the denomination via e-mails, faxes to ministers and church councils with the request to provide the youth with the information and encourage them and enable them to go on the tour. An introduction to the tour was also given in *Die Kerkblad* and *Kruispad*. The committee made a last attempt in April 2007 by contacting all ministers and church councils that can be reached by e-mail or fax, to urgently assist the committee in the recruitment of more applicants for the tour because it was still not a finality that the tour will continue.

On the evening of 1 May the committee had to take a final decision regarding the Youth Tour 2007. The decision could not be postponed because the deposits for the train, housing, transport and adventure program could not be held back any longer. The reality was that by 1 May 2007 (58 days before departure) only 90 applications for the Youth Tour 2007 had been received (less than half of the needed amount) which made it financially impossible to continue with the tour. Therefore the tour for 2007 was cancelled.

Decision: Noted.

5. Youth Tour 2008

5.1 Actions from 23 May 2007 to 29 October 2007

During a meeting the committee came to the conclusion that the skills of the specific committee was in the organising of train tours and that train tours still meet the need of the youth in the GKSA. The decision was made to make a last attempt to organise such a tour in 2008.

The following actions were executed:

- (a) Rovos Rail, a private train service was approached for the possibility of obtaining a train. Unsuccessful – train too expensive, luxurious and small (70 persons).
- (b) Shosholaza Meyl, the passenger service of Spoornet was approached for the possibility of obtaining a train. Unsuccessful – do not perform reservations for private trains any longer.
- (c) Namibia Rail, the train service of Namibia was contacted for the possibility of obtaining a train. They have locomotives but no wagons. Their wagons are hired to a private tour operator in the RSA and can take only 70 persons. Unsuccessful.
- (d) In the end a letter with the necessary motivation was sent to Mrs M Ramos, Chief Executive of Transnet, on 4 September 2007 requesting the provision of a train for the GKSA for a Youth Tour in June/July 2008. Mrs Ramos' office referred this letter to Mr Louis van Niekerk, the Chief Operating Officer of Transnet.

- (e) The issue was followed up with Louis van Niekerk's office, with the explanation that enquiries were made with Spoornet as to why a train cannot be made available. In a personal discussion with him, he explained that the chances to get a train are very slim. The reason for this is, that because all passenger services of Transnet/Spoornet was given to the state to operate, and the losses that occur currently, is paid with tax money. The people of the state will not negotiate with the GKSA before April 2008, because only then will they be the owners of amongst others Metro Train Services and the Shosholoz Meyl. They will also not make trains available that can be subsidised with tax money.

Therefore the committee had to rethink the format of such a tour.

Decision: Noted.

5.2 Adventure Tour with Overlanders

The committee decided to examine the possibility of a tour that would contain a unique element and would be a true substitute for the train that were used in the previous tours.

Contact was then made with a professional touring enterprise that does tours in Africa. A negotiation was started for a Tour with Overlanders for 122 young people from 23 June to 1 July 2008 through Zimbabwe to the Victoria falls and back. Overlanders are specialised trucks with 18 seats adapted for viewing in Africa. The tour had to be planned through Zimbabwe out of necessity, since only the camp terrains in Zimbabwe can accommodate groups of more than 30 persons.

The detail planning of the tour was done in February 2008 and as such organised with the tour operator, everything waiting on the outcome of the election in Zimbabwe on 29 March 2008. As soon as the election was finished the information would be made available in the denomination to obtain the necessary application GKSA.

The tour was formally cancelled at the end of April 2008 because of the political instability in Zimbabwe after the unsatisfactory course of their election. Future tours over the boundary to other African countries must also take into account the xenophobic attacks on people from outside the country in South Africa with the implications on the safety of such a group from South Africa.

Decision: Noted.

6. Conclusion

It seems that the possibilities for the GKSA Youth Tours, on the scale that it was previously presented (2002 – 2006) and assigned for continuation by the Synod 2006, are at this stage inside and outside of South Africa restricted by circumstances that cannot be controlled by the deputies and the named committee.

Decision: Noted.

7. Recommendations

7.1 The Synod takes note of the GKSA Youth Tour 2006 that happened.

7.2 The Synod takes note of the planning and work of the current organising committee in order to realise the GKSA Youth Tours for 2007 and 2008.

7.3 The Synod requests the Youth Deputies to still strive for the possibility of future GKSA Youth Tours and if circumstances allow it that these tours will be organised for the GKSA Youth by a organising committee appointed for this.

Decision: Points 7.1 to 7.3 noted.

7.4 The Synod decides that the funds (including the continuous interest on them) and assets from previous GKSA youth tours, will still be used for possible future GKSA Youth Tours.

Decision: Approved.

[End of Report of Youth Tours]

2.6 *The presentation of seminars regarding integrated youth ministries (Acta 2006:378, 2.6)*

- 2.6.1 That the needs in the GKSA regarding youth ministries are determined by a countrywide questionnaire.

The deputies took note of the results from a previous questionnaire and a further questionnaire on the contribution of the youth for the Festival in 2009 that has been sent out. The results were processed and given to the Festival Committee.

- 2.6.2 That a strategy that will be followed to make a constructive difference to youth ministries in the GKSA will be determined, taking into account the visit of the Youth Deputies to America in 2005.

The Deputies went into conversation with the Deputies Catechism and CE and held a seminar to involve the role players. The actions of *Kruispad* made a real contribution here.

- 2.6.3 A countrywide network of co-workers should be started on local and regional level to help with the coordination of questionnaires, seminars and for intercession.

Kruispad started with the compilation of a data basis of contacting persons in the various congregations as well as a data basis of youth mentors that can be used on camps and at other opportunities.

- 2.6.4 That the presented seminars should be directed at the different focus groups e.g. Church Councils, youth workers, young adults, families, parents, etc.

A meeting was held with the ministers of student congregations, youth workers, ministers of congregations that have progressed considerably in the ministry of young people after school and other interested people. The purpose of the meeting was to determine the needs of this group and the way in which they can be served in the denomination.

As a result of this meeting an informational document has been compiled in which the main point of the named discussion has been pointed out. Before a strategy of ministry could be determined, Rev Joop van Schaik, chair of the sub-commission for youth after school, resigned as youth deputy.

Recommendations following on this examination and information are:

- 2.6.4.1 Congregations should consider starting small group ministries or youth wards for young people after school in which the church council can concentrate on the needs of these groups.

- 2.6.4.2 The young people out of school that are spiritual adults, should be involved in the youth ministry of the congregation as mentors to lead the school youth on the road to spiritual adulthood.

- 2.6.4.3 That the attestations of young people out of school should not remain in the congregation of their parents while they are working in another place, but that the attestation - with good referrals - should be sent to the congregation in which the young person is working, in order for him/her to be served. The same is valid for the attestations of students. Their attestation should be sent to the congregation under whose care the educational institution lies, so that these young people can be reached through ministry.

- 2.6.4.4 Congregations should examine the possibility of an Internet ministry for after school youth because this group uses mainly electronic media for the purpose of communication. This media can be used very well in the service of the Kingdom to reach young people.

- 2.6.4.5 Congregations should use the passion for and need of active action in the church of the after school youth for the spreading of the Gospel.

- 2.6.4.6 This assignment should be continued. The information obtained thus far and that is explained in this document, can be used as the basis for the determination of a strategy for ministry for after school youth.

2.7 *Connection with the delegates of the DR, NH and other churches in the country (Acta 2006:378, 2.7)*

- 2.7.1 The connection with the DR, NH and other churches in the country should continue.

Kruispad managed close contact with the youth deputies of the DR Church – called JONK (under the leadership of Rev Zander van der Westhuizen). To strengthen this contact *Kruispad* is also involved in a large youth conference of the DR Church in Irene, Pretoria (29-31 Aug 2008) named JonkLive. As a consequence of this cooperation *Kruispad* is involved into giving inputs in the youth development program of the government.

2.7.2 The Youth Deputies should invite delegates of the named churches to a youth conference during 2006.

In fulfilling this task the Deputies argued that the connection mentioned in 2.7.1 only have to be broadened.

2.8 *Funds of the Youth Deputies (Acta 2006:378, 2.8)*

2.8.1 The Deputies will report on the utilisation of funds at the next Synod.

The Youth Deputies transferred all funds to the Administrative Bureau in 2006 and provision out of the budget of the Administrative Bureau of the GKSA was only made for Transport Cost, etc.

The financial statements of the Train Tour are available from Rev. HJP de Beer for inspection.

Decision: Points 2.6.1 to 2.8.1 noted.

3. Recommendations

The Synod endorses the presented actions of *Kruispad* to adhere to various tasks given by the Synod 2006:

3.1 The Depities Youth Care remains, but will be renamed Deputies Youth Care and *Kruispad*. This remains amongst other things that all youth projects organised by *Kruispad* will in future fall under the guidance and supervision of the Deputies.

Motivation: Due to the historical development of most of the work of the Deputies Youth Care with relation to the *Kruispad* office, and after thorough consultation with the parties involved and thought on the matter, the Commission is convinced that the interests of the youth will be best served if the initiatives and projects for the youth is added to these Deputies. With the term “*Kruispad*” in the name of the Deputies there is reference to all the activities as described in the Report of the Deputies Youth Care, and not only the magazine with the name “*Kruispad*”.

Decision: Approved as amendment.

3.2 The Synod acknowledges the personnel of *Kruispad*:

The personnel of the *Kruispad* group (fulltime, part-time and voluntary) exist out of 32 people. The persons stay in the following areas: Pretoria, Johannesburg, Potchefstroom, Rustenburg, Stellenbosch, Cape Town, Benoni and Klerksdorp. The *Kruispad* head office is currently in Potchefstroom on the church grounds of the Reformed Church Potchefstroom North. But *Kruispad* actually functions as a virtual office with the use of the Internet.

Decision: Approved.

3.3 The Synod should take note of the functioning of the *Kruispad* group:

The functioning of the *Kruispad* group can be explained in the following way:

3.3.1 *Kruispad* group: General management and administration

3.3.2 *Kruispad* publications

3.3.2.1 *Kruispad* magazine

3.3.2.2 *Kruispad*.net (Web page)

3.3.2.3 Other publications

3.3.3 *Kruispad* youth office

3.3.3.1 Aids

3.3.3.2 150-festival (2009)

3.3.3.3 Camps & seminars

3.3.3.4 Database of youth workers and youth mentors

3.3.4 *Kruispad* Year of Giving

3.3.4.1 Program development

- 3.3.4.2 Functioning
- 3.3.5 Kruispad labs

Decision: Take note of 3.3 to 3.3.5 with gratitude.

- 3.4 The Synod thankfully notes the funding of the Kruispad group initiative to get started and developed out of the Reformed Churches Rustenburg and Koster. A word of thanks is expressed towards the Koster and Rustenburg congregations for the great contributions that they made towards developing Kruispad. Their contributions enabled the Kruispad group to publish 8 editions of the Kruispad magazine until now. The salaries of the fulltime personnel, honorariums of the part-time personnel and co-workers, as well as the equipment in the Kruispad office were and are still financed in this way.
We are thankful that they were the donors making this development possible. The Administrative Bureau administers these funds.
- 3.5 The help of the denomination is requested to make the sustainability of this initiative possible.
 - 3.5.1 That the Financial Commission is asked to advise Synod on how projects of the Deputies Youth Care and *Kruispad* can be supported from within the denomination.
 - 3.5.2 That *Kruispad* continue to generate their own funds.
 - 3.5.3 That all funds are administrated by the Administrative Buro as the body corporate of the GKSA.
 - 3.5.4 The great transparency and thorough accounting is maintained with regard to the management of funds towards the Administrative Buro and the donators.
 - 3.5.5 That contracting of permanent staff of *Kruispad* is done by the Administrative Buro as only body corporate of the GKSA according to the relevant legislation and after recommendations from the Deputies Youth Care and Kruispad.
- 3.6 The supervision of the Kruispad group should resort under the Deputies Youth Care in future.
- 3.7 That the direction of the Kruispad group will handle the operation and execution of the tasks from the Deputies Youth Care.
- 3.8 That the Synod endorses the recommendations from the report by Rev HJP de Beer.
- 3.9 That the Synod endorses the recommendations in the report of Dr AJ Krüger.
- 3.10 That the Synod would again name Deputies Youth Care.

Decision: Approved.

4. Additional assignments

- 4.1 The Deputies Youth Care and Kruispad act in support of the youth care of local congregations.
- 4.2 The Deputies Youth Care and Kruispad take the multicultural nature of the youth of the GKSA into account in all its assignments.
- 4.3 The Deputies Youth Care and Kruispad supervise and guide the *Kruispad* in all their activities.
- 4.4 The Deputies Youth Care and Kruispad supervises the financial management of *Kruispad*.
- 4.5 The Deputies Youth Care and Kruispad are responsible for the publication of the *Kruispad* magazine.
- 4.6 The Deputies Youth Care and Kruispad supervises the content of the *Kruispad*.
- 4.7 In doing the above the following should receive attention:
 - 4.7.1 An editorial policy is formulated in consultation with church publications in which the Reformed nature of *Kruispad* as magazine for the youth of the GKSA is clearly delineated.
- 4.8 The Deputies Youth Care and Kruispad are responsible for the collection and upgrading of new aids that can be used in youth ministry.
- 4.9 The Deputies Youth Care and Kruispad are responsible for the expansion of the yough office of *Kruispad*.

- 4.10 The Deputies Youth Care and Kruispad continue with involvement in the GKSA 150-year festivities.
- 4.11 The Deputies Youth Care and Kruispad are responsible for camps, tours and seminars for the youth.
- 4.12 The Deputies Youth Care and Kruispad are responsible for the expansion of a databasis for youth workers.
- 4.13 The Deputies Youth Care and Kruispad are responsible for the planned Kruispad Geejaar (Kruispad year of giving).
- 4.14 The to-be-named Deputies Youth Care and Kruispad pay attention to the ministry of after-school youth (students and working youth) in the GKSA, serve congregations with advice and support congregation in the ministry of this target group.

Decision: Approved as amended.

J. REPORT – AFTER SCHOOL YOUTH

1. Assignment

(As quoted by from the Minutes of a meeting of the Youth Deputies on 29 October 2007)

“3. The assignment of Synod to the Youth Deputies with regard to after school youth is the following:

3.1 Previous assignments: Synod 2006 Acta:371 and further includes all matters around Youth Care – it is the previous Report that served.

- “1.1.6 That literature that focuses on after school youth is compiled. This should preferably also be accessible to the blind.”
- **“1.1.15 That a separate seminar be offered with the aim of active participation and functioning of after school young people in the congregation.”**
- “1.1.16 That the Deputies investigate the preferability and feasibility of a service year project for Reformed after school young people, and if tenable, shape it in Reformed fashion and then implement it.”
- 2.13.2 p374: A Youth congress was planned for Oct 2005 to which the working youth would also have been invited.
- 2.13.3.1 A questionnaire was formulated and distributed.
- B2.13.4.2 p375: Goal 2 was that the working youth would act as mentors for school going youth. They should form a link between the youth and the existing service structures in the congregations. They establish relationships with the youth and coordinate all the youth work in the congregations.
- Also see 2.14 and 2.15.

3.2 New assignments: p377

- 2.4.4 p378: Assignment to investigate the possibility of a GKSA year of giving.
- 2.6.4 That a seminar be offered to equip youth workers.
- P.841 2.9 Deputies and advisors have been appointed
“Remark: These Deputies are requested to establish and maintain liaison with ministers who minister to University students.”

3.3 Assignment to you from sub-deputies:

From the Minutes of 10 August 2006: “Liaison with After School Youth and Student congregations/ministers – Joop and Piet. Joop receives the assignment of above-mentioned liaison and intends to contact all student ministers” (so far the quote from the Minutes).

Decision: Note taken.

2. Completion of the assignment

A meeting was held with ministers of student congregations, youth workers, ministers of congregations who are far ahead with the ministry to after school youth, and other interested parties. The purpose of the meeting was to determine the needs of this group and how they could be ministered to within the church denomination.

Based on this meeting an information document was drawn up in which the main points of the above-mentioned discussion was summarised. Before a ministry strategy could be determined, rev Joop van Schaik, who was the chairperson of the sub-commission for after school youth, resigned as youth deputy.

Decision: Note taken.

3. Recommendations that can be made based on study of the information, are the following

- 3.1 Congregations consider creating small group ministries or youth wards for young people so that the Church Council can focus specifically on the needs of this group.
- 3.2 After school youths who are spiritually mature, should be involved in youth ministry of the congregation as mentors who can guide school going youths on the route to spiritual maturity.
- 3.3 After school young people's membership should not be kept in their parents' congregation while they work elsewhere, but it should be sent to the congregation where they work so that he/she could be ministered. The same goes for students. Their membership should be sent to the congregation in which the training institution falls so that the after school youth can be reached in the ministry there.
- 3.4 Congregations should explore the possibility of Internet ministry for their after school youth since this group mainly uses electronic media for communication. This can be used in service of the Kingdom in order to reach young people.
- 3.5 Congregations should use young people's passion for and need of real action in the church in order to proclaim the gospel.

Decision: Approved.

4. Final recommendation

This assignment should be continues. The information already gathered and which is mentioned in the document above, can be used as bases for the compilation of a ministry strategy for after school young people.

Decision: Approved.