

18.4 POINT OF DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL SYNOD NORTH WEST ON HEIGHTENED ATTENTION TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Artt 47, 325)

- A. Rev P Venter states the Point of Description.
- B. **Decision:** The Point of Description is referred to the Commission Youth and Education.
- C. Rev JH Venter reports on behalf of the Commission for Youth and Education.

D. POINT OF DESCRIPTION

The Regional Synod presents the following Point of Description to Synod for consideration:

“The General Synod calls churches, also those in Regional Synods, to

1. persevere with guidance to parents with regard to the fulfilment of their baptismal promise, including the school education of their children;
2. support faithful teachers in the completion of their calling;
3. encourage young members to qualify themselves for the teaching profession;
4. actively support the Pro-Ecclesia fund, which has been established for last-mentioned purpose.”

Motivation

1. Crastic changes have entered the education system, with spesific reference to some learning content in the Curricullum, such as for instance the inclusion of evolution, which does not agree with the Reformed doctrine. In addition, there is an increasing lack of discipline in schools and an enormous shortage of Christian teachers. All this necessitates that Church Councils and parents should be more devoted to the principle of Christian Eduction in the light of the baptismal promise and CO, art 21.
2. On inquiry it became clear that only 4 Regional Synods discussed the matter of Christian Education as a point on the Agenda, or gave any attention to it whatsoever. The Regional Synod is aware that the National Deputies for Christian Education are paying thorough attention to the promotion of Christian Education, but the fruit of that labour is not supported by some Regional Synods and Classes, with the consequence that many Church Councils are not diligent with the application of CO, art 21.
The Regional Synod North West is aware of the principles of CO, artt 30, 36 46 and 49, but in the light of the serious problems within the education system, the Synod is of the opinion that all church assemblies should work together to emphasise the weight of the matter to parents and go give support and guidance to parents to handle the problems in the education system.
3. The Regional Synod is aware of problems that Church Councils experience with members who oppose the stipulations of the Pro-Ecclesia fund that determine that loans will only be granted to students who aim to study at the NWU. This stipulations prohibits country-wide access to the fund, and therefore some Church Councils feel that their members can not benefit from the Fund and they consequently do not want to contribute. The Regional Synod is of the opinion that the stipulations should be changed so that members who want to borrow from the fund can study at any tersiary institution. In this manner the need for well-trained teachers can be addressed.

Decision: The Point of Description is approved. For assignments see 18.1 (4.2.1 to 4.2.7 and 5.2.8), 18.2 (3.1 and 3.2) and 18.3 (3.1 and 3.2) of the Acta.