

## 18.5 POINT OF DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL SYNOD NORTH WEST WITH REGARD TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TO DEPUTIES FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, YOUTH AND CATECHISM (Artt 48, 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 the Synod for consideration:

“That the General Synod assigns to the Deputy Groups for Christian Education, Youth care and Catechism to

1. do a thorough study of the following matters:
  - 1.1 to what content are children exposed in the different learning areas in schools that are not according to the Reformed doctrine,
  - 1.2 what perspectives from Scriptures and the Confessions baptised members need in order to deal with such content;
  - 1.3 how parents/catechists and aiding catechists can be equipped to give perspective to the baptised members;
2. adjust the catechism curriculum in order to provide children with the necessary equipment and skills;
3. to make material available to parents and catechists that equips them for this matter;
4. to inform Church Councils on the urgency of the above-mentioned matter, to encourage Church Councils to pay attention to this matter if necessary, and to gain the advice of Classes to handle this situation.

### Motivation

1. The current changes to the education system necessitate that the General Synod should consider how congregations can work innovatory in order to provide children with a Christian perspective on the school curriculum content from the lowest to the highest level.
2. This matter is of national importance and it affects the assignments of three Deputies of the General Synod, namely Christian Education, Youth care and Catechism. It is necessary that these Deputy Groups should cooperate in the completion of their tasks in order to be effective.
3. This matter is also urgent, and children should be guided to form a frame of reference in order to enable them to evaluate the views presented in schools that do not agree with the Reformed doctrine critically and from a Scriptural perspective, and to formulate their own view. A fundamental problem is that all congregations do not have all the necessary gifts to handle this situation adequately and therefore the majority assembly will have to pay attention to guidance in this regard.

**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.**