

24.6 POINT OF DESCRIPTION: REGIONAL SYNOD PRETORIA – VISION OF GRATITUDE 150 (Artt 74, 150, 214)

- A. Elder PWB Kruger states the Point of Description.
- B. **Decision:** The Point of Description is referred to the Commission Theological School.
- C. Dr PH Heystek reports on behalf of Commission Theological School.

D. POINT OF DESCRIPTION

1. Point of Description

In gratitude towards the King of the Church worldwide and seeing the results of investigations spreading from previous Synod decisions, the Synod of the GKSA expands the mandate of the Curators to, in addition to the TSP, urgently provide and guide new and a greater variety of training opportunities in order serve the great numbers of Ministers of the Word from the many cultural groups in our country and in Africa according to the needs of each in a VISION OF GRATITUDE 150. In doing so we want to fulfil Christ's Great Command with new commitment and a Kingdom vision so that we may in future fulfil our calling in a more efficient manner.

2. Motivation

The new kingdom vision has the following as its points of departure:

- 2.1 We live in a multi-lingual multi-cultural country and are surrounded by great wealth and great poverty here and in the rest of Africa. Especially the millions of poor people in cities experience utter spiritual hunger for pure Ministry of the Word.
- 2.2 The training of ministers of the Word, first at the Theological School Potchefstroom (TSP) and for a long time also at the Hammanskraal Theological School (HTS) reached out to people from other language and cultural groups in addition to Afrikaans communities. Yet there is an increasing need for focused training of called persons to the ministry for other language and cultural communities.
- 2.3 The ministry needs of different cultural groups in South Africa require that in addition to the traditional GKSA model, there should also be an entirely different model of theological training. In so doing the millions of people can be reached through a variety of possibilities of in-service training with a lower admission level without students having to move away from their work and residential places.
- 2.4 A new kingdom vision of the GKSA with regard to the training of ministers of the word according to different study programs that offer easier access for called ministers of the gospel that did not have the privilege of good preparatory school training and yet who have a calling and passion to proclaim the Word. In this manner thousands of currently unschooled ministers of the Word can be reached with pure Reformed training.
- 2.5 This has become urgent in the light of on the one hand exploding growth in numbers in churches and on the other hand the dangerous syncretism and mingling of the Christian gospel with elements of ancient heathenism.
- 2.6 See **Further Motivation from previous Synod and Curator decisions** added as appendix.

3. Concluding remark

The GKSA will celebrate its 150th year in existence in South Africa in 2009;

- 3.1 This makes us grateful towards the Lord for his grace in the continuous provision of Reformed ministry to the minority group of Afrikaans speaking people in our country.
- 3.2 This also brings us to serious consideration of the GKSA's calling in our country in the future in a country and continent that is undergoing great changes that create the opportunity for the expansion of the gospel of Christ in the midst of incredible growth in churches despite poverty, suffering and sadness. The GKSA may not just keep

existing as in the past, but is now called to a new vision to fulfill our calling in gratitude and a realisation of the kingdom.

E. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

1. Recommendation

The Point of Description is noted in the light of CO, art 46.

2. Motivation

The content of the Point of Description is fully intercepted by the Report of the Curators TSP [24.1 – at Theological Training for Africa].

Decision: That the Point of Description is complied with.

3.