

## 9. REPORT OF THE DEPUTIES FOR CORRESPONDENCE OF THE AGENDA (Artt 8, 339)

- A. Br HSJ Vorster delivers the Report.
- B. The Report will be concluded during the Synod session.
- C. **Decision:** Point 2.5 of the Report is referred to the Order Commission.
- D. Rev CA Jansen delivers the Report of the Order Commission.

### E. REPORT

#### 1. Commission

Acta 1991:60, 5.4 and Acta 1997:37, 3.3.12.2.

- 1.1 Invitation to churches, organisations, Synods to convey greetings
- 1.2 Invitation to send representatives
- 1.3 Invitation to include observers
- 1.4 To receive documents pertaining to the Agenda, to sort out such documents, prepare them for printing, have them printed and to send them to the representatives
- 1.5 To convene a meeting with the purpose of attending to the programming of the Agenda
- 1.6 To notify SAPA and CNW that the Synod is taking place
- 1.7 *Listing and Confirmation of Deputies*
  - 1.7.1 Notify Deputies of the Synod to confirm that they had been listed
  - 1.7.2 List Deputies in the event of the Synod having failed to do so
- 1.8 Arrange for greetings to be conveyed on behalf of the Reformed Churches of the National Synod
- 1.9 Conduct an overview of the Acts of the National Synod 1997, identify such matters as are applicable to the General Synod and bring these to the attention for the sake of taking cognisance and for relevant discussions. The Deputies must also see to it that the letter of credentials, as arranged at Synod 1997, is in order
- 1.10 Appoint a correspondent for collecting news for broadcasting (Radio and TV)
- 1.11 Registration of performers of the solemnisation of marriage from other National Synods by the Administrative Bureau at Potchefstroom
- 1.12 Deputies receive the correspondence and process it within the parameters of their capacity, or refer it to other Deputies who are in charge of the specific matters

**Decision: Points 1.1 to 1.12 noted.**

#### 2. Matters that Synod must take note of

- 2.1 *Invitation to the Synod*
  - 2.1.1 To convey greetings during the official opening service: Observers from the Dutch Reformed Church and the Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk as well as the Afrikaanse Protestantse Kerk, have been invited to attend the official opening on 5 January 2009 at 19:00 at the Reformed Church, Potchefstroom North. During the same assembly the greetings of the Churches will be conveyed. The observers have been invited to attend the Synod as well.
  - 2.1.2 To attend the official opening service: The representatives from Synod Soutpansberg as well as the rectors of the Theological Seminary and the North-West University (Potchefstroom Campus) have been invited to the official opening service. However, opportunity for conveying greetings from the relevant bodies will be granted during the Synod.
  - 2.1.3 Invitation for representatives to be sent:  
The following Deputies and Synods of Churches received invitations:
    - Synod Soutpansberg (2 representatives)
    - Christelijke Gereformeerde Kerk [*Christian Reformed Churches*] in the Netherlands
    - Christian Reformed Church in North America

- Eglise Reformée Confessante Au Congo
  - Free Church of Scotland
  - Free Church of Scotland (Continuing)
  - Reformed Church in Botswana
  - Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (Vrijgemaakt)
  - Netherlands Reformed Churches
  - Orthodox Presbyterian Church, USA
  - The Presbyterian Church in Korea
  - Reformed Churches of Australia
  - The Reformed Church in Japan
  - Reformed Churches of New Zealand
  - The United Reformed Churches in North America
- 2.1.4 Invitation for observers to be sent:
- Afrikaanse Protestante Kerk
  - Vrije Gereformeerde Kerk in SA
  - Free Church of SA
  - Lanka Reformed Church
  - Dutch Reformed Church
  - Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk van Afrika [*Dutch Re-formed Church of Africa*]
  - Presbyterian Church of America
  - United Reformed Churches in North America
- 2.2 *Documentation for the Agenda*
- 2.2.1 Those listed below received notification of Regionals with regard to the call to attend Synod:
- the Deputies who had been appointed by Synod and who had been allocated certain tasks
  - the Board of Curators of the Theological Seminary
  - the Regional Synods
- Information as listed below was supplied:
- 2.2.1.1 Deadline for Reports
- for Agenda – 30 June 2008
  - Supplementary Agenda - 1 November 2008
- 2.2.1.2 Deadline for documentation pertaining to the Regional Synods – 7 days after their meetings
- 2.2.1.3 Information on what to include in the Supplementary Agenda (Acta 1967:39, 6 and 7).
- 2.2.1.4 Guidelines for compiling the Reports (Acta 1991:57, 4.4 and 59, 5.3.4).
- 2.2.2 Notification in *Die Kerkblad*: Information as mentioned above was published in the mentioned church magazine dated January 2008.
- 2.2.3 The Agenda for the Regional Synods' representatives was forwarded directly to each Regional Synod to be made available to such representatives. Each Church Council was also provided with a CD containing the Agenda.
- 2.3 *Nomination/Confirmation of Deputies – Regional Synods*: Regional Synods were requested to attend to the following:
- 2.3.1 Nomination of Deputies for Programming – one from each Regional Synod, as well as a secundus in each case. A meeting for such Deputies has been convened to take place on 5 December 2008 at 09:00
- 2.3.2 Nomination of Legal Deputies for Advice *re* Appeals and Petitions of Protest: In terms of the Point of Description of the Regional Synod Northern Transvaal (Acta 1991:539/540, 22.19) the Regional Synods have also been requested to appoint one Deputy. These Deputies meet on 5 December 2008 at 09:00.
- 2.4 SAPA and CNW: A press report has been compiled and issued and forwarded to SAPA and CNW.

**Decision: Points 2.1 to 2.4 noted.**

2.5 *Press Report:* On request the Agenda is made available on condition that copyright is reserved until such time as the matter has been put forward and discussed during the Synod.

**Decision:**

1. The term “copyright” is no longer used with regard to the agenda and the supplementary agenda.
2. The agenda and supplementary agenda is not made public before the Synod has been constituted, after which the Synod accepts the documents as agenda and supplementary agenda.
3. Delegates receive copies beforehand of the concept agenda and concept supplementary agenda in order to prepare for the Synod.

**Decision: Approved.**

2.6 *Appointment of Deputies:* Deputies fulfilled the following tasks:

- 2.6.1 All convenors of Deputies, as indicated by Synod, have been notified about the appointments. Information on tasks, as allocated with appointment, has been made available to chair persons.
- 2.6.2 Attended to the appointment of Deputies in the event of Synod failing to do so. There were, however, no such cases.
- 2.7 Appointment of correspondents for purposes of collecting news for Radio and TV. The Administration Bureau will be processing the matter on a continuous basis by forwarding news reports to CNW, Radio Pretoria and NBC.
- 2.8 Registration of performers of solemnisation of marriage from other National Synods by the Administration Bureau at Potchefstroom. Such matters will be dealt with on a continuing basis.
- 2.9 Deputies receive correspondence, process it within the parameters of their capacity or refer it to other Deputies who do deal with the Regional matters. Such matters will be dealt with on a continuing basis.

**Decision: Points 2.6 to 2.9 noted.**

### 3. Finances

Both the Agenda and the Supplementary Agenda have been compiled, printed and bound by the Administration Bureau. Costs incurred have been passed to the debit of the Synod’s budget of costs. A4-format and CDs have been used for duplication in order to be as cost-effective as possible.

**Decision: Noted.**

### 4. Processing of Commission Reports and Minutes

In order for Acts to be made more efficient it is requested that references be used to correspond with references as used in the Agenda and Supplementary Agenda, e.g. A=Agenda and SA=Supplementary Agenda. Furthermore, should something like Report of the Deputies for Superannuation be in the Agenda as Agenda 12.1, it should also be referred to as 12.1 in the SA (Supplementary Agenda). The Commission will then report and refer to A12.1 and SA12.1. The same would apply to references made in articles of the Minutes, *i.e.:*

Article 26

A 12.1 Report Deputies Superannuation ... .. .

AA 12.1 Supplementary Report .....

**Decision:** .....

Doing so will have the advantage of making it easier for corrections/changes/decisions to be inserted on the word processor. A chronological list of articles is provided and an index compiled.

**Decision: Noted.**

## F. SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

### 1. Matters that the Synod should take note of

#### 1.1 *Greetings received for the official opening*

##### 1.1.1 The following persons sent messages of regards that will be included in the Acta:

- Greeting of the Rector of the Theological School Potchefstroom
- Greeting of the Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk van Afrika
- Greeting of the Afrikaanse Protestantse Kerk

#### 1.2 *Invitation to send an observer/delegate*

##### 1.2.1 No answers reply was received from the following:

###### **Observer**

Synod Soutpansberg  
Eglise Reformée Confessante au Congo

###### **Delegates**

Nederlands Gereformeerde Kerken  
Lanka Reformed Church  
The Reformed Church in Japan  
The Presbyterian Church in Korea

#### 1.3 *Nominations from Particular Synods*

##### 1.3.1 Legal Deputies for Advice with regard to Appeals and Petitions of Protest

The following nominations have been received and passed on to the chairman, rev PA Coetzee:

Bushveld	Rev LAS Nel
North-West	Dr J Smit
Eastern	Rev PW Kurpershoek
Free State and KwaZulu-Natal	Revs BC Smit and MJ Temba
Pretoria	Rev HJP de Beer
Randvaal	Dr FP Kruger
Southern	Rev H Reinecke

The other member nominated by Synod 2006 is rev RM van der Merwe.

##### 1.3.2 Deputies for Programming

The following nominations have been received and passed on to the chairman, rev LH van Schaik:

Bushveld	Rev G Opperman and elder CNW Ligthelm
North-West	Revs PJ van Blerk and W Vogel
Eastern	Drs SP van der Walt and JH Howell; rev MA Modise
Freestate and KwaZulu-Natal	Revs HF van Wyk and AP de Jager
Pretoria	Dr PH Heystek
Randvaal	Dr D Lartz and rev P Fanoy
Southern	Rev D Pansegrouw and elder FJ Kruger

The other member nominated by Synod 2006 is rev CA Jansen.

**Decision: Points 1.1 to 1.3.2 noted.**