

### 13.13 REPORT 3 – DEPUTIES: PRE-ADVICE FOR FINANCES (Artt 216, 261)

- A. Rev PJ Nel tables the Report.
- B. **Decision:** Point 3.1 refer to the Commission for Finances.
- C. Rev PJ Nel reports on behalf of the Commission for Finances.

#### D. REPORT

##### 1. Mandate

- 1.1 Receive and review the annual Financial Statements for feedback to the churches (Acta 2012:64, 6.1).
- 1.2 Once the Financial Statements and Agenda are available at the General Synod, assess the statements and make a recommendation to the Synod as well as recommendations about other financial matters (Acta 2012:64, 6.2).
- 1.3 Consider the option of meeting electronically and refer to the Commission for the appointment of Deputies (Acta 2012:64, 6.3).  
The motivation for the appointment of the “Deputies: Pre-advice for Finances” is as follows: *The Commission for finances at Synods do not have adequate time to make the Reports available to the Synod in time. Speedier completion of Financial Reports will be of great benefit to the Synod session* (Acta 2012:64).

**Decision: Points 1.1 to 1.3 noted.**

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

- 2.1 Instructions 1, 2.1 and 3 are addressed in the First and Second Reports of the Deputies: Pre-advice Finances.
- 2.2 This instruction encompasses the whole of the General Synod’s Agenda. The Deputies do not have the Supplementary Agenda at their disposal. The Agenda was thoroughly reviewed.
- 2.3 *Actions*
  - 2.3.1 The overall Agenda was divided to pinpoint financial items.
  - 2.3.3 The financial items on the Agenda was summarised and is available to the Synod’s Financial Commission.
  - 2.3.4 The Financial Manager of the Administrative Bureau was consulted throughout.
- 2.4 *Finding*
  - 2.4.1 None of the Deputy groups included the request of the Administrative Bureau, regarding the financial implications, separately in their Report.
    - 2.4.1.1 It was the request that a separate item be added to “Matters for decision taking by the Synod”: **Financial implications/budgets** *This must be inserted into Reports, where applicable, together with the relevant recommendations.*
    - 2.4.1.2 The request can even be taken further: Every group of Deputies is to provide a summary of all the financial implications of that group of Deputies. For example: Deputies: Ecumenical – a summary can be made of the financial implications from all the different Reports.
    - 2.4.1.3 Every group of deputies could also mention that they had already drawn up the budget in consultation with the Administrative Bureau.
  - 2.4.2 The Deputies do not have any specific business to mention.
  - 2.4.3 Each group of Deputies drew up a budget, in consultation with the Administrative Bureau. It is not the Deputies’ task to discuss or approve any amounts listed in the Reports. It is the Administrative Bureau’s responsibility to attend to all financial items in reference to the annual budget.

- 2.4.4 It is clear that the management of the budget, between the Administrative Bureau and Deputy groups, is very thorough. The Deputies are sincerely grateful for the efficient work of the Administrative Bureau.
- 2.4.5 The Synod is to discuss and reach a decision on every item on the Agenda that relates to the GKSA's finances, about which the Deputies and the Synod's Financial Commission could offer input. The Synod then makes a decision and instructs the Administrative Bureau accordingly. Only when a query arises, is it referred to the Synod's Financial Commission.
- 2.4.6 No new collections are requested. The Administrative Bureau's Report details the collections of the past term. The Synod can, therefore, make a decision on the request for the repetition for an existing collection during the discussion.

**Decision: Points 2.1 to 2.4.6 noted.**

### **3. Matters that the Synod decide on**

#### *Recommendation*

- 3.1 The Financial Commission of the Synod is to formulate the instructions for the new Deputies: Pre-Advice Finances regarding the unqualified audited Financial Statements for the next term and to offer recommendations to the Synod.

**Decision: Point 3.1 refer to the Commission for Finances.**

## **E. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION**

### **1. Mandate**

Report 3 – Deputies Pre-Advice for Finances, point 3.1. Task of the Deputies Pre-Advice.

**Decision: Noted.**

### **2. Matters that the Synod take note of**

- 2.1 The Deputies Pre-Advice at the previous General Synod received certain tasks in order to speed up the completion of financial statements to the advantage of the Synod.
- 2.2 This way of working did indeed help Synod 2015.

**Decision: Points 2.1 and 2.2 noted.**

### **3. Matters that the Synod decide on**

- 3.1 That Deputies Pre-Advice be appointed
- 3.2 That the Deputies Pre-Advice receive the Financial Statements on a yearly basis and give feedback to the churches
- 3.3 That once the Financial Statements and Agenda are available at the Regional Synods the Deputies assess the statements as well as the financial implications in the different deputy reports and make recommendations to the General Synod.

**Decision: Points 3.1 to 3.3 approved.**