

15.2 REPORT 2: DIACONAL MATTERS – MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN’S HOMES AND INVOLVEMENT WITH GLENZICHT RETIREMENT VILLAGE (Art 144)

- A. Rev MJ Erasmus tables the Report.
- B. The Report will be concluded during the Synod session.

C. REPORT

1. Matters that the Synod take note of

1.1 Children’s Homes

- 1.1.1 The SDDS is a Section 21 company. This implies that the Deputies that have been appointed by the Synod are also directors and are among others responsible for the control and supervision and advice to the management of the children’s homes.
- 1.1.2 The SDDS meets regularly. At the meetings each children’s home reports about their finances, staff, day to day care of the children and material needs, which includes physical facilities and other financial needs.
- 1.1.3 The SDDS coordinates, facilitates and regulates the distribution of finances that the churches contribute with full knowledge and cooperation from the two children’s homes.
- 1.1.4 Where the day-to-day care and management of the children’s homes are concerned, it is the responsibility of the respective home managers in cooperation with the respective managements. Where the liaison with the respective provincial authorities is concerned, it is also the responsibility of the respective managers. Any assistance that the homes may ask for is however provided by the SDDS. The children’s homes also belong to the SDDS sec 21 company.
- 1.1.5 The spiritual care gets much attention. The children receive catechesis in the Reformed Churches, while the local reverends where the children’s homes are located, observe the spiritual care of the children. As in a normal Reformed family, family devotions are held and children have the opportunity for personal devotions.
- 1.1.6 A lot of effort is made to bring the needs of the children’s homes to the attention of the deacons. All interested parties are invited to get involved and consequently there are several congregations’ deacons who are actively involved with the children’s homes.

1.2 Glenzicht Retirement Village

- 1.2.1 Problems are also being experienced with delivered municipal accounts of the retirement village. The Supplementary Agenda will further reported on this issue.
- 1.2.2 A frail care unit for which the infrastructure was set up was operated at the resort for a time. The service was discontinued after the provider was not coping. The management committee of Glenzicht are again investigating whether it would be possible to economically operate a frail care unit at Glenzicht. The matter will be further reported on in the Supplementary Report.
The City of Johannesburg has for a long time been experiencing problems with supplying the correct accounts for services delivered. Much work has been done to solve the problem.

1.3 Care for retired employees of SDDS and the Children’s Homes

- 1.3.1 The Deputies received the following assignment from Synod 2009:
 - (i) That approval be given for a fund to be established with a starting amount of R200 000 with the aim of assisting former employees in their daily care.
 - (ii) That the to-be-appointed Deputies investigate this issue as a matter of priority and immediately put measures in place so that the matter can be completed with dignity (Acta 2009:141, 2.3).

- 1.3.2 The Deputies have established a Fund, the “Medical Assistance Fund” (because medical expenses are the largest obligation in pensioners’ budgets), with the aim to provide assistance to: “Employees of the children’s homes before 2000 who were the breadwinners of the family and their dependents, and who, after retirement, receive a monthly pension, is the responsibility of the home where they worked by analogy of CO, art 11, 13 and 20 and then with the mediation of the deacons of the local congregation where they live”.
- 1.3.3 The fund was started and could mostly be replenished every year at year end. During the financial year 2013/2014 the fund was again replenished so that the fund could close with an accumulated surplus of R963 000.

Decision: Points 1.1 to 1.3.3 noted.

2. Matters that the Synod decide on

Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Synod takes note of this Report.
- 2.2 A word of thanks goes to brs CJH Kruger and HSJ Vorster for the hard work, time and lots of effort spent on Glenzicht Retirement village.

Decision: Points 2.1 and 2.2 approved.