

## 19.9 REPORT 1: DEPUTIES YOUTH CARE – GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (Art 164)

- A. Rev HC van Rooy 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 *Mandate* (Acta 2012:238, 2.1.1): The youth offices is to continue to operate and its activities further developed.  
*Mandate* (Acta 2012:238, 2.2.1): The yet to be appointed Deputies are to be instructed to further investigate (Financial management) and implement.
- 1.2 *Execution of the mandate*
  - 1.2.1 Staff matters
    - 1.2.1.1 Anneke van der Walt was appointed as Crossroad coordinator, as of February 2012. She, however, resigned effective as of end December 2014. Sr Nicolene Pretorius will serve as acting coordinator until Synod 2015.
    - 1.2.1.2 The services of Suzanne Coetzer, the Gee-jaar coordinator, had to be terminated at the end of 2012, due to insufficient interest in this initiative (see Report 3: Gee-jaar).
    - 1.2.1.3 Maureen van Helden, Kruispad's operations manager and editor of the *Kruispad* magazine resigned in 2013. In an effort to save costs, the position was reduced to editor and Karin Bain was appointed.
  - 1.2.2 Work of the youth office

The Crossroad office performs the following tasks:

    - 1.2.2.1 Updating and distribution of the Crossroad Magazine.
    - 1.2.2.2 Communication with the congregations
      - 1.2.2.2.1 The Crossroad office distributes a bulletin every two weeks (except for holidays and public holidays) to all the congregations, youth workers and ministers. This bulletin contains the following:
        - 1.2.2.2.1.1 Opportunities, outreach initiatives, camps and projects for the youth
        - 1.2.2.2.1.2 Church activities
        - 1.2.2.2.1.3 News and products for youth ministry
        - 1.2.2.2.1.4 News of the persecuted church
        - 1.2.2.2.1.5 News of the Crossroad office
        - 1.2.2.2.1.6 An article on a topical and/or relevant theme.
      - 1.2.2.2.2 Although most of the articles are in Afrikaans, a concerted effort is made to also write in English.
      - 1.2.2.2.3 The aim of the bulletin is to establish communication channels with congregations and is also a marketing source for the *Kruispad*- and *Crossroad* magazines.
    - 1.2.2.3 Kruispad website
      - 1.2.2.3.1 The website is one of the main aspects of youth ministry, because the youth communicates so regularly through cell phones and electronic sources. This led to the creation of the Kruispad website. It is an important source of information on:
        - 1.2.2.3.1.1 the *Kruispad* magazine, a range of projects of the congregations, outreach initiatives, camps and other learning opportunities;
        - 1.2.2.3.1.2 the provision of camping equipment, Bible study material for camps (including the Gee-jaar ministry), reading plans, computer software, apps and links to useful sources;
        - 1.2.2.3.1.3 multi-cultural ministry in terms of the English magazine: *Crossroad*; and
        - 1.2.2.3.1.4 the various Kruispad products.

- 1.2.2.3.2 The website attracted a record of 13 386 visitors, for June 2014 alone, an average of 446 hits per day. Between February 2014 and May 2014 it came to 30 000.
- 1.2.2.4 Social media  
Social media has become an integral part of youth ministry, which is why Facebook and Twitter pages were created to communicate with the youth:
- 1.2.2.4.1 The Kruispad Facebook page currently (at the time of this Report) has 1 288 followers.
- 1.2.2.4.2 56.6% of these followers are between the ages of 17-34, while 42% fall in the 35-65+ age group.
- 1.2.2.4.3 Most of the people we reach through the Facebook page are in South Africa, but we also have followers in Namibia, Australia, the Netherlands, England, America, New Zealand, Canada and Ireland.
- 1.2.2.4.4 The main goal is to build a community of faith. It also addresses the multi-cultural nature of the GKSA youth, in terms of ties with the Reformed Church Youth Movement (RCYM) and Vaal Facebook group (youth group of the black communities).
- 1.2.2.5 Marketing of Kruispad ministries (magazine, activities, reading material, etc.)
- 1.2.2.5.1 A variety of places and opportunities were sought out for marketing of youth care activities (Kruispad youth ministries; Kruispad magazine; Kruispad projects and Gee-jaar). The *Almanac*, *Vroueblad*, *Die Kerkblad* and *Slingervel* were also marketed at the same time.
- 1.2.2.5.2 The following events were attended: Cachet first-years' camp, the Brooklyn first-years' camps, the Stellenbosch first-years' camps, the Vision Camp, the Frankfort River Tour, a river tour for young professionals, the Adventure Camp, the Boland River/Ocean Camp, the Boknes Youth Camp, the Wwess Camp, the Interdopper Camp, the West Griqualand Camp, the Nooitgedacht Skolieskamp, the Mootkamp, Mootkamp Lite, Aros open days and Spring days, the Kwa-Thema Youth Conference and the East-London Youth Conference.
- 1.2.2.6 Research project  
The Deputies for the youth were invited to participate in a research project on youth ministry, in cooperation with the Dutch Reformed and Hervormde Churches. This project was still in the process of being formalised at the time of this report.
- 1.2.3 Financial management (see Acta 2012:255, 2.1-2.4)  
All financial expenditure of the Deputies of Youth Care occurred according to an approved budget and in consultation with the Administrative Bureau. The following steps were taken toward savings:
- 1.2.3.1 The Kruispad management post was scrapped and only the editor position filled.
- 1.2.3.2 It can be reported with thanks that the compulsory collections from congregations came to a total of R444 642.38 for the past term.
- 1.2.3.3 In order to reduce debt, two thirds of the annual youth care surplus was channelled into the Gee-jaar and Kruispad. The deputies already reduced the above debt by R429 504(see attached financial statement).
- 1.2.3.4 In terms of the magazine, the following saving measures were implemented:
- 1.2.3.4.1 A more affordable graphic designer was contracted.
- 1.2.3.4.2 More affordable printers and paper were used, without compromising on quality.
- 1.2.3.4.3 The editor's salary was reduced.
- 1.2.3.4.4 The number of complimentary issues was reduced.
- 1.2.3.4.5 The number of extra copies was reduced.
- 1.2.3.4.6 The unit cost fell from R58.03 to R44.04.
- 1.2.3.4.7 The price per issue was raised to R29,95 for the next financial year (July 2014-June 2015).

- 1.2.3.5 The original presentation method of the Gee-jaar was halted, due to lack of interest and high costs, and the full-time position of Gee-jaar coordinator was scrapped.
- 1.2.3.6 The youth care website was incorporated into the GKSA website, as a further cost-saving measure.
- 1.2.3.7 Collective Youth Deputies meetings were confined to one per year and all other meetings were conducted via e-mail.
- 1.2.4 Youth care assets
- 1.2.4.1 It can be reported with gladness that the Gereformeerde Kerk Benoni donated a Volkswagen bus and trailer to youth care. The mini-bus is also being rented at cost to other Reformed congregations and Deputies.
- 1.2.4.2 The termination of the full-time Gee-jaar initiative freed up furniture and computers for use by theology students and the Administrative Bureau.

**Decision: Points 1.1 to 1.2.4.2 noted.**

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

- 2.1 The Synod is to take note of the work of the youth office, staff and financial management set out in this Report.
- 2.2 The Synod is to approve that:
  - 2.2.1 the youth office continue to perform its approved activities (as per in 1.2.2-1.2.2.5).
  - 2.2.2 the Deputies continue to participate in the research project (see 1.2.2.6); and
  - 2.2.3 financial management continue as reported (see 1.2.3).
  - 2.2.4 that one collection per year is still allocated to Deputies Youth Care.

**Decision: Points 2.1 to 2.2.4 approved (amendment already added – Deputies Acta).**