

## 24.6 REPORT: SOWERS OF THE WORD FUND (Art 185)

- A. Elder JJ Howell 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 Assignment

*3.5 That, according to CO, art 19, a fund is to be established of which the interest income is used to support Theological students so that they can complete their studies to serve as reverends in SA and other parts of the world.*

*3.6 That Deputies are appointed to establish and build such a fund.*

*3.7 That br Koos Smit of GK Laeveld is appointed to coordinate the collection of funds.*

*3.8 That congregations assist the Deputies with contact details of members who have the means to contribute to such a fund.*

- 1.2 The Deputies have established the fund.
- 1.3 The name of the fund is *Sowers of the Word* fund.
- 1.4 The fund has been introduced by means of "*Die Kerkblad*", letters to Church Councils, the Internet and personal calls to certain members in the congregations.
- 1.5 The Deputies opened an account at the Administrative Bureau into which contributions are deposited.
- 1.6 Up until 29 April 2014 contributions to the amount of R4 563 222 has been received. The money has been invested in equal amounts in Momentum's Factor 7 fund. This is one of the investment funds in which the EVT's money is currently invested.
- 1.7 The Deputies only met via telephonic conferences, thus keeping costs to a minimum.
- 1.8 The Deputies drew up the following Rules for the fund.

(The Rules have their own numbering)

### **RULES OF THE SOWERS OF THE WORD FUND**

#### **1. Synodal commission**

According to a decision made by the General Synod 2012 (Acta:490, 3.5) the SOWERS OF THE WORD FUND has been established to financially assist theological students who want to equip themselves as reverends.

#### **2. Name of the Fund**

SOWERS OF THE WORD FUND.

#### **3. Goal of the Fund**

The goal of the fund is to financially support theological students who want to equip themselves as Reformed Reverends. This includes reverends, missionaries and evangelists.

#### **4. Management**

##### 4.1 Deputies

The General Synod appoints Deputies whom, in the execution of Synod commissions, adhere to the goals of the Fund, comply with the Rules of the Fund and grow the Fund. The Deputies manage the Fund in such a way that a lasting Fund is established.

#### 4.2 Composition of the Deputies

The Deputies are appointed by the General Synod.

#### 4.3 Term of Deputies

4.3.1 The Deputies will serve for a term of three years, from one General Synod until the next. The Synod can appoint the Deputies again for the next term.

4.3.2 At least one of the Deputies must also be a Trustee of the "Emeritaatsversorgingstrust" (EVT). This Deputy must be chosen from the financially skilled Deputies of the EVT.

### 5. **Funds**

#### 5.1 Funds

Funds are collected through the means of contributions.

#### 5.2 Capital funds

5.2.1 The capital of the fund grows through contributions and investment returns.

5.2.2 When there are enough funds, up to 80% of the annual investment growth can be used for the goal of the fund.

### 6. **Administration**

6.1 The Deputies of the fund are responsible for the growth of the fund.

6.2 After consultation with the Commission for Financial Support of the Curators (CFS), the Deputies will determine the amount to be allocated in the future.

6.3 The CFS reports annually to the Deputies of the Sowers of the Word Fund regarding the use of funds in order to use the information for marketing purposes. The Report must include the academic progress of the students.

6.4 The general administration of the fund is assigned to the Administrative Bureau.

### 7. **Applications**

Applications are made according to current procedures as determined by the CFS.

### 8. **Amendment of the Rules**

The Rules can only be amended by a two thirds majority of the Deputies and with approval from the General Synod.

(End of Rules)

**Decision: Points 1.1 to 1.8 noted.**

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

### Recommendations

2.1 The Synod approves the Rules of the Sowers of the Word fund.

2.2 The Synod decides that the investment return of the fund can be used to support theological students. (Motivation: The decision of Synod 2012 reads that the interest return can be used, Acta 2012:460, 3.5).

2.3 That Deputies for the Sowers of the Word Fund are appointed.

2.4 That one of the EVT deputies is appointed to the Sowers of the Word Fund. This Deputy must be one of the financially skilled Deputies of the EVT. (Motivation: the EVT deputies already do investments on behalf of the church. Their skills should be utilised.)

2.5 That congregations assist with contact details of members who have the means to contribute to the Fund.

- 2.6 That the budget provides for the Deputies to have six telephonic conferences and for the distribution of relevant correspondence to the Church Councils.

Assignments

- 2.7 The Deputies are commissioned to grow the Fund.  
2.8 The Deputies are commissioned to award payments to theological students according to the Rules of the fund.

**Decision: Points 2.1 to 2.8 approved.**