11.5 BESKRYWINGSPUNT VAN STREEKSINODE VRYSTAAT EN KWAZULU-NATAL RAKENDE DIE ONDERSOEK NA DIE AGENDA EN VERGADERINGSWYSE VAN DIE ALGEMENE SINODE

11.5 POINT OF DESCRIPTION FROM REGIONAL SYNOD FREE STATE AND KWAZULU-NATAL REGARDING A STUDY ON THE AGENDA AND MEETING METHODOLOGY OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

1. Voorstel Dat Deputate aangewys word om ondersoek in te stel en daadwerklike voorstelle te maak aan die volgende Algemene Sinode sodat:	**1. Proposal** That Deputies be appointed to investigate and make concrete proposals to the next General Synod so that:
1.1 sake van administratiewe en operasionele aard op 'n meer effektiewe manier afgehandel kan word ten einde meer tyd in die Sinode beskikbaar te stel vir sake van geestelike aard, en	1.1 matters of administrative and operational nature be addressed in a more efficient manner in order to make more time available in the Synod for the consideration of spiritual matters, and
1.2 tegnologie en werkswyses beter benut kan word om die tyd van vergadering meer effektief beskikbaar te maak vir sake wat gesamentlike besinning in onderlinge teenwoordigheid noodsaak.	1.2 technology and working methods be better utilized to make the time of meeting more efficiently available for matters that require mutual reflection.
1.3 Om in die algemeen indringend te kyk na 'n meer vaartbelynde werkswyse waarin behoorlike aandag aan alle sake gegee kan word, sonder om teen die einde van die Sinode in 'n drukgang te beland en oorhaastige besluite te neem.	1.3 In general, to look towards a more streamlined way of working in which proper attention can be given to all matters without ending the Synod in a hurry and make hasty decisions.
2. Motivering Dat die Agenda van die Algemene Sinode besonder baie sake bevat is nie te bevraagteken nie. Die totale tyd wat beskikbaar is vir die Sinodesitting word beperk deur verskeie praktiese sake soos koste, beskikbaarheid van akkommodasie, reisafstande en werkstyd wat afgestaan moet word deur afgevaardigdes. Verskeie sake op die Sinode Agenda is merendeels van administratiewe en operasionele aard. Die ledevergaderings van die Administratiewe Buro en die Predikante Pensioenfonds is voorbeelde. Weens die noodsaak om hierdie sake te hanteer, kom die orige tyd wat gewy kan word aan sake van 'n geestelike en/ sensitiewe aard onder groot druk. Dit was die gebruik in die verlede om sake van groter belang eers in kleiner Kommissies deur te trap waar meer af-	**2. Motivation** It is not a question that the Agenda of the General Synod contains a lot of matters. The total time available for the Synod meeting is limited through various practical issues such as cost, availability of accommodation, travel distances and working hours that must be set aside by delegates. Several matters on the Synod Agenda are mostly administrative and operational. Examples of these are: The members' meetings of the Administrative Bureau and the Ministers' Pension Fund. Due to the pressure to deal with these matters, the rest of the time that could be spent on matters of a spiritual and/or sensitive nature comes under huge pressure. It was the practice in the past to first consider matters of greater importance thoroughly in smaller Commissions

gevaardigdes insette kon lewer en waar die inhoud in meer diepte oorweeg kon word. Hierdie praktyk word al minder gebruik, waarskynlik weens die tydsdruk. Die gevolg is dat sulke sake al meer slegs direk in die Sinode bespreek word waar minder afgevaardigdes aan deelneem (tyd en vrymoedigheid) en waar minder ruimte is vir onderlinge interaksie en gesamentlike besinning.

Die Algemene Sinode 2009 het opdrag gegee aan 'n te benoeme "Deputate Effektiewe vergaderings van die Algemene Sinode (Acta 2009:359). Hierdie Deputate is egter nooit aangewys nie. Een van die opdragte waarop die Sinode toe reeds besluit het was: "*4.5.2.1.4 Om in die algemeen indringend te kyk na 'n meer vaartbelynde werkswyse waarin behoorlike aandag aan alle sake gegee kan word, sonder om teen die einde van die Sinode in 'n drukgang te beland en oorhaastige besluite te neem".*

Sonder om die studie daartoe te wil beperk, word die ledevergadering van die Administratiewe Buro as voorbeeld geneem om aan te dui dat dit moontlik sou kon wees om dit anders te reël.
Sedert die Administratiewe Buro as regspersoon moes funksioneer word by die Algemene Sinode (tans 280 afgevaardigdes) by geleentheid ook as ledevergadering gekonstitueer. Die lede sou egter die Reglement so kon verander dat, alhoewel enige lid (kerk) steeds die ledevergadering sou kon bywoon met stemreg, hulle normaalweg verteenwoordig word deur twee afgevaardigdes deur elke Klassis.
Sou 'n verkleinde ledevergadering (27 of 54 lede) sou in die week voor die Algemene Sinode kon vergader, of selfs geruime tyd daarvoor.
Sonder om die regsaanspreeklikheid van die verkleinde ledevergadering in gedrang te bring, sou 'n werkswyse gevestig kon word waar die lede besluit dat veranderings aan die Reglement van die Administratiewe Buro (en slegs dit) deur verteenwoordigers wat afgevaardig is na die Algemene Sinode goedgekeur moet word.
Die enigste tyd wat derhalwe in die

where more delegates could provide input and where the content could be considered in more depth. This practice is used to a lesser extent, probably due to the time pressure. As a result, such matters are only discussed in the Synod where fewer delegates take part (time and confidence) and where there is less time for mutual interaction and collective reflection.

The General Synod 2009 decided to appoint a "Deputies Effective Meetings of General Synod (Acta 2009:359). However, these Deputies have never been appointed. One of the assignments which the Synod already approved was "*4.5.2.1.4 In general, to look into a more streamlined way of working in which proper attention can be given to all matters without ending the Synod in a hurry and make hasty decisions*".

Without limiting the study to this, the members' meeting of the Administrative Bureau is taken as an example to indicate that it could be possible to handle it differently.
Since the Administrative Bureau has to function as a juristic entity, the General Synod (currently 280 delegates) was on occasion also constituted as a members' meeting. However, the members could change the rules so that although any member (church) could still attend the members' meeting with voting rights, they are usually represented by one or two delegates by each Classis.

Such reduced membership meeting (27 or 54 members) could meet in the week prior to the General Synod, or even, some time before.
Without compromising the legal liability of the reduced membership meeting, a method could be established where members decide that amendments to the Administrative Bureau's Regulations (and only those) should be approved by representatives delegated to the General Synod.

The only time that the General Synod has

Algemene Sinode aan die Administratiewe Buro gewy moet word, sou wysigings aan die Reglement behels. 'n Verdere voorbeeld sou kon wees dat sake van administratiewe of operasionale aard (en waarskynlik ook waar optrede van Deputate bloot geratifiseer moet word), reeds voor die Sinodesitting deur afgevaardigdes oorweeg word en dat dit gedeeltelik of geheel afgehandel word by wyse van voorafstemming of by aanvang van die Sinodesitting. Met 'n stem moontlikheid van "Aanvaar", "Verwerp" of "Bespreking Noodsaaklik" kan besluit word dat slegs sake met bv 'n minimum van 20% "Bespreking Noodsaaklik" in die Sinode ter tafel geneem word. Noodwendig sou Deputate self, of die "Deputate Programmering" sodanige sake by opstel van die Agenda van ander onderskei – en dat sodanige onderskeiding vroeg in die Sinode oorweeg word vir goedkeuring. Verder sou die rol en werkswyses van Streeksinodes oorweeg kon word. 'n Werkswyse sou moontlik kon wees om sake gesamentlik deur Streeksinodes af te handel – bv wanneer die meerderheid van Streeksinodes oor 'n administratiewe, operasionele, praktiese beslis het; of andersinds dat die besluit bepaal word deur die stemme van al die Streeksinodes saam te tel en 'n gesamentlike uitslag te bepaal. Weereens sal dit nie vir enige saak gedoen kon word nie. Verskeie vooruitgang in tegnologie sou dit moontlik kon maak om sake af te handel sonder om fisiese vergaderingstyd daarvoor te gebruik. Die verkiesing van die Moderamen en aanwys van Kommissies sou voorbeelde kon wees. Let wel: Die voorbeelde hierbo word nie as haalbare oplossings voorgestel nie. Dit word aangebied as motivering dat 'n deurdagte ondersoek genoegsame voordeel sal bied om die studie te regverdig.	to spend time on the Administrative Bureau would be to consider changes to its Regulations (Rules of Operation). Another example could be that the matter of administrative or operational nature (and probably also where the actions of Deputies should only be ratified) could already be considered before the Synod by delegates to be partially or completely settled prior to or at the start of the meeting of the Synod. With voting choices of "Accept", "Reject" or "Discussion Essential" it can be decided that only matters with e.g. a minimum of 20% "Discussion Essential" is tabled in the Synod itself. Through necessity, Deputies themselves or the "Deputies for Programming" should distinguish such matters when drawing up the Agenda – and that such distinction should be considered early in the Synod for approval. Furthermore, the role and working methods of Regional Synods could be considered. A possible work method could be to complete matters jointly through Regional Synods – e.g. when the majority of Regional Synods have concluded an administrative, operational, practical decision; or else that the decision is determined by combining the votes of all Regional Synods to determine a joint outcome. Again, it would apply only to certain matters. Various advances in technology could make it possible to deal with issues without using physical meeting time. The election of the Moderamen and appointment of Commissions could be examples. Note: The examples above are not suggested as viable solutions. It is presented as motivation that a thorough investigation would provide sufficient benefit to justify the study.
3. Aanbeveling Daar word aanbeveel dat die Algemene	**3. Recommendation** It is recommended that the General

Sinode 2018 GOEDKEUR dat Studie-deputate aangewys word met opdrag soos vervat in 1 hierbo.	Synod 2018 APPROVES to appoint Deputies with the assignment indicated in 1 above.

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