

13.16 BESKRYWINGSPUNT SUIDELIKE STREEKSINODE OOR AFSKRYF VAN KLEINER GEMEENTES SE RAMINGSKULD

13.16 POINT OF DESCRIPTION SOUTHERN REGIONAL SYNOD CONCERNING WRITING OFF THE “RAMINGS” DEBT OF SMALLER CONGREGATIONS

<p>Beskrywingspunt Die Algemene Sinode oorweeg dit ernstig om aan die Administratiewe Buro die bevoegdheid te verleen om in oorleg met die Klassis, nadat Visitatore so by die Klassis aanbeveel het, gemeentes wat aan die volgende kriteria voldoen se agterstallige ramings af te skryf.</p> <p>Kriteria</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gemeentes wat nie sustentasie ontvang nie. 2. Gemeentes wat nie die finansiële vermoë het om agterstallige ramings te betaal nie. <p>Motivering</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Die Suidelike Streeksinode is bewus daarvan dat net die Algemene Sinode – en nie die Administratiewe Buro nie – die bevoegdheid het om ramingskuld af te skryf. Daarom versoek die Suidelike Streeksinode die Algemene Sinode om aan die Administratiewe Buro die bevoegdheid te verleen om onder bepaalde kriteria ramingskuld van gemeentes af te skryf. 2. Hierdie gemeentes van Christus is nie onwillig of nalatig om ramings te betaal nie, maar ondervind die ramingskuld ‘n ondraaglike las in die lig van kwynende lidmaatgetalle. Daarom pleit hulle vir die afskryf van ramingskuld en nie vir die kwytskelding van ramings nie. 3. Die ramingskuld is ook meestal oor-geërfde skuld van toe daar meer lidmate was wat nou deur hierdie oorblywende lidmate vereffen moet word as gevolg van krimpende inkomste, pensioenarisse en ontvolking van die platteland. 4. Dit is tog primêr ons roeping dat Woordbediening voorop moet staan in plaas van dat hulle belas moet word tot ondergang. <p>Ons vertrou dat die Algemene Sinode die noodroep sal hoor en ons behulpsaam sal wees.</p>	<p>Point of description The General Synod seriously considers giving the Administrative Bureau the capacity to write off the “ramings” debt of small congregations. This is done in co-operation with the Classis, as recommended by the Visitors to the Classis. These congregations must meet the requirements below.</p> <p>Criteria</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Congregations who do not receive sustentation. 2. Congregations who are not in the financial position to pay the “ramings” debt. <p>Motivation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Southern Regional Synod is aware that only the General Synod – and not the Administrative Bureau – has the capacity to write off “ramings” debt. Therefore, the Southern Regional Synod requests the General Synod to give the Administrative Bureau the capacity to write off the “ramings” debt of congregations who meet certain criteria. 2. These congregations of Christ are not unwilling or negligent to pay “ramings”, but experience the burden of “ramings” debt as unbearable in view of declining member numbers. Therefore they plea for the writing off of the “ramings” debt and not for absolution of “ramings”. 3. This “ramings” debt is largely a legacy of debt from times when the number of members were much greater and cannot be paid by the remaining members, due to declining income, being pensioners and the depopulation of the rural areas. 4. Indeed our primary calling is to preserve the priority of ministering the Word, and not to burden these congregations into non-existence. <p>We trust that the General Synod will hear the call of distress and come to our aid.</p>
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