

## 16.10 RAPPORT 4 – DEPUTATE EKUMENISITEIT BUITELANDS – OOSTE

## 16.10 REPORT 4 – DEPUTIES ECUMENICITY INTERNATIONAL – EAST

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<p><b>1. Reformed Church Japan (RCJ)</b> Ekumeniese eenheid</p> <p>1.1 <i>Opdrag</i></p> <p>1.1.1 Die GKSA vaardig 'n Deputaat af om die Sinode van die RCJ in 2016 te Sendai by te woon wanneer die RCJ sy 70ste bestaansjaar vier.</p> <p>1.1.2 Ekumeniese eenheid in leer diens en tug word herbevestig.</p> <p>1.1.3 Dat gesprekke oor die interpretasie van ekumeniese eenheid tussen die GKSA en die RCJ voortgaan.</p> <p>1.1.4 Die te benoemde Deputate ontvang opdrag om die Rapport en die besluit van die RCJ aangaande vroue in die ampte van ouderlinge en predikante te bestudeer en aanbevelings daarvoor te maak oor hoe dit die verhouding tussen die GKSA en die RJC raak. Vanweë die laat stadium van die RCJ se Sinode was daar nie genoegsame tyd was die Rapport en die besluit behoorlik te bestudeer en by hierdie Sinode daarvoor aanbevelings te kon maak nie.</p> <p>1.1.5 Dat die te benoemde Deputate moontlike samewerking tussen die GKSA en die Teologiese Skool te Kobe, asook die Christelike Universiteit te Tokio fasiliteer.</p> <p>1.1.6 Wysies van sendingsamewerking tussen die GKSA en Missie Japan asook ander kerke met wie die GKSA ekumeniese bande het en wat werk saam in Japan is, word aan die te benoemde Deputate opgedra.</p> <p><u>Vir kennisname</u></p> <p>1.2 <i>Uitvoering van die opdrag</i></p> <p>1.2.1 Vanaf 11-13 Oktober 2016 is die General Assembly van die Reformed Churches in Japan (RCJ) te Yokohama deur 'n Deputaat van die GKSA bygewoon waartydens 'n groeteboodschap van die GKSA oorgedra is.</p> <p>1.2.2 Daar kan getuig word van die</p>	<p><b>1. Reformed Church Japan (RCJ)</b> Ecumenical unity</p> <p>1.1 <i>Mandate</i></p> <p>1.1.1 The GKSA is to send a delegate to the RCJ's Synod in 2016 in Sendai when the RCJ will be celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.</p> <p>1.1.2 Ecumenical unity in doctrine, service and discipline is to be confirmed.</p> <p>1.1.3 Discussion over the interpretation of ecumenical unity between the GKSA and the RCJ is to continue.</p> <p>1.1.4 The appointed Deputies are to study the Report and the decision of the RCJ regarding women in the offices of elder and minister and make recommendations on how it affects the relationship between the GKSA and RJC (due to the late date of the RCJ's Synod, there wasn't time to study the Report and the decision properly and make recommendations to the Synod).</p> <p>1.1.5 The appointed Deputies are to facilitate possible cooperation between the GKSA and the theological school in Kobe as well as the Christian university in Tokyo.</p> <p>1.1.6 The ways in which mission cooperation between the GKSA and Mission Japan as well as other churches with which the GKSA has ecumenical ties and are working in Japan are to be conveyed to the appointed Deputies.</p> <p><u>To be noted</u></p> <p>1.2 <i>Execution of the mandate</i></p> <p>1.2.1 A Deputy of the GKSA attended the General Assembly of the Reformed Churches in Japan (RCJ) in Yokohama from 11-13 October 2016 and conveyed greetings from the GKSA.</p> <p>1.2.2 The Deputy was heartily welcomed and</p>
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<p>hartlikheid waarmee die Deputaat ontvang is en die mooi gesindheid wat die gesprekke deurentyd gekenmerk het.</p> <p>1.2.3 Taal is steeds 'n geweldige hekkie tydens Sinodes van die RCJ. Hulle is nie werklik ingestel om besoekers tov taal te akkommodeer nie.</p> <p>1.2.4 Goeie gesprekke (formeel en informeel) is met die RCJ se Deputate vir ekumeniese sake gevoer.</p> <p>1.2.5 Deputate van die OPC, GKN(v) en die NGK (RSA) was ook teenwoordig en goeie gesprekke kon met hierdie afgevaardigdes gevoer word.</p> <p>1.2.6 'n Indringende gesprek is met Deputate van die RCJ gevoer oor die interpretasie van kerklike eenheid. Die rede vir hierdie gesprekspunt is dat die RCJ die afgelope aantal jare nie tydens besoeke aan Suid-Afrika met die GKSA skakel nie ten spyte van andersins goeie kontak en verhoudinge. Uitnodigings na Sinodes van die GKSA word ook nie opgevolg nie. Dit blyk enersyds dat die RCJ 'n besondere premie plaas op missionale samewerking, en andersyds dat missionale samewerking 'n vergestaltung van eenheid is en dat dit hulle skakeling dienooreenkomstig prioritiseer.</p> <p>1.2.7 In die lig van bogenoemde is gesprek is gevoer met Gideon van der Watt van Missie Japan oor wyses waarop die GKSA konkreet betrokke kan raak by Missie Japan se werksaamhede. Gesien in die lig van 2.1 hierbo, word hierdie 'n prioriteit geag en verdere korrespondensie word in die vooruitsig gestel.</p> <p>1.2.8 'n Spesifieke versoek is gerig om dokumentasie te ontvang waarin die eksegetiese begroning van hulle besluit oor die vrou in die besondere dienste vervat is. Te verstane is baie van hulle dokumentasie slegs in Japannees beskikbaar, maar die onderneming is ontvang om te poog om veral die eksegetiese dokumentasie te verwerk en aan te stuur. Daar sal in gedagte gehou moet word dat hulle studie oor 'n tydperk van meer</p>	<p>discussions were always extremely positive in nature.</p> <p>1.2.3 Language continues to be a huge hurdle between the Synods of the RCJ. They are not really disposed toward accommodating visitors in terms of language.</p> <p>1.2.4 The discussions (formal and informal) with the RCJ's Deputies for ecumenical affairs were quite positive.</p> <p>1.2.5 Deputies of the OPC, GKN(v) and the NGK (RSA) also attended and discussions with these delegates went well.</p> <p>1.2.6 An in-depth discussion was held with the Deputies of the RCJ over the interpretation of church unity. This issue was broached due to the RCJ's failure to contact the GKSA during their visits to South Africa the past few years, despite otherwise good contact and relations. Invitations to GKSA Synods have also not been followed up. It would seem that the RCJ place a high premium on missional cooperation and, on the other hand, missional cooperation is a demonstration of unity and that they prioritise their interaction accordingly.</p> <p>1.2.7 Given the above, Gideon van der Watt of Mission Japan was consulted on ways that the GKSA could practically become involved with Mission Japan's activities. In view of 2.1 above, this is deemed a priority and further correspondence is planned.</p> <p>1.2.8 A specific request was made for documentation providing the exegetic grounds for their decision over the woman in the special offices. Naturally a great deal of their paperwork is only available in Japanese, but they undertook to attempt to at least prepare and forward the exegetic documentation. It will have to be kept in mind that their study stretches over a period of more than 20 years and that their study of Scripture already failed</p>
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<p>as 20 jaar strek en dat hulle Skrifstudie alreeds jare gelede hulle nie tot duidelikheid kon bring nie. Derhalwe het resente Studierapporte nie pertinente tekste bestudeer nie en meer gefokus op die konteks van die kerk in Japan.</p> <p>1.2.9 Terugskouend was dit 'n geslaagde besoek wat weer die besondere bande met die RCJ opgetel het. Die eenheid wat die GKSA met die RCJ het, kon tasbaar beleef word as 'n besondere en kosbare vergestaltung van die een liggaam van Christus.</p> <p><u>Vir besluitneming</u></p> <p>1.3 <i>Aanbevelings (Opdragte aan te benoemde Deputate)</i></p> <p>1.3.1 Dat met dankbaarheid kennis geneem word van die bestaande ekumeniese eenheid tussen die GKSA en RCJ.</p> <p>1.3.2 Dat die eenheid onderhou en verder uitgebou word, onder andere deur wedyersydse besoeke van Deputate en deur samewerking op praktiese vlak.</p> <p>1.3.3 Die Deputate wag die eksegetiese dokumentasie oor die RCJ se besluit oor vroue se toelating tot die dienste af.</p> <p>1.3.4 Die Deputate kontinueer gesprekke met Missie Japan met die doel om konkreet en funksioneel by die strukture van Missie Japan betrokke te word en betrokke te raak.</p> <p><b>2. Sri Lanka (LRC)</b> Ekumeniese kontak</p> <p>2.1 <i>Opdrag</i> Dat kontak opgeneem en behou en verder uitgebou word met die LRC in Sri Lanka.</p> <p><u>Vir kennisname</u></p> <p>2.2 <i>Uitvoering van opdrag</i> Geen kontak is met die kerke gemaak nie.</p> <p><u>Vir besluitneming</u></p> <p>2.3 <i>Aanbevelings (Opdragte aan te benoemde Deputate)</i> Dat daar tans nie verdere kontak met die kerke gesoek word nie.</p>	<p>years ago to provide clarity. Recent Study reports have thus not reviewed pertinent texts, but focused more on the context of the church in Japan.</p> <p>1.2.9 It was in retrospect a successful visit that enabled the reestablishment of ties with RCJ. The unity between the GKSA and the RCJ were tangibly experienced as a great and precious demonstration of the one body of Christ.</p> <p><u>To be decided</u></p> <p>1.3 <i>Recommendations (Mandate for the appointed Deputies)</i></p> <p>1.3.1 Note be taken, with thanks, of the existing ecumenical unity between the GKSA and RCJ.</p> <p>1.3.2 This unity be maintained and fostered, by means of <i>inter alia</i> mutual visits of Deputies and cooperation at a practical level.</p> <p>1.3.3 The Deputies wait on the exegetical documentation on the RCJ's decision on women in the offices of elder and minister.</p> <p>1.3.4 The Deputies continue discussions with Mission Japan in order to become practically and functionally involved in the structures of Mission Japan.</p> <p><b>2. Sri Lanka (LRC)</b> Ecumenical contact</p> <p>2.1 <i>Mandate</i> Contact should be taken up, maintained and fostered with the LRC in Sri Lanka.</p> <p><u>To be noted</u></p> <p>2.2 <i>Execution of mandate</i> No contact was made with the churches.</p> <p><u>To be decided</u></p> <p>2.3 <i>Recommendations (Mandate for the appointed Deputies)</i> It is recommended that no further contact be sought with the churches for the time being.</p>
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<p><b>3. Indonesië</b> Ekumeniese kontak</p> <p>3.1 <i>Opdrag</i></p> <p>3.1.1 Dat, gedurende die termyn van die te benoemde Deputate prioriteit verleen word aan Gereformeerde Kerke in Wes-Timor. Hiervoor moet eenheid van die leer, diens en tug met die Gereformeerde Kerke in Wes-Timor ondersoek word.</p> <p>3.1.2 Die Deputate moet saam met die TSP die moontlikheid van same-werking ten opsigte van teologiese opleiding in Java ondersoek.</p> <p><u>Vir kennisname</u></p> <p>3.2 <i>Uitvoering van opdrag</i> Daar is geen verdere kontak met die kerke gemaak nie.</p> <p><u>Vir besluitneming</u></p> <p>3.3 <i>Aanbevelings (Opdragte aan te benoemde Deputate)</i> Dat daar tans nie verdere kontak met die kerke gesoek word nie.</p>	<p><b>3. Indonesia</b> Ecumenical contact</p> <p>3.1 <i>Mandate</i></p> <p>3.1.1 Priority should be given to the Reformed churches in West-Timor during the appointed Deputies' term, which would entail investigating unity of doctrine, service and discipline with the Reformed churches in West Timor.</p> <p>3.1.2 The Deputies, together with the TSP, are to investigate the possibility of cooperation in terms of theological training in Java.</p> <p><u>To be noted</u></p> <p>3.2 <i>Execution of mandate</i> No contact was made with the churches.</p> <p><u>To be decided</u></p> <p>3.3 <i>Recommendations (Mandate for the appointed Deputies)</i> It is recommended that no further contact be sought with the churches for the time being.</p>
<p><b>4. Indië – Reformed Presbyterian Church of Indië (RPCI) en Presbyterian Free Church(PFC(CI))</b> Ekumeniese kontak</p> <p>4.1 <i>Opdrag</i></p> <p>4.1.1 Dat die GKSA ekumeniese bande met die RPCI sluit.</p> <p>4.1.2 Dat by die Sinode aanbeveel word dat aan die PFC(CI) ekumeniese bande aangebied word.</p> <p>4.1.3 Dat die werk wat ds Kumar in Indië in die uitbouing van die Gereformeerde Kerk in Indië ondersteun word.</p> <p><u>Vir kennisname</u></p> <p>4.2 <i>Uitvoering van opdrag</i></p> <p>4.2.1 Dr DG Breed en ds HJP de Beer het as Deputate van die GKSA Indië vir die tydperk van 2–13 Oktober 2015 besoek.</p> <p>4.2.2 Tydens die tydperk het die Deputate, vergesel van ds Kumar verskillende rolspelers in die RPCI en PFC (CI) ontmoet en die versoek van die GKSA tot ekumeniese bande (kyk 4.1.1 en 4.1.2 hierbo) aan die onderskeie kerke se verteenwoordigers oorgedra.</p> <p>4.2.3 Met albei kerkgroepe is afgespreek dat amptelike skrywes aan hulle onderskeie Sinodes gerig sou word</p>	<p><b>4. India – Reformed Presbyterian Church of India (RPCI) and Presbyterian Free Church (PFC(CI))</b> Ecumenical contact</p> <p>4.1 <i>Mandate</i></p> <p>4.1.1 The GKSA are to establish ecumenical ties with the RPCI.</p> <p>4.1.2 It is to be recommended to the Synod that the PFC(CI) be offered ecumenical ties.</p> <p>4.1.3 The work of Rev Kumar in India, to expand the Reformed Church in India, is to be supported.</p> <p><u>To be noted</u></p> <p>4.2 <i>Execution of mandate</i></p> <p>4.2.1 Dr DG Breed and Rev HJP de Beer visited India from 2-13 October 2015 as Deputies of the GKSA.</p> <p>4.2.2 During this visit the Deputies, accompanied by Rev Kumar, met different role players in the RPCI and PFC (CI) and conveyed the GKSA's wish for ecumenical ties (see 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 above) to the representatives of the different churches.</p> <p>4.2.3 It was agreed with both church groups to formally present to their different Synods a request for ecumenical ties.</p>

<p>waarin die versoek tot ekumeniese bande formeel aan hulle voorgehou sou word. Die skrywes is op 30 Oktober 2015 per e-pos aan die kontakpersone soos deur die verteenwoordigers van die RPCI en PFC (CI) verskaf, deurgestuur.</p> <p>4.2.4 Op 22 Mei 2017 word die volgende ontvang van Pradeep Kumar, sekretaris van die Presbyterian Free Church (CI): Greetings to you in Christ! In response to your email we hereby confirm that our Presbytery unanimously resolved to establish sister Church relationship with Reformed Churches of South Africa. The resolution reads as follows: "Moved and resolved that Presbyterian Free Church of Central India, accepts the invitation of ecumenical relationship with RCSA and process the development of relationship with regular corresponds and visits."</p> <p>4.2.5 Op 11 April 2016 word die volgende ontvang van T Suraj Chellaiah, sekretaris van die RPCI Sinode: In the last Annual General Meeting of the Synod it has been decided that we (RPCI) accept your kind invitation to have ecumenical ties with the Reformed Churches in South Africa (GKSA). We request you to kindly have the ecumenical ties with RPCI. Thank you."</p> <p>4.2.6 Die Deputate het die tydperk 8–13 Oktober 2015, in ondersteuning van ds Kumar se bediening in Indië, saam met hom in sy bedieningsveld gewerk deur die waarneem van verskeie aanbiddingsgeleenthede, eredienste en Bybelstudies.</p>	<p>This formal correspondence was e-mailed on 30 October 2015 to the contact persons the representatives of the RPCI and PFC (CI) indicated.</p> <p>4.2.4 On 22 May 2017 Pradeep Kumar, secretary of the Presbyterian Free Church (CI) responded as follows: "Greetings to you in Christ! In response to your email we hereby confirm that our Presbytery unanimously resolved to establish sister Church relationship with Reformed Churches of South Africa. The resolution reads as follows: 'Moved and resolved that Presbyterian Free Church of Central India, accepts the invitation of ecumenical relationship with RCSA and process the development of relationship with regular corresponds and visits.'"</p> <p>4.2.5 On 11 April 2016 T Suraj Chellaiah, secretary of the RPCI Synod responded as follows: "In the last Annual General Meeting of the Synod it has been decided that we (RPCI) accept your kind invitation to have ecumenical ties with the Reformed Churches in South Africa (GKSA). We request you to kindly have the ecumenical ties with RPCI. Thank you."</p> <p>4.2.6 The Deputies worked with Rev Kumar from 8-13 October 2015, in support of his ministry in India, by observing a range of worship events, services and Bible Studies.</p>
<p><u>Vir besluitneming</u></p> <p>4.3 <i>Aanbevelings (Opdragte aan te benoemde Deputate)</i></p> <p>4.3.1 Dat die Sinode met dank kennis neem van die besluit van die RPCI (4.2.5) en dat die GKSA oorgaan van ekumeniese kontak tot ekumeniese bande met die RPCI.</p> <p>4.3.2 Dat die Sinode met dank kennis neem van die besluit van die PFC (CI) (4.2.4) en dat die GKSA oorgaan van ekumeniese kontak na ekumeniese bande met die PFC (CI).</p>	<p><u>To be decided</u></p> <p>4.3 <i>Recommendations (Mandate for the appointed Deputies)</i></p> <p>4.3.1 The Synod take note, with thanks, of the RPCI's decision (4.2.5) and that the GKSA has gone from ecumenical contact to ecumenical ties with the RPCI.</p> <p>4.3.2 The Synod take note, with thanks, of the PCF's (CI) decision (4.2.4) and that the GKSA has gone from ecumenical contact to ecumenical ties with the PFC (CI).</p>

<p>4.3.3 Dat die werk wat ds Kumar as predikant van die GK Rietvallei steeds ondersteun word in die uitbouing van die Gereformeerde Kerk in Indië.</p>	<p>4.3.3 Rev Kumar, the minister of the GK Rietvallei, continue to receive support in building the Reformed Church in India.</p>
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*Rapporteur:* Ds HS Coetzee

*Reporter:* Rev HS Coetzee